

CULTIVATE

THE POTENTIAL IN YOU



THE POTENTIAL OF THE SEED (Week 1)

WELCOME: What are favorite spring activities?

WORSHIP: Sing, **DESERT SONG** (*Hillsong Music*)

WORD: Our memory verse for this series is **EPHESIANS 4:7**, *But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.*

Seeds come in many shapes and sizes, and each type having different requirements for germination. Some small seeds need to be placed as delicately as possible in the soil so they get just enough sun and nourishment from the soil. Some seeds are buried deeper. Some seeds prefer warm, dry environments, while others require cold and moist environments. There are seeds that will germinate in less than five days, while others will take five months—or even longer! Seeds may come in different shapes and forms, but what they really are is basically a copies of the plant they came from. Genetically, it has all the material of the original plant.

Your potential is like seeds that are locked inside of you.

Cultivate is a series that is designed to help rediscover the seed of potential in each of us and how to nurture that seed. We believe that God wants us to rediscover the seeds of potential He placed inside of us and create new rhythms that will help us nurture the seeds inside of us. He wants us to rediscover our potential! What is “potential”? It is your unused strengths. Your unknown bents. Your untapped abilities. Your dormant talents. Your capped capabilities.

Based on Ephesians 4:7, there is a great wealth of potential within you. But you must decide if you will deprive the world or bless the world with those gifts that are locked away inside you. Given the given the right conditions, the proper nourishment, and care, each rediscovered seed inside us has the potential to produce fruit you never thought you could, which in turn could nurture the seeds God has placed in others.

Talents. An individual is given a natural talent as a result of a combination of genetics and surroundings, or because God desired to endow certain individuals with certain talents (Bezalel to whom God gave the ability to become a fine craftsman in Exodus 31:1-5).

Spiritual gifts. s. Spiritual gifts are given to all believers by the Holy Spirit. Read Romans 12:6. The moment a person places their faith in Christ for the forgiveness of their sins, the Holy Spirit enters them and gives the person the spiritual gift that He can use to build the church. Read 1 Corinthians 12:11.

Three important factors in releasing your potential:

CONFIDENCE IN THE SKIN GOD GAVE YOU

Each seed has skin, an outer shell. Some seeds have rough skin, others are smooth. Regardless of how they look like, the most important thing is, its potential. Our bodies, our personalities, our proclivities are the skin; the potential is what’s inside.

You are unique. Every success story you read in the Bible is about how God works through individuals who discovered what God called them to do and using what God has given them. Pastor gave the example of Moses and Paul in the Bible as individuals who were called to do tasks that were tailor-fit for them. They found confidence in the skin God gave them. God called them to do things that are beyond their own minds could imagine, and all they did was to obey. As they obeyed, the seed—the potential found itself in the right ground and was exposed to the right conditions. Are you confident in the skin God gave you? What are your unique qualities and gifts? What talents do you have that you can serve God with?

Some people try to do God’s call for them in the skin of others (those who are more successful, the more fruitful), thinking that, “If it worked for them, it will work for me.” But as Ephesians 4:7 says, God has given us unique ways to express the gifts so we can use them for the unique assignments He has for us!

You have a God-given sphere of grace. We have this tendency is to compare what we have with what others have; and we want to do what they do, thinking we could have their fruit. We lose our effectiveness when we do that. The Apostle Paul said it’s unwise to compare or assess yourself based on our own standard or others’. We can only operate within the sphere God assigned to us! Whenever you start living your life by comparison, you will always end up dissatisfied and frustrated; envious and resentful. You will always see others doing

better than you—enjoying life more than you, having more fruit than you, happier than you. You will always think the grass is greener on their side. We forget that the grass is greener where you water it (Read 2 Corinthians 10:12-13).

Your sphere of grace is where God wants to use you. That's where your potential is released. That's where fruit will abound. You can't expect someone else's fruit to abound in your sphere of grace! God has given you grace to use within than sphere! Let your potential be released in God's sphere of grace for you! What and who are in your sphere of grace, and what talents/spiritual gifts do you have to use in your sphere?

