

Influence

WORD OF THE WEEK

MARK 4: 1-9, 13-20

Again Jesus began to teach beside Lake Galilee. The crowd that gathered around him was so large that he got into a boat and sat in it. The boat was out in the water, and the crowd stood on the shore at the water's edge. He used parables to teach them many things, saying to them: "Listen! Once there was a man who went out to sow grain. As he scattered the seed in the field, some of it fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some of it fell on rocky ground, where there was little soil. The seeds soon sprouted, because the soil wasn't deep. Then, when the sun came up, it burned the young plants; and because the roots had not grown deep enough, the plants soon dried up. Some of the seed fell among thorn bushes, which grew up and choked the plants, and they didn't bear grain. But some seeds fell in good soil, and the plants sprouted, grew, and bore grain: some had thirty grains, others sixty, and others one hundred." And Jesus concluded, "Listen, then, if you have ears!"

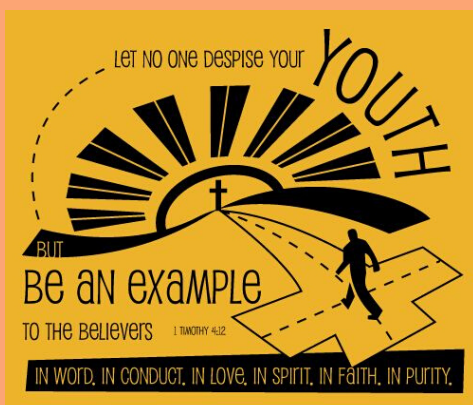
Then Jesus asked them, "Don't you understand this parable? How, then, will you ever understand any parable? The sower sows God's message. Some people are like the seeds that fall along the path; as soon as they hear the message, Satan comes and takes it away. Other people are like the seeds that fall on rocky ground. As soon as they hear the message, they receive it gladly. But it does not sink deep into them, and they don't last long. So when trouble or persecution comes because of the message, they give up at once. Other people are like the seeds sown among the thorn bushes. These are the ones who hear the message, but the worries about this life, the love for riches, and all other kinds of desires crowd in and choke the message, and they don't bear fruit. But other people are like seeds sown in good soil. They hear the message, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirty, some sixty, and some one hundred."



PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Father God, you sent Jesus as the ultimate example of how we should act. Your word gives me the instruction manual of how to love others. I pray that you transform me to be an example to everyone around me. I pray that you make my words kind and helpful, my actions kind, my love pure, my spirit encouraging, my faith strong, and my heart pure.

Amen.



When a stone is dropped onto water, the ripples will spread far and wide. The initial action of dropping the stone has its effect a great distance away.

In a similar way the actions that we take can have a tremendous effect on others.

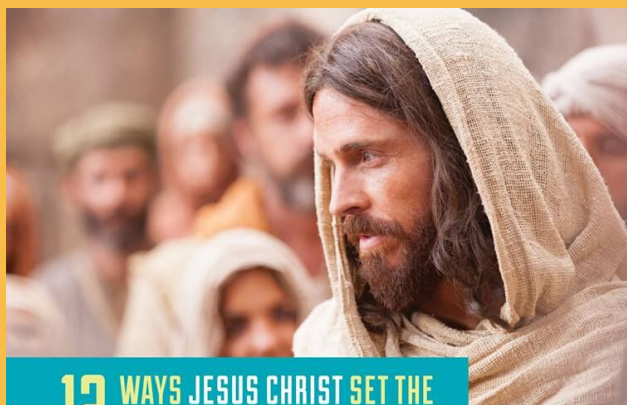
We have a huge capacity to influence others for good and for bad.

As Christians, we have the capability of influencing those around us by the way we live – with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness.

"Never underestimate the influence you have on others."



Jesus is the ultimate influencer. He didn't just go around telling people what to do, he set an example, he got his hands dirty, got stuck in and showed others what it meant to live a life for God, helping others, welcoming people who were forgotten, listening to others and teaching others. Can you name some of the things Jesus did that have influenced the way you live your life?



12 WAYS JESUS CHRIST SET THE EXAMPLE FOR US TO FOLLOW

1. He served others (John 2:1-11).
2. He ministered to the sick (Luke 5:12-15).
3. He prayed to Heavenly Father (John 17).
4. He stood up for what's right (John 2:14-17).
5. He showed compassion (Matthew 14:16-21).
6. He studied, learned, and taught from the scriptures (Luke 4:16-21).
7. He was humble (Matthew 27:27-31).
8. He shared the gospel with others (Matthew 5-7).
9. He resisted temptation (Matthew 4:1-11).
10. He was obedient (Matthew 26:39).
11. He forgave others (Luke 23:34).
12. He inspired hope (John 14:15-17).

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Our Influences

Sometimes we might not even notice that we are influencing others or that others are influencing us. And sometimes when we are trying to be a good influence for others it is brushed off and not noticed or we don't notice the positive influence of others. This is like what we read in this week's Word of the Week. Sometimes people see the good example set and it affects their lives for the better but sometimes, other things get in the way, maybe looking cool or making sure we are friends with certain people or having the latest trainers. But by being a good example and positive influence for others we are planting seeds of hope and goodness in the world around us that we hope will grow. There are probably many people that have planted influential seeds in us too.

- Who or what has influenced you in a good way?
- Who or what has influenced you in the wrong way?
- Who is the most inspirational person who has influenced you in the right way?
- What characteristics did they have?
- Why were they such a good influence?
- What can we learn from them?

Marley Dias, 13

Marley Dias encountered a problem: "At home I always got to see black girls and diverse experiences being reflected in the books I read. But at school, I did not have access to those experiences." So Dias, an avid reader, embarked on a mission to collect one thousand books featuring black female protagonists (mostly from donations), and distribute them to communities in need. Since its launch in 2015, #1000BlackGirlBooks has helped distribute more than 11,000 books to libraries, schools and community organizations around the world. Marley recently published her own book, Marley Dias Gets It Done: And So Can You. Her goal, she says, is to ensure that "kids know that changing the world should not be something that feels imaginary, but something that you have the power to do today and always."



There may be times in our lives when we wished we had more influence to change things we see in the world. What cause are you passionate about, which you wish you could do something about? Like we hear in this week's Word of the Week, things start small as a seed. What small thing could you do to help the cause you are passionate about?



How To Change The World (a work in progress) | Kid President. [CLICK HERE!](#)