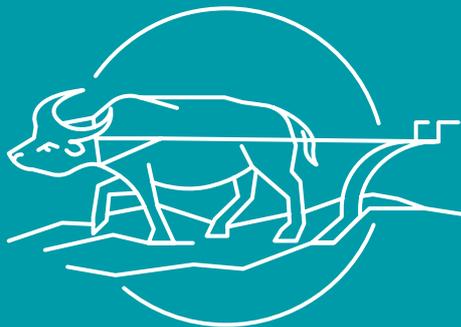


The Process of Discipleship: Prepare



Week Six

inTro



Read This Week's Passage:
Luke 8:5-15

THE ANALOGY OF AGRICULTURE

Though our society is consumed with technology, convenience, automation, and digitalization, there is a sense of hi-tech fatigue that has begun to encroach on our fascination with it. Upcoming generations seem to be opting for smaller houses, a back-to-nature philosophy, organic and healthy eating, all amid rising environmental concerns. Though we may be a bit removed from the agrarian stages of civilization, we still need to eat and need agriculture to survive. It is amazing that Christ utilized illustrations that are so fundamental to any human experience that they will never be antiquated. Even urban disciples have to eat and are at least acquainted with the basic concepts of agriculture. As one of His teaching methods, Christ used these every day familiar activities to illustrate larger spiritual truths.

While the parable itself has many principles to mine in the context of Luke 8, the next five weeks take a look at the process of discipleship through the illustration of agriculture. Also known as the Grow Cycle, the course of soul-winning, discipleship, and evangelism is likened to the activity of growing food and fruit. The stages of the cycle consist of preparing the soil, planting the seed, cultivating the plant, harvesting the yield, and preserving the fruit.

This week hones into the stage of soil preparation. Even before the harvest and the planting of seeds, there is a crucial preparation work to be done that ensures a healthy growth process and bountiful harvest for the disciple. "As the garden must be prepared for the natural seed, so the heart must be prepared for the seed of truth" (*Adventist Home*, p. 145).



inScribe

Write out Luke 8:5–15 from the translation of your choice. You may also re-write the passage in your own words, outline, or mind-map the chapter.



Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

Circle repeated words/phrases/ideas

Underline words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you



Draw **Arrows** to connect words/phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?



Memorize your favorite verse in Luke 8:5-15. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

What are intentional ways you can manifest the preparation stage of soil in your discipleship?



Read more at www.inverseible.org/disc06-3



After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks overall seem to point to?



What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

How else does the Bible passage link with the preparation stage in the discipleship process?

For more information on preparation and the Grow cycle, visit <https://grow.adventist.org/prepare/>.



Read more at
www.inversebible.org/disc06-4



What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

Acts 10:38

Luke 10:5-9

James 2:14-17

Isaiah 58:6-10



What other verses/promises come to mind in connection with discipleship and people?

Review your memorized verse from Luke 8:5-15.



Where do you see Jesus in
Luke 8:5-15?



How can we bring about more trust in all our relationships as Christ did and does?

What is He saying to you through these texts?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus in this way



Read more at
www.inverseible.org/disc06-6



Review the memory verse.
How does it apply to your
life this week?



After this week's study of
the chapter, what personal
applications are you convicted
of in your life?

What practical applications
must you make?

A large grid of small dots for writing answers to the reflection questions.



Read more inSight from the
Spirit of Prophecy at
www.inverseible.org/disc06-7



Share insights from this week's memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.



What do you know about soil preparation off the top of your head?

Outside of agriculture, why is preparation important regardless of endeavor?

What happens when preparation is not done in our evangelistic activity? How have you experienced this?

What are some acts of kindness that you have done to reflect Christ?

How can this stage become inauthentic? How can this stage become authentic?

How can your local church's community service ministry be taken to the next level?

Who would be equivalents today of society's hated, shunned, and rejected? How can they be reached today?