

SESSION 1: Rooted in God's Presence

Scripture takes an Olive Tree to show us what a Beautiful Flourishing Life Looks like.

OLIVE- Olive tree- Olive Oil-
Mentioned over 200x's in Bible. Essential to life
=Beauty- productivity- fruitfulness - dignity-

The olive tree is rooted and resilient, strong and sturdy, provides shelter and protection, and is beautiful beyond comprehension.

Psalm 52:1-9 ESV

IN AN EVER CHANGING WORLD; WE HAVE AN NEVER CHANGING GOD. - FAITHFUL- CONSTANT- NOT PREDICATED ON OUR PERFORMANCE.

HOW DO WE LIVE LIKE OLIVE TREES?

ROOTED IN GOD'S PRESENCE

If we are found rooted and grounded in Christ we can be in the midst of chaos without being in inner chaos.

TRUST IN GOD'S FUTURE FAITHFULNESS IS ROOTED IN GRATITUDE FOR GOD'S PAST FAITHFULNESS.

PRAISE PRODUCES HIS POWER & HIS PRESENCE BRINGS PEACE IN AND OUT OF EVERY SITUATION WE FACE.

WE CAN FLOURISH IN DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES
IF- WE REMAIN IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD -
IF- WE TRUST HIS FAITHFUL LOVE FOREVER.

HOW DO WE STAY GREEN?

1. REMAIN ROOTED AND RESILIENT

To be ROOTED- firmly implanted.

To grow spiritually mature in Christ; we need to be ROOTED in Christ.

John 15:8

By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

PAINFUL ROOTS NEED PULLED UP!

HOW CAN WE MAKE SURE WRONG ROOTS AREN'T GROWING?

HEB.12:15 See to it that **no one fails to obtain the grace of God**; that no "root of bitterness" springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled;

How do you stay GREEN?

2. Stay Strong and Sturdy

We, like the olive tree- know that slow growth makes us strong and sturdy spiritually-

WE NEED TO GROW UP..

Like Jesus- grow internally, while growing externally.

LUKE 2:52- JESUS KEPT GROWING-

Don't STOP- KEEP POSTURE OF GROWTH.

DO WHAT YOU'VE NEVER DONE. GO WHERE YOU'VE NEVER GONE.

TRUST GOD- WHEN YOU WANT TO AVOID HURT OR REJECTION.

WE NEED TO CONSISTENTLY GROW WHERE WE NEED TO GO

GROWTH=CHARACTER CHARACTER=BACKBONE OF OUR PURPOSE

CHARACTER= COMMITMENT = CONSISTENCY= INTENTIONAL

KEEP GROWING- KEEP GOING..

We can be like the Olive Tree by being

3.SHELTER AND PROTECTION.

WE all love being RESCUED but REFUGE is Protection TOO.

When I NEED SHELTER- I run to-

Word of GOD- to help me make wise choices

PEOPLE OF GOD- to pray with me and speak truth to me.

HOUSE OF GOD- encouragement

WORSHIP OF GOD- turns my focus from problem to problem solver.

PRAYER to GOD- asking him to move on behalf of the situation.

4.BEAUTIFUL TO BEHOLD.

Psalm 27:4-6

BEHOLD HIM SO YOU CAN SHOW HIM

WE BEHOLD GOD'S BEAUTY BY LOOKING AT AND MEDITATING ON WHO HE IS.

WE BEHOLD GOD'S BEAUTY BY LOOKING AT WHAT HE HAS MADE.

WE BEHOLD GOD'S BEAUTY WHEN WE ALLOW HIS TRANSFORMING POWER TO CHANGE US..

OUR LIVES ARE WHERE THE TRUE BEAUTY OF CHRIST SHINES.

GOD GAVE US BEAUTY TO BEHOLD . HE MADE US BEAUTIFUL TO BEHOLD.

NOW HOW DO WE TAKE THAT BEAUTY TO THE WORLD?

GOD'S PURPOSE FOR US TO BE UNIFIED AND FLOURISH TOGETHER.

WE should live in an ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE.

Rom 11:17-24

CULTIVATED TREE =JEWS WILD OLIVE TREE= GENTILES

GRAFTING= 2 PLANTS PUT TOGETHER TO BECOME

JEWS WHO BELIEVED= BRANCHES

INSTEAD OF GRAFTING A GOOD BRANCH INTO A BAD TREE- GOD GRAFTED A BAD BRANCH ONTO A GOOD TREE.

= CHURCH

TOGETHER= share same roots, same rain, seasons.

TOGETHER= grow strong , bear fruit

TOGETHER= do something they couldn't do apart.

