

SBPC Sermon-Based Small Groups Week of October 3, 2010
Generations: Believe, Belong, Build—Part 1: Seeds

START IT—Connecting with each other

- When have you been surprised by the way something did or did not grow?
- What small seed did you sow this week that could have lasting value?

STUDY IT—Looking closely at the Scripture

- Read the Matthew passage from the bulletin aloud. What stood out to you in this week's Scripture or message?
- What does this passage reveal about the Kingdom of God?
- What things hinder the reception and growth of the seed in the lives of individuals? How does the condition of the soil hinder or foster spiritual growth?
- Read John 12:24. How do different seasons contribute to the growth of a seed? (Compare with the Matthew passage.)
- What does this parable teach about sharing your faith with others?

APPLY IT—Applying Biblical truth to daily living

- In what way were you able to connect with either of the past two video testimonies? If asked, what part of your story would you want to share?
- What is the condition of the "soil" in your heart? Where is it the most rich and fruitful? Where is it the driest or rockiest?
- How has the "more is better" mentality of the American culture shaped you? How is it shaping your family? What would help you focus your life on what matters most?

ENGAGE IT—Spiritual Practice (review the instructions aloud before beginning)

Read: Begin with a moment of silence to prepare your hearts. Read Psalm 145 aloud slowly. As you listen, write down or circle words that stand out to you.

Reflect (3 min): Ask yourself: How much of my identity is wrapped up in what I own or where I go? Who am I without these acquisitions or opportunities? Write down words you hope people would use to describe you.

Contemplate: Read Psalm 145 aloud again followed by a minute of silence.

Share Together: What name would you give God from reading this Psalm?

Pray: *After you have shared the requests below, begin your prayer time by praising God using the names you thought of or shared.*

PRAY IT

- **Joy or Challenge:** Is there a current joy or challenge we can pray for?
- **Ministry (within the church):** Pray that God will remove all barriers and obstacles that would hinder the growth of SBPC. Pray that God will grow our faith in the process.
- **Mission (beyond the church):** Pray for the people in Oaxaca as the rainy season begins, that they would continue to experience Christ's love and faithfulness through our farming partnership. Pray they might see seeds of faith sprout and grow in their ministry.

CLOSE IT—At the end of your group time, stand and read aloud the following benediction

- Preserve us, O Lord in waking, and guard us while sleeping, that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace. (D. Adam, The Rhythm of Life)