## **Going deeper**

In Matthew 13, we have a number of parables of Jesus that tell us what 'the Kingdom of Heaven is like.' These simple stories, both hide and reveal great truths. Unless you engage with them in the light of Christ, their message remains a mystery (Matthew 13:14-15), but when you think about them in the light of what Jesus was doing they reveal their treasures (Matthew 13:34-35).

#### Read Matthew 13:31-35; 44-46

- 5. How are the first two parables similar (vs. 31-33)? What is the key message they are trying to teach?
- 6. How does the message of the first two parables encourage us to be a part of God's kingdom?
- 7. Verse 35 quotes Psalm 78:2. Look up Psalm 78:1-4. What is exciting about the teaching? What is the Psalmist determined to do?
- 8. How are the second two parables similar (vs. 44-46)? What is the key message they are trying to teach?
- 9. What response to God's kingdom are these parables trying to encourage? Why does that not always match people's response?

Now turn over and do 'Applying it to our lives'.

# **Growth Teams**

# Week Beginning Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2015

#### **Growth Teams**

Growth Teams are a wonderful opportunity to go deeper with other Christians. They are a great place to build real friendships and support networks, to pray for one another and to look more carefully at the topics we consider on a Sunday.

This week is the third on our series on Colossians and the importance of being 'rooted in Christ.' We are asking the question: "What are we working for?"



Growing in Christ to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.

# What are we working for?

Colossians 1:24-2:5 (page 1183) Space to take notes on the talk

# What are we working for?

• To \_\_\_\_\_ the Word

• To \_\_\_\_\_ the Word \_\_\_\_\_

• To \_\_\_\_\_ the Word \_\_\_\_\_

• To \_\_\_\_\_ by the Word

#### **Starter question**

What makes a job enjoyable?

## Responding to the talk

- 1. What is the key 'take away' point from this week's talk?
- 2. Read Colossians 1:24-2:5
  - a. What words or phrases does Paul use to describe how hard he is working?
  - b. According to 1:28, what is it that Paul is actually doing and what is his key aim?
  - c. Why do you think Paul wants the Colossians to know he is working so hard for them on this?
- 3. Read Colossians 1:25-27
  - a. How does Paul describe 'the Word of God'?
  - b. What is the content of this 'Word' and why is it so special?
  - c. Who needs to hear this word? (1:27,28; 2:1).
- 4. Read Colossians 2:2-5
  - a. What is Paul's purpose for those he preaches to?
  - b. How should seeing the word of Christ as 'treasure' make us feel about it and treat it?
  - c. How can we distinguish between 'fine-sounding arguments' and the 'mystery of God'?

If there is time, you may like to do the 'Going deeper' questions over the page. Otherwise please just jump to questions 10 and 11.

## Applying it to our lives

- 10. A Christian friend tells you that they find the Bible boring and hardly ever study it or listen to sermons. How might you encourage them to re-engage with the Bible?
- 11. In what ways do we need to work harder to achieve the things that Paul says he is aiming for in this passage?