

WARMING UP

1. People can get pretty fired up about various causes. What examples of this have you seen? Are there any particular causes that you are passionate about?

DIGGING IN

Hearing the Word of God and doing it means that . . .

2. *You see radical change happening (8:1-3).*
 - What life change is highlighted in these verses? What does this transformation indicate about the power of “proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God”? What does Isaiah 55:11 say about this?
 - Do you see any radical change happening in your life? How so? What transformation do you long to see more of? What are you doing to get there?
3. *You know many who still don't get it (8:4-15).*
 - Jesus uses a parable to illustrate different ways that people respond to the Word of God. Take some time to unpack each of the four responses. What do they look like on a practical level? Which one(s) have you experienced personally?
 - Pastor Todd said, “This [story is about] the fight of God vs. Satan for souls. Let's never forget that [responding to the Word] is a spiritual battle.” What is your reaction? Have you ever thought of it in this way?
 - Jesus outlines three steps to receiving the Word that produce abundance in your life (8:15). What are they? How are they manifested? Which of these steps are you struggling to implement? What can you do to better hear/hold/show it?
4. *You are eager to live it out yourself (8:16-18).*
 - What do Jesus' words, “Take care then how you hear” (8:18), suggest about where the burden of responsibility rests? What are the implications of this in terms of our response (or lack thereof) to the Word?
 - To what degree would you describe yourself as “eager” to live out the Word? Are there any specific areas of life that you are less eager to align with Scripture? Why?
5. *You have been welcomed into Jesus' family (8:19-21).*
 - What did the first century Jews believe was their membership card in the kingdom of God? What do many people today think gains them eternal favour with God?
 - What does it mean to you personally to be welcomed into Jesus' family? What feelings and emotions come from knowing this? In what way is Christ's welcome of us supposed to be an example for us toward others (see Romans 15:7)? What does this look like?

BREAKING OUT

6. How are you measuring up at “hearing the Word of God and doing it”? What is your clear next step coming out of this message? How can your small group help you take action?