

# PENTECOST METHODIST CHURCH

## LIVE-IT-OUT GUIDE



**Sermon Date: 21/06/2020**

**Text(s): Mark 4:1–20**

**Sermon Title: How Do You Hear**

**Preacher: Rev Jason Phua**

(The sermon recording and slides are available in the PMC website and MyPMC App)

### **READ (5 mins)**

(Read the Bible texts, quietly or aloud)

#### **Mark 4:1–20 (ESV)**

**1** Again he began to teach beside the sea. And a very large crowd gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat in it on the sea, and the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land.

**2** And he was teaching them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them:

**3** “Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow.

**4** And as he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured it.

**5** Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and immediately it sprang up, since it had no depth of soil.

**6** And when the sun rose, it was scorched, and since it had no root, it withered away.

**7** Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain.

**8** And other seeds fell into good soil and produced grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold.”

**9** And he said, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

**10** And when he was alone, those around him with the twelve asked him about the parables.

**11** And he said to them, “To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside everything is in parables,

**12** so that “they may indeed see but not perceive, and may indeed hear but not understand, lest they should turn and be forgiven.”

**13** And he said to them, “Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables?

**14** The sower sows the word.

**15** And these are the ones along the path, where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them.

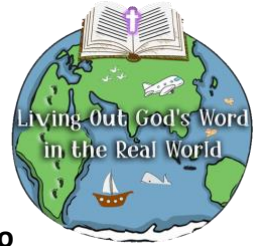
**16** And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: the ones who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy.

**17** And they have no root in themselves, but endure for a while; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away.

**18** And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word,

**19** but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.

**20** But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold.”



### **REFLECT (30 mins)**

(Reflect on key themes and questions in the text)

- 1. Let's begin by sharing how you came to give your life to Christ. Who first shared the Gospel with you and sowed the seeds of God's Word to you? How did you come to open your heart to Christ and to receive Him as your Lord and Saviour?**
- 2. In the parable, the seeds eaten by the birds and the seeds that fell on rocky ground have a common issue – the issue of roots. The seeds eaten by birds had no chance to grow roots at all. The seeds on rocky ground had shallow roots and these plants died quickly when the sun got hot. Today, the Lord Jesus is using us, His disciples, to sow the Gospel of the Kingdom of God. Are there ways we can help people hear and receive God's Word as we sow?**
- 3. The preacher asked, "Have we learned to make God and His Word as our priority?" Has it been difficult for you to prioritize having your quiet time with God and to prioritize reading God's Word? If yes, please don't be afraid to share your struggles because we can learn from each other's experiences.**

### **RELATE (30 mins)**

(Relate and apply God's word to our daily lives)

- 1. Do we have a part to play to ensure that we bear fruit as followers of Christ? What can we do so that we truly hear well whenever we read the Bible or hear a sermon?**
- 2. Since the important factor to bearing fruit is the condition of our hearts, what can we do to keep our hearts healthy and ready to receive God's Word whenever the Lord Jesus sows it to us? Put it another way, what kind of heart is a healthy heart and how can we have a healthy heart?**

### **REST (15 mins)**

(Take time to share and pray for one another)

(Pray for our church, our nation, and our world. See MyPMC > PRAY for weekly guide)

- Pray for one another to have a hearing, believing and obedient heart and to be able to keep our hearts healthy for God's Word to take root.
- Pray for others in your family or circle of friends who need prayer support or financial support. Continue to pray for those in Singapore infected with Covid-19 to come to full recovery.
- Pray for the churches in Singapore to have a stronger witness in Singapore and beyond in the days to come.