

LIFEGROUPS - Facilitator Notes

Connecting in Community – Part 5



Suggested Icebreaker: If you had to grow some type of plant, what would you grow and why?
Word: *Key Text:* *Isaiah 61:1-4 (Read)*

Jesus came to save and heal and set us free from bondage, “that we may be called oaks (trees) of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.” (V2)

Jesus quotes Isaiah in Luke 4:17 “and he was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah”. and even though Jesus doesn’t complete the above words in Isaiah, we know Jesus is all about planting us in order for us to grow and produce fruit.

God is in the tree planning business!

Imagine if trees could talk and they complained to the owner about where they were planted.

Lemon tree not happy – wants to be planted with the roses. Transplants itself overnight – garden to garden. Continual transplanting will stunt growth, it disturbs the roots and slows growth.

A lot of hurt, stunted, Christians (trees) moving around in pots from church to church – insulated and isolated from others – won’t put down roots and won’t allow anyone to prune or adjust them – hiding in their pots.

1. Have you ever known anyone like that?
2. Have you ever been like that?
3. What do you need to do to a ‘pot bound’ plant to get them healthy again? (answer: break the pot, cut away some of the bound roots and spread out the roots.)

The transplanting is up to the gardener, not the tree!

Psalm 68:6 “God sets the solitary in families.”

The word ‘sets’ implies a fairly fixed term. ‘In families’ – families are families for life.

A tree’s growth is determined by the roots, eg. Depth.

Setteth – Heb. Yaw-shab To sit down in quiet, to dwell, to remain, to settle, to marry, make to abide, continue, endure, establish, habitation, haunt, inhabit, make to keep, to tarry. Families – Heb. Bah-yith – a house; especially family house

- Questions:
1. Are you roots down deep?
 2. Are they deep enough to withstand the strong winds of adversity?
 3. How do we put our roots down deep?
 4. What can cause people to uproot and leave?
 5. What can you do to put your roots down deeper?

Established trees bear the most fruit.

Question: Can you give an example of a natural tree which was well established and fruitful?
Read: John 15:1-8