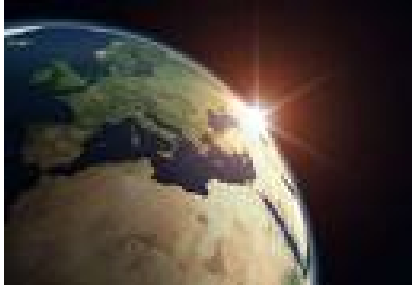


**November 29, 2009**  
**Mark 4:10-20**

*The Good News: A Sermon Series through the Gospel of Mark*  
**Secrecy, Soil, and The Art of Paying Attention**

Rev. Janeen Steer

There's Good News for the world . . .



The Gardener is in control.

*The secret of the kingdom of God  
has been given to you.*

Mark 4:11

Tell about what you did on Thanksgiving. Where did you spend the day? Who did you spend time with? What did you do?

**READ** Mark 4:10-20

**Secrecy**

What is the secret of the kingdom of God?

What about the secrecy aspect of the kingdom of God is good news to you?

What about it is challenging or confusing to you?

**Soil**

Give examples in your life that can be identified with each of the 4 types of soil.

Is it easy or difficult for you to accept that the soil cannot make itself good; only the gardener can create good soil?

Which type of soil do you identify with the most right now? What would you like your group to ask the Gardener to do with your soil? (Record these responses and come back to them for your prayer time together.)

**The Art of Paying Attention**

What is the art of paying attention?

Is this something you feel like you are good at or would like to work on?

How can we get better at the art of paying attention?

Why is it an important practice for living as a disciple of Jesus?

Think back over Thanksgiving Day or another day from this past week. Where do you see evidence that the Gardener was cultivating soil?

**PRAY TOGETHER!**

Refer back to your requests of the Gardener as the cultivator of your soil.