

SEEDS

OUTCOMES: In this lesson, the students should . . .

- Review the teachings and applications of the last lesson
- Know some of the biblical passages that teach about seeds
- Be able to relate the passages to ministry activities in their personal lives
- Be able to relate the passages to ministry activities in their local churches

Opening Prayer

Review of Previous Lesson

Individual Reports of Application Experiences

Trainer's Observations



INTRODUCTION

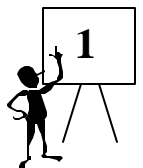
Lead Exercise

- Seeds—Agriculture and Ministry:

*USE THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TO FACILITATE A SHORT GROUP DISCUSSION.
STUDENTS REMIN IN THE LARGE GROUP FOR THE DISCUSSION.*

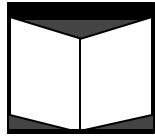
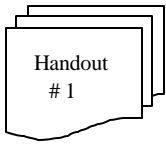
Question 1: What biblical parables can you think of that are based on agriculture?

Question 2: What lessons from agriculture could be applied to ministry?




Bridge

- This lesson is based on the biblical study of seeds. We will use what the Bible says about seeds to discover and apply their implications for ministry.



THE STUDY

Key Verse

 *John 12:24* (A seed falls to the ground . . .)

Discovery Questions

- What is the context of this illustration?
- What does it mean?
- How could this illustration apply to ministry?

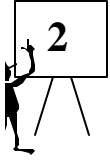
Supporting Verses & Discovery Questions

STUDENTS REMAIN IN ONE LARGE GROUP. LEAD A DISCUSSION IN THE LARGE GROUP, USING THE VERSES AND DISCOVERY QUESTIONS. SUMMARIZE THE DISCUSSION WITH KEY IDEAS, BELOW.

- *Matthew 13:31-32* (Parable of the mustard seed)
 - What is the principle Jesus is teaching?
 - How could this principle apply to ministry?

- *John 4:37-38* (One sows and another reaps . . .)
- *I Corinthians 3:6-9* (One plants, another waters, God makes it grow)
 - What is Jesus teaching?
 - What are the possible applications to wholistic ministry?

- *II Corinthians 9:6-13* (Sowing generously)
 - What is Paul teaching?
 - What are some possible applications for ministry?



Key Ideas

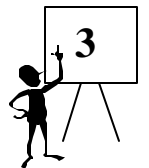
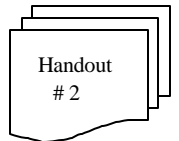
- Faith makes irrelevant the smallness, the apparent insignificance, of our obedience.
- Without sacrifice, there is no multiplication of fruit.
- Humility and obedience are critical in ministry.
- Each ministry task leading to "harvest" is equally important.
- Obedience is more important than receiving credit.
- Whatever our assigned task, it should be done cheerfully.
- It is God who provides the multiplication or increase.
- God blesses us in order that we will minister to others.
- Our generosity brings thanksgiving to God.

Reinforcement

Exercise

- Personal Illustrations:

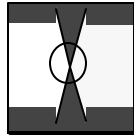
- **PASS OUT HANDOUT #2 TO EACH STUDENT. DIVIDE THE CLASS INTO SMALL GROUPS. ASSIGN A DIFFERENT SCRIPTURE—EITHER THE KEY VERSE OR A SUPPORTING VERSE—TO EACH GROUP.**
- **HAVE SMALL GROUPS READ THEIR VERSES AND THINK OF AT LEAST ONE ILLUSTRATION, SHOWING HOW THE VERSES' SEED PRINCIPLES HAVE WORKED—IN THEIR EXPERIENCE OR IN THE EXPERIENCE OF SOMEONE THEY KNOW.**
- **AFTER A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME, HAVE STUDENTS RETURN TO THE LARGE GROUP AND REPORT. USE OVERHEAD #3 (OR COPY IT ON THE BLACKBOARD). AS GROUPS REPORT, LIST THE PERSONAL ILLUSTRATIONS.**
- **TELL STUDENTS TO KEEP HANDOUT #2 FOR THEIR APPLICATIONS.**



Memorization

- *John 12:24*

Summary



APPLICATION

Group Exploration

Sample Questions . . .

. . . and Possible Responses

- How could we apply the principles in Matthew 13:31-32, the parable of the mustard seed?
 - Even though we are a poor church, we could give more to those in need in our community and allow God to bless and multiply our gifts.

- How could we apply the principles in John 12:24, the illustration of a seed needing to die in order to multiply?
 - We might take some of the money that we have been saving to expand our building and use it to bless the poor of our community.

- How could we apply the principle in John 4:37-38 (one sows, another reaps) and in I Corinthians 3:6-9 (one plants, another waters, God makes it grow)?
 - We need to recognize that those in our church who "sow" kindness should be given as much recognition as those who have the privilege of winning people to Christ.

- How could we apply the principle in II Corinthians 9:6-13, the teaching regarding sowing generously?
 - Next month, we could double what we normally give in the offering. We could give this double amount with joy, instead of hesitation.

Commitment

Experience

- Personal Application:

REFER STUDENTS TO HANDOUT #2. GIVE THEM TIME TO MEDITATE AND SELECT A WAY THEY WILL APPLY PRINCIPLES FROM A VERS—BETWEEN NOW AND NEXT SESSION. HAVE THEM WRITE THEIR PLANS ON HANDOUT #1 (APPLICATION PLAN) AND ALSO RELATE THEM TO ANOTHER STUDENT.

Intercession



CLOSING

Bridge Question

- This lesson helped us see how some of the principles of agriculture can be applied to ministry. How can we specifically apply these principles, so that our local church will demonstrate Christ's love in our community?

Closing Prayer

FOLLOW-UP: Before the next lesson, students should . . .

- **Do their application experiences**
- **Be prepared to report about them at the next class session**

SEEDS

KEY VERSE



John 12:24

SUPPORTING VERSES & DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

- *Matthew 13:31-32*
 - What is the principle Jesus is teaching?
 - How could this principle apply to ministry?

- *John 12:24*
 - What is the context and meaning of this illustration?
 - How could this illustration apply to ministry?

- *John 4:37-38*
- *I Corinthians 3:6-9*
 - What is Jesus teaching?
 - What are the possible applications to wholistic ministry?

- *II Corinthians 9:6-13*
 - What is Paul teaching?
 - What are some possible applications for ministry?

NOTES

Please turn over ⇒

APPLICATION PLAN

- Before the next session, what one way will you personally apply the principles from one of the verses in Handout #2?

APPLICATION REPORT

(Be prepared to report at the beginning of the next class session.)

SEEDS—AGRICULTURE AND MINISTRY

Question 1:

What biblical parables can you think of that are based on agriculture?

Question 2:

What lessons from agriculture can be applied to ministry?

Seeds

Principles for Ministry

- **Nothing is too small or insignificant.**
- **Each “harvesting” task is important.**
- **God brings multiplication.**
- **God blesses us so we will minister to others.**
- **Our generosity brings thanksgiving to God.**

Important Elements for Growth

- **Sacrifice**
- **Humility**
- **Obedience**
- **Cheerful generosity**

PERSONAL ILLUSTRATIONS OF SEED PRINCIPLES

Scripture	Description	Personal Illustration
Matthew 13:31-32	Parable of the mustard seed	
John 12:24	A seed falls to the ground	
John 4:37-38	One sows and another reaps	
I Corinthians 3:6-9	One plants, another waters, God makes it grow	
II Corinthians 9:6-13	Sowing generously	