

Start with a time of prayer and worship.

Icebreaker: Who are people you look up to in life and in faith? What do their lives look like and what makes them such good role-models?

Our **Grow** value states: *We want to know more about Jesus, to live and become more like Him.*

- Why is this value important for St James?
- Why is this value important for you?

What might our **Grow** value look like practically? (Suggestions could be: reading your Bible, talking with God, giving your money/time, being part of the family).

Read and reflect on Luke 8:4-18. Use any of the following questions to help you as a group to get to grips with what this passage means for your group today:

- What are your initial reactions to this passage?
  - Is there anything you don't understand?
  - What verse or verses jump out at you?
- What does this passage tell us about:
  - God?
  - Humanity/us?
- What do you find the hardest thing about the passage?
- 8:4-8 – What do the seed and different types of ground represent?
  - What does Isaiah 55:10-11 have to say about this?
- 8:11-15 – Can you identify times in your own life and walk with God that relate to the different types of ground?
- What other metaphors for spiritual maturity can you think of?
- What does spiritual maturity look like to you?
  - What are the benefits of maturity?
- What things preventing you from growing in maturity?
  - How can you get support to keep growing from this group and others that you know?
- 8:9-10 – These verses are difficult; why does Jesus speak in parables?
  - There's something about blessing and judgement – hearts need to be open to hearing God's word.
  - Just like Jesus' message is both accepted and rejected, so too his parables are hidden and revealed to some.

What could you practically do to change at work, with friends and family, and in church off the back of this passage?

What one thing do you need God to help you to change to grow in maturity after today?

How can you keep each other accountable for these things when you next meet? Share prayer requests and pray to finish.