

Sermon for August 1/2, 2026
"The Sower" Pastor Aaron Buer



SMALL GROUPS

Share Life | Pursue God | Invest In Others

THREE THINGS TO KNOW

DON'T MISS THIS. Take the next step at Ada Bible Church by considering **MEMBERSHIP**. Membership is more than calling Ada Bible your home church—it's a meaningful commitment to journey together. Our next **MEMBERSHIP CLASS** is happening **Sunday, August 16**, and we'd love to see you there! In this one-hour class, you will learn more about our beliefs, how our church is governed, and the process for becoming a member. Learn more and register [HERE](#).

GROUP VALUES. This week, we conclude our focus on the group value of **TOGETHER**. The Parable of the Sower reminds us that God's Word takes root and grows best in community. When we see growth in one another—faith deepening, habits changing, hearts softening—it's important to pause to praise God and celebrate together. Take a moment as a group to acknowledge the growth you've seen in one another this year. What can you do to celebrate the steps that have been taken?

GROW AS A LEADER. This week's parable reminds us that listening well is essential to following Jesus. Leaders model this by returning to God's Word regularly, talking about it with others, and putting it into practice. A great way to build that habit is through our **BEYOND THE WEEKEND** devotional. Each weekday, it brings you back to what we studied together in the sermon. You can sign up and learn more [HERE](#).

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

Welcome to the sixth week of our **PARABLES** series, where we're exploring the stories Jesus told to reveal his character and kingdom. This week, we examine the Parable of the Sower and unpack the environment where mature faith grows.

ICEBREAKER

Who in your life would you consider to be a person with mature faith? What stands out to you about their relationship with God?

THIS WEEK'S TEXT

Have someone read [Luke 8:1–18](#) aloud.

What are the four types of soil the seed falls on?

According to [verse 15](#), what three things does the good soil do with the Word after hearing it?

What stands out to you about the harvest Jesus describes in [verse 8](#)?

THIS WEEK'S SERMON

This week, Pastor Aaron Buer continued our **PARABLES** series by exploring the Parable of the Sower and the importance of listening in the Kingdom of Heaven. As a group, recall some of the sermon's big ideas and main points.

What are some of the biggest obstacles our culture puts in the way of really listening to anything, let alone God's Word?

The natural soil of our hearts is hard and unreceptive to God's truth. Who is someone in your life who doesn't yet know Jesus, and how can we pray for God to break up the soil of their heart to his Word?

In the parable, Jesus tells us that the rocky soil looks fine on the surface, but hidden things keep God's truth from taking deep root. When something in your life doesn't line up with what God's Word says, are you more likely to confess it, hide it, rationalize it, or ignore it?

Think of a time you chose to confess something instead of hiding, rationalizing, or ignoring it—what did God do in your life as a result?

The thorns and weeds that choke aren't evil things—they're the stuff of life—our worries, riches, and pleasures. What are some of the good and normal things that compete with our devotion to Jesus?

How can we, as a group, help prevent weeds from choking our faith and keep growing together?

To retain God's Word, we must return to it, talk about it, and obey it. Which of these three do you most need to grow in, and what's one step you could take this week?

WRAP UP

The Parable of the Sower is a warning to listen well. Which soil—hard, rocky, thorny, or soft—most represents your heart currently? How can we pray for God to soften the soil of your heart?