



Date: 2.6.24

Title: *It's Growing*

Scripture: Luke 13:18-21

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

The mustard seed is the smallest of all seeds – yet the mustard plant is the wildest of all plants. One cannot control the mustard plant, no matter how hard they try, and once it is planted and has grown the area in which it was planted can never be cleared of the plants as they will grow again and again. Jesus uses an example that defies the logic and the rule of his day. It was clearly stated in Mishnah that one could not plant mustard seeds in a garden (Kelayim 2.8; 3.2). This is because the plant would end up taking over the whole garden – it could not be controlled. Jesus’ point seems to be not a challenge of the rules – but an observation of the kingdom.

It starts small – a little yeast or a little seed. When one observes the pattern throughout scripture of who Jesus chooses it is always the last, the lost, the least. They are the ones that Jesus uses. From the acacia tree to build his throne (the ark of the covenant) to the nation of Israel itself. We continually see that God chooses that which is small. The beauty of this is that once it takes root – it becomes out of control.

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 an embarrassing moment (maybe not your most embarrassing) that you are willing to share 😊

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. When we go looking for the kingdom of God, we often look for the wrong people, in the wrong place, and for the wrong thing. What people, places, and things distract you from the hope of God's divine kingdom?
2. How do you see the kingdom of God working in your community?
3. For many of us, when we look for the kingdom of God, we completely miss our own reflection. How do you see the kingdom of God at work in your own life? What is it about you that is uniquely designed to manifest the kingdom of God in this world?
4. When we think about the kingdom of God at work in this lifetime, we are right to notice that it is not perfect. Instead, what we see now is only a glimpse of the full manifestation of God that will be established in the age to come. In what ways do you notice the imperfections of the divine kingdom? And how can you acknowledge and hold space for the fact that it is just a glimpse of what is to come?

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: A Prayer to Love the World Again](#)