

GROWTH GROUPS

March 10, 2012

“A New Set of Lenses”

Matthew 13

Conversation Starter -

Is there a time in your life that you were misled by judgment based on your own experience? Maybe a relationship, business deal, or some other decision. Would you share the story?

Understanding -

Jesus doesn't run from the notion that, if the kingdom of heaven truly is coming into the world as we have been led to believe, the world should look much different that it does. Chapter 13 seeks to reframe some the questions in order to provided Jesus' perception of reality. It tackles the “why doesn't the ‘what I believe’ align with ‘what I experience’ question.”

1. Read Matthew 13:1-9; 18-23 and explain how Jesus gives us a new lens to be able to perceive “why people are not responding to the Word of God.” How does this parable help us understand discipleship in our world today?
2. Read Matthew 13:24-30. How does this parable give us a new lens to perceive Christ's reality as we experience sin and discord in the church? How might this new perspective change our response?
3. The people of Jesus' hometown did not experience the power and presence of Christ in their life because they could not embrace the “new lens” Jesus offered to view the world. Why didn't they receive it? What experiences have we had that might prevent us from embracing Jesus' perception of the world?

First Presbyterian Church of Maumee

<http://fpcmaumee.org> Email staff@fpcmaumee.org

200 East Broadway, Maumee, Ohio 43537

Phone 419-893-0223 Fax 419-893-0327