



Harbor Trinity Groups

Discussion Questions

Sermon Title: Summer Series 26: Rooted and Relevant

Scripture: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23; Hebrews 4:12;

Date: August 16, 2026

Speaker Name: Justin Chandler

1. If the simplest definition of “rooted” is “fixed, firmly established, and implanted,” in what beliefs, habits, or practices would you consider yourself rooted?
2. Why did Jesus teach in parables? Do you, like the disciples, ever wish that Jesus would speak more plainly? How have you found parables to be helpful? How have you found them to be difficult?
3. In the Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:1-9), Jesus provides four examples of soil. What are each of the types of soil and how does Jesus describe them (Matthew 13:18-23)?
4. One of the biggest lessons from the Parable of the Sower is that the issue is not the seed (the word of the kingdom, Matthew 13:19). Instead, the soil is a reflection of the response of each person. Why is this important for us to consider?
5. How is God’s Word like a seed?
6. If the word of the kingdom is like a seed, what are some of the fruit produced by someone who has truly received it into good soil?
7. Based on our responses thus far, which soil would best describe you? Why?
8. If the simplest definition of “relevant” is “pertinent, applicable, to the point/purpose, fitting, suitable, and proper,” in what ways does the Word of God continue to be relevant today?
9. Have you ever heard, or have you ever thought to yourself, that the Word of God is not as relevant today as it was when it was initially written/heard? Why or why not?
10. Let’s read Hebrews 4:12 together. How is this not just a promise for those who heard it when it was written, how does this verse continue to reveal an eternal truth about the Word of God?
11. How do the encouragement of the “abiding word of God” (1 Peter 1:23-25) and the exhortation for how we should live (1 Peter 1:22) mutually affirm one another?
12. The best news about the Parable of the Sower is that everyone of us, and everyone we meet for that matter, can be good soil instantaneously. Let’s begin to pray together that God’s Word would land upon our souls in a good way, that produces grain (thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold).