

# Best Small Group Ever Discussion Questions

## Session 1 – WORD

### Tips for leaders:

1. Embrace the ambiguity of this parable and even the discussion questions. We've tried to be clear and specific but nonetheless some people might define receiving, hearing, accepting, and nurturing the Word of God differently. Two people might choose different answers for question 3 and yet they might ultimately be saying the same thing. It's not important that people are understanding the definitions of certain terms. What is important is that people are analyzing themselves accurately and thinking openly about their shortcomings and what they need to focus on.
2. There's probably going to be a question about fruit. Jesus doesn't define the fruit that's being produced or the "crop" that's being produced by the seed. The New Testament uses a variety of definitions for the type of fruit that's expected from Christians. Sometimes it's an increase in faith. Sometimes it's behavioral or attitude change (think Fruit of the Spirit) and sometimes fruit is seeing others come to know Christ. The best definition is probably: genuine spiritual effects. Feel free to do some research on the biblical view of fruit.
3. Look at question three and brainstorm different ways that people could improve in each of the areas so you can be prepared when people ask for help. Here's a list to get you started:
  - a. Receiving the word (Giving God opportunities to speak to you through scripture)
    - i. Attend church weekly
    - ii. Read your bible daily
    - iii. Listen to Christian podcasts
    - iv. Listen to an audio Bible
    - v. Attend a small group
  - b. Hearing the word (Being open to what God has to say to you through His Word)
    - i. Pray during sermons and ask God to speak to you
    - ii. Pray before, during, and after your Bible reading – try to be sensitive to the Spirit as you read.
    - iii. Practice regular confession and grow in humility and repentance (being teachable goes a long way in preparing ourselves to be open to God's truth).
    - iv. Come to small group prepared and on time
  - c. Accepting the Word (Responding obediently and faithfully to what God asks of you)
    - i. Get an accountability partner
    - ii. Identify someone in your life that you can go to for prayer and keep them updated regularly on what God is doing in your life.
    - iii. Be open and vulnerable when sharing in small group
  - d. Nurturing the Word (A lifestyle of Holiness to allow God's word to yield fruit)
    - i. Get an accountability partner
    - ii. Take sin seriously, be sensitive to it, commit to a lifestyle of holiness and full surrender.
    - iii. Think about the content of the media that you consume. Is it shaping you positively or negatively?