

**1) A surface response “Soften my heart.” (v.4,15)**

What is your attitude toward hearing God’s Word?

Is hearing God’s Word an active or passive activity for you?

What do you do to put yourself in a position to hear God’s Word?

Has your heart been hardened by the circumstances of life or people who have hurt you? How?

How has this affected your heart’s ability to hear God’s Word?

How has Satan stolen something you have heard God say?

Read Hosea 10:12. How does God break up “fallow ground”?

Are you faithfully scattering seed? How are you sowing God’s Word in others?

**2) A shallow response - “Penetrate my heart.” (v.5-6,16-17)**

Tell about a time when you became emotional in response to hearing God’s Word?

Why are emotions a poor indicator of our spiritual condition? What is a better indicator of true conversion?

How can you go to a deeper level than emotion in response to God’s Word?

Who do you know that has “sprung up quickly” and “received God’s word with joy” only later to fall away?

**3) A strangled response (v.7,18-19) “Untangle my heart.”**

Some preachers falsely promise that following Jesus will fulfill all your heart’s desires and bring riches and worldly ease. How does this claim contradict v.18-19?

What do you care about most? Do you care to the point of becoming strangled?

What is it that is strangling you from bearing more fruit?

**4) A supernatural response (v.8,20) “Multiply my heart.”**

What fruit have you seen from your life recently?

Discuss this definition of the Perseverance of the Saints given in Eastman’s Bible Dictionary:  
*Certain continuance is a state of grace. Once justified and regenerated, the believer can neither totally nor finally fall away from grace, but will certainly persevere therein and attain everlasting life.*

Why is the doctrine of the perseverance of the saints important for clarifying who really has been converted?

How can you be sure that you are genuinely saved?

**Additional Scripture**

- John 10:27-29
- Romans 11:29

# SMALL GROUP PULPIT CURRICULUM

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- Philippians 1:6
  - Matthew 10:22
  - John 8:31-32
  - Hebrews 3:14
  - 1 John 2:19
  - Matthew 7:16