**The Story Sunday Morning Discussion Group Week 24**

Jesus is the Master Teacher

Jesus taught in parables

Jesus taught directly

Jesus taught through life experiences

Discussion questions:

1. What are some ways we can really tune in and open our hearts, ready to receive the truth God wants to speak in our life?
2. In one of Jesus’ most famous parables he used agricultural language and imagery to teach powerful spiritual truths (Mark 4:1-20). What are the four different kinds of soil in this parable and what do they represent? How can these same tings still get in the way of people receiving God’s truth and hearing his message?
3. Jesus told three parables about lost things that were found (Luke 15). What similar threads run through these stories and what do you learn about the love and heart of God from them?
4. Jesus taught with stories but also in more traditional messages, such as the Sermon on the Mount, where he called his followers to be salt and light (Matthew 5:13-16). What was he getting at with this challenge and how can we be salt and light in our daily lives?
5. Jesus taught his followers how to pray, the so-called “Lord’s Prayer” (Matthew 6:9-15). This prayer was not given as a set of words to be repeated over and over with no thought to their meaning. Instead, each line was meant as a springboard to lead us through key areas of concern. What themes does Jesus call us to include in our prayers and how can his words move us to a deeper place of prayer?
6. Randy noted a third way that Jesus taught: using real-life situations as occasions to communicate deep spiritual truth. Why are real-life situations a good way to teach, particularly for parents and grandparents?
7. What lesson did Jesus teach after Peter tried to walk on water (Matthew 14:22-33) and how can we learn from this lesson today?
8. Jesus is the Master Teacher, and that makes every Christian a student. What is one area of your life in which you feel God wants you to become a humble student and receive the teaching of Jesus?

Homework: Jesus told stories about a lost coin, a lost sheep, and a lost son. In each case, when the lost thing was found, a celebration followed. The message is this: a person coming to faith in Jesus ignites a party in heaven. Plan a party with some Christian friends for the express purpose of celebrating the fact that you are followers of Jesus. Take turns sharing how God brought you to faith and the people he used in the process. You might want to read Luke 15 at the party.

For next week, read Chapter 25 of The Story (Matthew 17, 21; Mark 8-12, 14; Luke 9, 22; John 7-8, 11-12).