

## CELL GROUP DISCUSSION STARTERS

## OPENING QUESTION

Read Luke 8:4-15

1. Not so many years ago at ECCC people would come into the church quietly and spend the time before the service preparing their hearts. Do you prepare your heart before the service, and if so how? (by the way: I am NOT suggesting that we return to this tradition)

## CONTENT EXPLANATION

## FIRST SOIL

2. What is tragic about the first kind of soil?
3. What do you think verse 9-10 mean?

Note: Come 4 Answers on 13<sup>th</sup> November – Free will or forced will: is God in control of our decisions?

4. How does God break up hard hearts?

## SECOND SOIL

5. Do you think this is a Christian? Why or why not?

Note: In the end it is not our job to say who is and who is not saved (so don't get into a protracted debate over this question)! However it is important that we understand what the different kinds of responses to the Word of God look like.

6. What is wrong with a superficial or emotional response?
7. How have you seen this situation play out in other people's lives?
8. What is the 'root' in verse 13 (i.e. what would have let this plant live)?

## THIRD SOIL

9. Is this person a Christian? Why or why not?
10. What are the characteristics of this kind of heart?
11. Is God the enemy of pleasure, joy and peace? Then why do people still get choked in this life? Do people really believe that God is good?

## FOURTH SOIL

12. What does it mean to have a(n):
  - a. Honest and good heart?
  - b. Retaining and persevering heart?

## CONTENT APPLICATION

Read Luke 8:16-18

13. Jesus now uses a picture of light. If light and seed are the same, what do vs 16-17 mean?
14. Some preachers want to make verse 18 about money! Who will be given more and what will they be given more of?