



Don't Wait To Be Great WEEK 5 DISCUSSION GUIDE

OVERVIEW

In this message of the series entitled, *Difference Maker*, we will discover how to make a difference in the next generation.

DISCUSSION

In **Matthew 13**, Jesus tells a parable: ***Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. Whoever has ears, let them hear."***

The problem wasn't in the seed. The environment impacted the soil, so when the rain came, instead of helping, it was washed away. God is always scattering seed on the hearts of the Next Generation—as His Word goes forth, it doesn't return void. We play a crucial role in fighting for and creating an environment for the Next generation to receive that seed.

Four Postures Toward the Next Generation:

1. Distant

Matthew 13:4 says: ***"As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up."*** The soil that a "distant" posture often produces in the next generation is the first soil Jesus mentions – "The path" – a hard heart. It's easy to be intimidated by the next generation—we can feel out of touch, uncool, unequipped. The easy thing to do in these moments is to distance ourselves. But Jesus always fought to close the distance. His approach in dealing with people wasn't a posture of hard-hearted distance, but instead one of understanding.

- How does a "distant" or hard-hearted posture affect the next generation?
- What are some practical ways we can adopt an approach of understanding rather than a posture of hard-hearted distance when interacting with younger generations?

2. Inconsistent

Matthew 13:5-6: ***"Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root."*** One of the biggest challenges for the next generation, in seeing God accurately, is the inconsistency and instability of the world around them. It's tough for them to believe that God is faithful when so many have never truly seen faithfulness. But His Word says in **2 Timothy 2:13**: ***If we are unfaithful, he***

remains faithful, for he cannot deny who he is.

Many in this generation may struggle to grow because they aren't rooted. But **Psalm 92:13-15** says that we will flourish when we are planted in God's house. It's easy to be inconsistent, but the next generation will not experience lasting growth unless we fight for faithfulness.

- Give an example of when you or someone you know have thrived spiritually by being rooted in God's house, as mentioned in Psalm 92:13-15.
- How can we help the next generation establish deep roots in their faith, so they don't wither when faced with challenges?
- How can we effectively communicate the message that God's faithfulness is unchanging, even in the face of a changing world?

3. Critical

Matthew 13:7: *"Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants."*

One of the challenges with the next generation is not believing in them but getting them to believe in themselves. Instead of being critics, we can be coaches and call out their potential.

- Share a personal experience where someone believed in your potential and how that impacted your growth and development.
- How can we create a balance between providing constructive feedback while also fostering a sense of belief and encouragement?

4. Willing

Matthew 13:8: *"Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."* In Jesus' time, a 7-to-1 return on seed was great, so to go 30-, 60-, 100-fold was exponential and supernatural. God is willing to move upon and use the next generation, but He is searching for people who are willing to invest in them. The next generation flourishes when surrounded by people who are willing. They are looking for someone willing and patient enough to walk with them. What can we do today to show God we are willing? 1) Bring - attend church with your family. 2) Serve - take time to pour into the next generation and see it multiplied! 3) Give - invest in the next generation.

- What does the good soil represent, and how does it relate to the idea of a willing posture towards the next generation?
- What are some ways you show you are willing?

LIFE CHALLENGE

It's not too late to commit to being at church as a family or be the example for your kids and grandkids—God can restore everything you think you've lost. It's not too late to serve and pour into the next generation. It's not too late to be Great! Ask God how you can make a difference in the next generation and step out in obedience and faith!

PRAYER REQUESTS & CLOSE IN PRAYER