SEEDS GERMINATE WHERE THE CONDITIONS ARE CONDUCTIVE

The Bible is very clear that if we want to grow in our faith and release our potential, we need the right conditions: to be planted, nurtured and care for. How can our seed of potential germinate?

Our potential is released when we live in the faith lane. Our seed of potential will germinate in the faith lane, not in the fast lane. In order to release the potential of the seed in us, we must understand how God made us to function: to live by faith and live in love. The sphere in which God placed will exceed the limits of your imagination especially if your goal is to honor Him with your life and use your gifts to love and serve people and build His kingdom. Pastor mentioned that the seed in us is nourished in that the realm of the great unknown, where all we can do is to trust God at every step. Whether it's sharing the gospel with someone, or leading, or giving, you let God lead you to go beyond what you think you can do; and into the realm of what God can do through you. Part of living in the faith lane is daily connection with God—the source of your potential and the nourishment to release it. Don't ever neglect your spiritual nourishment.

Our potential is released when we live purposefully. Potential is released when we know our purpose in life because the seed, our potential was given for that reason. When we live purposefully, we learn to identify the resources that help unlock our potential; we engage in activities that fill us and we involved ourselves in undertakings that nurture the seed. The more we engage in those patterns, the more our potential is released. Read 1 Peter 4:10-11. What that scripture simply means is: use your gifts. We often discover our gifts in the process of serving. What are the different spiritual gifts? Read Romans 12:6–8 and 1 Corinthians 12:4–11, 28.

Our potential is released when we live in community. We can never devalue the power of community, the importance of the church in the life of an individual. That's how God wired us to be. In community we able to know, find or create the right environment we need to function at our peak performance level in the context of community. People need people, that's how God designed us to be. You must share your potential because no potential exists for itself. How can you better serve our church and community with your gifts?

POTENTIAL IS RELEASED BY PATTERNS WE EMBRACE.

You must realize that your potential is expressed through serving and hard work. Seeds need to break; receive water, nourishment, and sunlight in order to release what it truly is. Potential is released by the patterns we embrace. We learned in our last series that if we really want to be fruitful, we must embrace patterns that will make us fruitful. Embracing patterns is part of living purposefully—knowing that (Ephesians 1:11) It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for. You and I live for the glory of His name. That is our purpose, but we need to have a pattern!

Guard your potential — from laziness, distractions, compromise and pride.

Laziness. The Bible tells us that there are serious consequences for a person who doesn't make the most of what he's got—he may lose it. Matthew 25:29.

Distractions. We said earlier that because Satan knows he cannot destroy you, he'll do his best to distract you, especially when you're making progress. He throws something at us that cause us to experience spiritual ADD! Proverbs 4:25.

Compromise. Your gift is given to you fulfill your calling; if you don't value your calling, you will compromise your gifts. Romans 12:21.

Pride. Oswald Chambers said, "Every unguarded strength is a double weakness..." Read Proverbs 16:18.

Stay planted and resilient. Transplant shock is the worst enemy to fruitfulness. If you want to remain fruitful, you must choose to remain planted.

- Psalm 92:12-14
- John 15:5
- Jeremiah 17:7-8.

WORKS

Pray for one another that your DGroup will be challenged to: HELP ONE ANOTHER SPEAK LIFE TO EACH ONE'S POTENTIAL. Plan a weekend trip with your DGroup on May Long Weekend!

ANNOUNCEMENT: MOSAIC CHURCH WILL HAVE A DREAMTEAM SABBATH ON MAY LONG WEEKEND (May 19-21). WE WILL NOT HAVE A SUNDAY WORSHIP EXPERIENCE. WE ENCOURAGE FAMILIES AND DGROUPS TO SPEND TIME TOGETHER THAT WEEKEND!