



The Law of the Farm

- Focus** To become fully formed Christ-followers, we must embrace the “law of the farm” (the way we grow in God).
- Open** What is something that could be considered unique about where or how you were raised (such as growing up on a farm)?
- Read** To become a fully mature follower of Christ we must follow the law of the farm that Jesus explained to His disciples through the Parable of the Sower in Luke 8:11–15. The word of God (the seed) is sown in various environments, but will only take root and grow to maturity in those *“with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by **persevering** produce a crop”* (Luke 8:15, NIV). To produce a crop: “the soil” is prepared by having a broken, humble heart before God, the seeds are sown through hearing and seeking the Word of God, the seeds are watered through the regular presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives, and the weeds are pulled. Then, like a farmer, we must patiently wait in faith for the seeds to germinate and grow so we can reap a harvest.
- God promises that He completes what He starts—we *will* reap the harvest to become a fully formed Christ-follower. But God’s ways are not our own. We cannot skip steps, and His process always begins with the heart.
- Talk**
1. Read Luke 8:11–15. In verse 14, Jesus likens the worries, riches and pleasures in our lives to “thorns.” Have you ever thought of these as “thorns” to the growing process? In what way do these things restrict or stop our spiritual growth?

2. The Law of the Farm has six steps: preparation, sowing, watering, pulling weeds, waiting and harvesting. Which of these steps have seemed to be the easiest for you to embrace? Which have been the most difficult? Why?
3. The “seeds” in our hearts are watered by the presence of God in our lives. Why is a regular, slow, “boring” rain better for nature and for our hearts than a downpour of rain? Practically speaking, how have you/could you create opportunities to be “watered” by the presence of God more regularly?
4. Weeds are anything that take up resources but do not produce fruit. What are some things that are common “weeds” in our culture? What might be “weeds” in your own life?
5. Patience is a Fruit of the Spirit. Waiting takes faith. Why? Why is God into “marinating” and not “microwaving”?

Live

God’s process always begins with the heart. Take a few minutes, either individually or as a group, to prayerfully reflect upon the following:

- a. Is your heart really a broken place that is ready for God to do anything He wants, or are there parts of it you have closed off to Him?
- b. Do you place a high value on experiencing the presence of God in your day-to-day life?
- c. What “weeds” need to be pulled to make way for God in your life?
- d. Are you patient as God works in your heart and life?

Pray

Pray about your answers to these questions. Is there anything you answered that you realize you are not happy with? Ask the Lord to speak to you and change your heart. Thank Him that He always finishes what He begins. Thank Him that He has assured us that as we submit to His process, we will reap a harvest of righteousness.