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Welcome back! Can you believe that it’s week 5 already, which means next week is the last week of the series. Well, today we will look at the connection between the first four roots: Our **relationship with Christ** is the primary root, but that relationship is built on **forgiveness**, and forgiveness is received through **faith**, and faith comes from and is based on what is revealed in **the Word**. God powerfully uses His word to make the gospel message clear. The bottom line is that God uses His word to reveal the person and work of Christ so that we can believe into **“new spiritual life”** and continues to use His Word to root us deeply in our relationship with Him to have **“full spiritual life”** and all the benefits that that relationship provides.

**WHAT’S NEXT?** If you haven’t been talking with your group about what is next, we strongly encourage you to have that discussion today. Some groups are continuing on while others I know will be done next week. Either way, take some time to find out what your group members are thinking. Please know we have a follow-on curriculum called “Community” -Six Weeks To A Healthy Group. It’s a perfect “next step” for groups that want to become an official Life Group. Let me know this week what your thinking and we can help you take those next steps.



**Ice breaker Questions**:

1. Do you have a green thumb? What kind of plants do you care for?

1. What did you study in school? Are you using that knowledge/experience in your current work situation?

1. As we’ve been working through the different roots vital to growth, strength and nourishment in Christ, have any of them surprised you? Which one(s) are the most difficult for you to support?



* Watch the video for Week 5.
* Rooted in the Word video<https://vimeo.com/366574705> 10:11



What are some of the ways that God’s Word has been important to you in producing *new* spiritual life (when you first became a believer) as well as in producing *fuller* spiritual life (as you’ve matured in your faith)? Has your view of or use of the Word changed over that time?

**READ Colossians 1:3-12**

*We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints;* *because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel**which has come to you, just as in all the world also it is constantly bearing fruit and increasing, even as it has been doing in you also since the day you heard of it and understood the grace of God in truth;**just as you learned it from Epaphras, our beloved fellow bond-servant, who is a faithful servant of Christ on our behalf, and he also informed us of your love in the Spirit. For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously**giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us [*[*r*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Col+1&version=NASB#fen-NASB-29478r)*]to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light*

Paul prays that the Colossians would grow in knowledge, wisdom and understanding *so that* they would walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects. Discuss the importance of the four phrases following this statement that illustrate what this kind of walk should look like.

1. Bearing fruit for God

2. Increasing in the knowledge of God

3. Being strengthened with the power by God

4. Joyfully giving thanks to God

Which do you need more of in your life currently?

Do you know people who are marked by those characteristics (or exhibit them yourself at times)? What would you say produced those traits?

How does Paul’s prayer encourage or challenge you in your own prayer life?

Pastor Brian described 5 ways we can become “rooted” in the word—hearing, reading, studying, memorizing, and meditating. Talk about why each of these might be valuable in different ways.

Which of these have been most valuable to you at different times in your life? Explain.

**BONUS QUESTIONS:**

* As a group, read some other verses about the wonder of God’s Word. What strikes you as you read these together?

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Psalm 19

1 Peter 2:2

Acts 20:32

Any other favorites people would like to share?

* Any guesses on what next week’s ROOT might be - represented by bone meal?

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What is your biggest challenge in getting into God’s Word more? What do you struggle with most and how can we help you?

Use the cards (see last page) and share which is your strength and what area do you want to grow in. Pick out one way you want to interact with Scripture this week and share that.

(Hear, Read, Study, Memorize, Meditate)



Be sure to check in on the previous weeks prayer requests.

Pray Paul’s prayer found in Colossians 1:9-12 for each other.

 

 