

Weeds In My Garden

Leader Guide | Week 1

Key Things You Heard

- We are giving each other roses, hoping you don't see the weeds in the garden.
- Don't be quick to judge a problem without considering perspective.
- Don't underestimate the power of your community.
- Love your neighbor.
- Jesus gets you.

Pray

Heavenly Father, As we enter this series, Weeds in My Garden, let us be willing, to be honest about the hidden things going on in our lives. Let us also be mindful of loving others as you have called us. Finally, let us see you clearly and the hope you bring us for all things. In Jesus' name, amen.

Tweetable Moments

"I'm amazed at how much our people are able to keep hidden."

"It is good for you to come to church, be around others, and worship God. It has a positive effect on you at a chemical and psychological level."

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Questions for Conversation

Icebreaker: Have each person write down something interesting they've done on a note card (e.g., skydiving, have lived in 10 different states, drank a gallon of milk in five minutes—the sillier the better). Put the note cards into a hat, give it a nice shake, and have each person draw a note card they will then read aloud. The reader must then try to guess “whodunit” and why they came to that conclusion.

- What was your biggest takeaway from the sermon this week, and why? Was there anything said that surprised you?
- Read **Ecclesiastes 4:9-10**. How has the community you are in impacted your life and mental health? Share about a time in your life when you didn't have a community to fall back on? Have you ever withheld community from someone because you were afraid to get involved? If so, what impact did it have on them and on you?
- Read **Mark 12:31**. How do we underestimate the power of this verse? How do we under deliver it in life? How important is this principle to God? This is in the top two commandments as indicated by Jesus. Where do you think they rank in your life? Why?
- Read **Hebrews 2:17-18** and **Hebrews 4:15**. Why are these verses important to remember? If we really lived like we believed these verses, what impact would they have on how we view God and pray?
- Extra Credit! As a group, look up each of these verses and identify the things Jesus endured. Matthew 8:20; Matthew 12:46, Mark 3:21, John 7:5; Matthew 26:56; Matthew 26:46-50; Luke 4:1-13; John 11:1-45; Matthew 12:24, John 8:52; John 15:20; Mark 14:65; Mark 11:12; John 5, Matthew 12)
- Pray for Clayton and Jerry as they preach the next series.

Now Go Do It (resources and next steps)

Challenge: Clayton said, “Studies are in. Social media does not improve your mental health. Period.” Consider eliminating or severely restricting your time on social media for the next 12 weeks. At the end of the 12 weeks, evaluate how you are feeling. Then, make the necessary adjustments.