

# Nettleham Methodist Church - Cell Material

Week beginning: 28<sup>th</sup> September 2008

**Theme: Harvest - Jesus' Agricultural Parables**

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**Welcome:** What are your favourite foods? What are they made of and where are the ingredients grown? In the UK or abroad?

## **Word**

Read Mark 4: 1-20 - The Parable of the Sower

To what extent do you think it is possible for us to change the type of "soil" we are?

Is it possible to use spiritual "weedkiller" to get rid of the thorns in our lives?

Is it possible to dig out the rocks under the surface and dig in some topsoil to avoid scorching?

Read Mark 4: 26-29 - The Parable of the Growing Seed

Bishop Tom Wright in his "Mark for Everyone" commentary on this passage says "The story is a warning against looking down on the small beginnings, in Jesus' Galilean ministry, of the great work that God was to do." What do you think he means by this and do you agree with him?

Read Mark 4 30-34 - The Parable of the Mustard Seed

Read Ezekiel 17:22-23. Does this Old Testament passage remind you of this parable? Quickly see if you can see the context of the Ezekiel passage and how Jesus' parable fulfils and extends the message of the Ezekiel Passage.

## **Worship/ Prayer**

Spend some time worshipping God together either using worship CDs or Scripture. Thank God for his provision for your needs, physical and spiritual. Pray about the specific needs of those in the group, and give thanks for prayers answered over the last few weeks, which reveal God's provision for you.

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## **Witness**

We have discussed the importance of "broadcasting" (spreading widely) God's good news message that the kingdom is here. How can we let our friends and contacts know about this good news? How much is our job, and how much does God's Holy Spirit do directly? Discuss.