

STUDY GUIDE: PARABLE: “The Dirt They Live In” (Luke 8:1-15)

Discussion Starters

1. When did you first hear the gospel?
2. What was your initial response to the gospel?

Study: Read Luke 8:1-15 in preparation for the following questions.

3. What is the background of the parable?
4. What is the primary point of the parable? (Sum it up in one brief sentence.)
5. To complete the next section of the study guide, you will need to use a Bible Dictionary. Remember, the words listed below are from the NASU, but the word you are trying to define is the Greek word translated by the NASU—NOT the English word. If you have any questions about how to use these tools, contact your group leader or one of the pastoral staff.

Define the following words or terms.

--“proclaiming” (Luke 8:1)—

--“preaching” (Luke 8:1)—

--“mysteries” (Luke 8:10)—

--“devil” (Luke 8:12)—

--“temptation” (Luke 8:13)—

--“perseverance” (Luke 8:15)—

6. Choose one of the words you looked up above, and write how understanding the meaning and background of that word better helped you understand this passage.

Study Guide, “The Dirt They Live In”, p. 2

7. What does Jesus mean when he says they “believe” (8:13)?

8. Is this description of how people respond to the gospel still accurate? Please explain.

9. From this parable, what are the criteria that predict someone’s faith will be strong?

10. What was the result Jesus was seeking from telling this parable?

Taking It Home (You won’t be able to answer these questions without first answering the questions above.)

11. How can you “fortify the soil” of your life so that your faith is strong?

12. Can you make it more likely someone will accept the gospel? Please explain.

13. Jesus makes an assumption in this parable that the gospel will be shared with people. How faithfully is this carried out today? Please explain.