



**Date:** January 15, 2023

**Title:** *What if its about the Sower?*

**Scripture:** *Luke 8.1-15*

### **Introduction to Analog**

The word, Analog, means “something that is similar or comparable to something else”. Analog is designed to be a tangible way to take another, deeper, look into each week’s Sunday morning message. Individuals, friends, small groups, and families can use Analog for further discussion and exploration of the Sunday teaching. May this tool help you explore the expansive heart of God and practice love in the ways of Jesus.

### **Teaching Season**

There are several stories that cause one to wonder exactly who Jesus is. While we may be quick to offer an answer, Luke does no such thing. Rather he tells several stories of parables, interactions and miracles all leading up to Jesus asking the question himself: “Who do you say I am?” And we are invited to respond.

### **Teaching**

This wild story about a farmer and some soil has so much to offer us today. For many of us, this familiar parable has made cultivating good soil in our lives the focus, but what if this story has something vitally important to say about the Sower. Let’s imagine for a moment, that this story is not about what we can do, but about what God has, is, and continues to offer all of us, not matter the soil in our lives.

Listen to the teaching [online](#) or on the DCC App

**Opening Question for the Group:** Start your group discussion with the question below.

- 1) What is your high and low from the past week?

### **Questions for Discussion or Reflection**

Here are some questions for discussion or reflection. Don’t feel like you have to cover them all, and you may have questions of your own to ask. The Spiritual Practice for this week could be very meaningful for you or your group, so plan on 10 minutes or so for this exercise. If you are using this in a group context, read through these questions and the Spiritual Practice before your group meets to familiarize yourself with this material. You may want to send this out to the group before you meet.

1. What stands out from this week’s teaching? Did anything specific catch your attention as you listened?

2. In the past two weeks we have briefly shared why we choose to go through entire books in the bible, like we are doing with Luke's Gospel. What has your experience been with teaching in the past? Has it been more topics & sermon series? How has it been for you as we have made our way slowly through Luke?
3. The first sermon Amanda shared was about the crucial role women played in Jesus' ministry. What stirred in you as Amanda shared about how Luke elevates, centers, and celebrates women's voices? How do you think we follow Luke's example and honor our sisters?
4. Are you familiar with the Parable of the Sower? If you are familiar with it, what are the first thoughts that come to mind? Did anything shift in your perspective of the story as we looked at the passage on Sunday? Did you feel invited to imagine and get curious about what this story could be inviting you to today? Can you share with the group?
5. "Maybe Jesus chose parables as a teaching method to cast vision for a King and Kingdom that is beyond our expectations, beyond our explanations." Have you thought about the parables in this way before? If no, how does this change how you read the parables?
6. Read Barbra Brown Taylor's reflection on the parable and chat as a group about what stirs in you.

*"this parable has been known for centuries as the parable of the Sower, which means there is a chance, just a chance, that we have got it all backwards. We hear the story and think it is a story about us, but what if we are wrong? What if it is not about us at all but about the sower? What if it is not about our own successes and failures and birds and rocks and thorns but about the extravagance of a sower who does not seem to be fazed by such concerns, who flings seed everywhere, wastes it with holy abandon, who feeds the birds, whistles at the rocks, picks his way through the thorns, shouts hallelujah at the good soil and just keeps on sowing, confident that there is enough seed to go around, that there is plenty, and that when the harvest comes at last it will fill every barn in the neighborhood to the rafters? If this is really the parable of the Sower and not the parable of the different kinds of ground, then it begins to sound quite new. The focus is not on us and our shortfalls but on the generosity of our maker, the prolific sower who does not obsess about the condition of the fields, who is not stingy with the seed but who casts it everywhere, on good soil and bad, who is not cautious or judgmental or even very practical, but who seems willing to keep reaching into his seed bag for all eternity, covering the whole creation with the fertile seed of his truth"*

### **Spiritual Practice:**

This week for our formation practice, we invite you to listen to our guided time of prayer and reflection. You can listen to this guided prayer by clicking on the link below. You can also access the spiritual formation podcast through the DCC App.

[Spiritual Formation Podcast: Lectio Divina – Psalm 139](#)

