



## **Series Discussion Questions**

### **Series: SHAPE, Pt. 1 of 2 Discussions**

Welcome to 2013! As we launch into 2013 together at Lake Forest, we are challenging everyone to get into SHAPE spiritually. To help in this, we are going to refocus on our four core strategic steps for getting to know Jesus more fully: Discover, Belong, Share and Go. By focusing on these four steps we pray it will help us all to pursue a better spiritual SHAPE.

#### **INTRODUCE IT**

Share with your group your feeling about "New Year resolutions." Do you like them? How have they helped or frustrated you in the past? Do you have resolutions this year? If so, share them with the group.

I love to garden (and to play golf on nice green grass). Believe it or not, getting into SHAPE is similar to growing a healthy garden. As a group, name all the ways that growing a healthy garden would be similar to getting into SHAPE.

#### **STUDY IT**

##### **Read Luke 8:4-9**

A parable is a story that teaches a lesson. To understand the lesson, you have to first unpack the details of the story. Name all four places the seed that the farmer scattered landed and explain why some grew and in other places it didn't.

What was the response of the disciples to this story? In simply hearing this story at this point, what do you think Jesus is talking about?

##### **Read Luke 8:11-15**

Jesus tells us that the seed is the word of God. How does he describe each person in each place the seed lands?

Talk as a group about the first three places the seed drops and what causes each to not grow. Share examples of ways you have seen this in your own life or the life of another.

In this story, the one thing that is consistent all the time is the seed-the Word of God. It is scattered all over. What is inconsistent is where it lands.

If the seed represents the Word of God, what do the various places it lands represent?

Talk as a group about ways to keep your heart good and fertile soil. What are key steps you can take this year to make sure your heart is good and healthy so that the word of God can grow there?

What about your group? What will keep the heart of the group being good soil? What are things that are hindering your group from maturing (like the rock the seed lands on)? What are things that are choking out the growth of the word of God within your group (like the thorns)? Share these things as a group.

**USE IT:**

Over the next weeks we will talk about ways to discover, belong, share and go-all four ways to keeping your heart good and fertile. Just looking today at discover and belong. Share with the group what you hope to discover about God this year? What would you hope he would reveal to you about himself and about his son Jesus this year?

Make specific plans as a group to keep good soil. How will you continue to belong to one another and do this even better this coming year? Be specific about steps the group needs to take.

Lastly, the story is about a farmer that scatters the word of God all over. Where have you planted this seed in 2012 and have seen growth? Seen the word of God die?