WHAT WAS YOUR LIFE LIKE BEFORE YOU WERE GRAFTED INTO FAMILY OF GOD?

BECAUSE OF JESUS WE ARE:

ACCEPTED> LOVED> SEEN> ACCEPTED>INVITED

GRACE DOES 3 THINGS FOR US:

1. Salvation.
2. Sanctification
3. Hope

HUMILIATION DOESN'T PRODUCE HUMILITY.

CONFLICT =ROOTS IN PRIDE

FREEDOM IN FAITH= ELEVATING OTHERS BECAUSE WE KNOW WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST.

JESUS EMPTIED HIMSELF- HUMBLED HIMSELF- THEN- GOD EXALTED HIM.

HUMILITY LOOKS TO GOD- PRIDE LOOKS SIDE TO SIDE

WHO IS INVITED?

EVERYONE IS INVITED...

1 TIM. 2:1-4

ONCE WE ARE GRAFTED INTO THE FAMILY, WE NOW ARE CALLED TO BE BRANCHES OF PEACE.

WE CARRY THE POWER OF PEACE AND RECONCILIATION

Gen. 5:5-8

We can learn from Noah- that:

-GOD SEES -GOD KNOWS -GOD CARES -GOD REMEMBERS - GOD DELIVERS

POWERFUL CHARACTER FORMATION HAPPENS IN US WHILE WE WAIT FOR GOD TO COME THROUGH FOR US.

TESTIFIED OF RAPID RESTORATION, PEACE, AND DELIVERANCE.

NEW BEGINNING... NEW OPPORTUNITIES

If we are going to serve as peacemakers, we need to have God's perspective-

A WHOLE PERSPECTIVE = the whole person we need to extend an olive branch to.. The good- the bad- and their potential through HIM.

ASK GOD FOR HIS EYES

ASK GOD TO ROOT HIS TRUTH IN YOUR HEART.

REMEMBER- ALL PEOPLE ARE MADE IN HIS IMAGE AND ARE THE OBJECTS OF HIS LOVE.

PEACE MAKERS HAVE PERSPECTIVE THEY PUT INTO PRACTICE.

NOT PASSIVE IN PURSUIT.. BUT PUSHING FORWARD IN PATIENCE...PERFECT TIMING OF GOD..

BELIEVE GOD IS WHO HE SAYS HE IS, HE WILL DO WHAT HE SAYS HE WILL DO.

FAITH IS PREDICATED ON TRUST NOT UNDERSTANDING-

NO JESUS NO PEACE. KNOW JESUS KNOW PEACE.

ROOT OF ALL CONFLICT & STRIFE?

JAMES 4:1-10

WE NEED TO BE ACTIVE AGENTS WORKING TO BRING PEACE AND RECONCILIATION WHERE THERE IS HATRED AND ENMITY.

TRUST GOD WHEN YOU CANT TRACE HIM- HE IS FAITHFUL

PURSUE PEACE

PRAY FOR PEACE

RELEASE IT TO PEACE HIMSELF.

MAKE PEACE

SPREAD PEACE

INITIATE PEACE- EVERYWHERE YOU GO, AND EVERYWHERE YOU POST!

DON'T MISTAKE PEACE AS PASSIVE...

FLIP SOME TABLES IN JESUS NAME!

WHEN WE IDENTIFY SOMETHING NEEDS CHANGE-

WE HAVE TO INITIATE CHANGE, AND INVOLVE OURSELVES IN IT..

EPH. 4:15 " Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,"

TONE & TIMING ARE KEY HERE

NOT WHAT YOU SAY- HOW YOU SAY IT - WHEN YOU SAY IT

DELCUTTER YOUR HEART AND MIND.

INVENTORY CHECK.

WHAT AM I CARRYING AROUND

MENTALLY, EMOTIONALLY, SPIRITUALLY , PHYSICALLY ?

AM I MAKING IT HARDER THAN I NEED TO?

WHAT HAVE I GIVEN MY PEACE OF MIND OVER TO?

DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE PLACE THAT BRINGS YOU PEACE?

ASK GOD FOR A NEW VIEW..

WHOLE NEW PERSPECTIVE.

WHAT PROBLEMS NEED SOLVED?

WHAT RELATIONSHIPS NEED RESOLVED?

WHAT ISSUES NEED SORTED?

WHAT CAN I REPLACE WITH PEACE OF MIND?

PS. 16:11 "You make known to me the path of life;
in your presence there is fullness of joy;
at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.'

THAT'S WHERE WE WANT TO BE.. IN GOD'S PRESENCE

