

## Discussion Guide

March 1, 2026

# Roots Before Results

Built Different Week 1

Pastor Daniel Groves

### Main Idea

If we're going to embrace who God has called us to be, we have to examine our roots — because deep roots produce healthy fruit.

Throughout Scripture, spiritual strength is tied to rootedness. In Psalm 1, those who delight in God's Word are like trees planted by water — steady and fruitful. In Jeremiah 17, those who trust in the Lord have roots that reach deep and are not shaken by drought. In Colossians 2, Paul urges believers to let their roots grow down into Christ so their faith grows strong and overflows with gratitude.

Notice the pattern: Planted -> Rooted -> Stable -> Fruitful

**Achor Verse:** *"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."* (Ephesians 2:10, ESV).

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Read: Psalm 92:12-13, 1:2-3, Jeremiah 17:7-8, and Colossians 2:6-7

### 1. **HEALTHY ROOTS GROW IN HIDDEN PLACES**

Healthy roots are formed in hidden places through daily devotion, quiet obedience, and trust in Christ — not in momentary spiritual highs. Shallow faith fades under pressure, but roots grounded deeply in God's love produce lasting strength and fruit in every season.

Scripture: Ephesians 3:16-17, Matthew 13:20-23

**Discussion:** What hidden, daily practices have most strengthened your spiritual roots — and where do you sense God inviting you to grow deeper right now? When pressure, distraction, or difficulty comes, what does it reveal about the depth of your roots — and what might need to shift in your daily devotion to build greater resilience?

## **2. STRONG ROOTS REQUIRE COMMITMENT**

Strong roots require wholehearted commitment to God's Word and abiding in Christ — not selective obedience or surface-level faith. When we submit to Scripture's authority and remain connected to the Vine, lasting fruit is formed from deep, unseen roots rather than forced through outward effort.

Scripture: John 15:5

**Discussion:** In what areas of your life are you tempted to treat Scripture as advice rather than authority — and what would deeper submission actually look like for you? When you look at the "fruit" in your life right now (emotions, relationships, spiritual consistency), what might it reveal about the health of your roots and your connection to Christ?

## **3. PARTICIPATION PRODUCES TRANSFORMATION**

Participation in the body of Christ produces transformation — because fruit is revealed not by intention, but by involvement. When we plant ourselves in community and serve with ownership, our roots deepen, our faith strengthens, and our lives begin to reflect the mission of Jesus.

Scripture: Matthew 7:16-18, Hebrews 10:24-25, James 1:2-4

**Discussion:** In what ways are you currently participating in the life of the church — and where might God be inviting you to move from attending to belonging? How has serving or engaging in community shaped your spiritual growth in the past, and what next step could help deepen your roots right now?

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**GOD DEVELOPS DEPTH BEFORE HE RELEASES RESULTS**

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## **SUMMARY**

Spiritual strength is not built on surface appearances but on the depth of our roots. Healthy roots grow in hidden places through daily devotion, are strengthened by submitting to the authority of God's Word, and are sustained by remaining connected to Christ. When we move from intention to participation — planting ourselves in community and serving with ownership — transformation follows. Deep roots produce steady faith, lasting fruit, and resilience in every season.

## **CALL TO ACTION**

- **Establish a Daily Root Routine** — Set aside intentional time each day (even 10–15 minutes) for Scripture, prayer, and reflection. Don't just read — ask, *"What is God inviting me to obey today?"* Depth grows through consistency, not intensity.

- **Submit One Are to the Word** — Commit Identify one area of your life where you've been treating truth like advice instead of authority (attitude, generosity, relationships, habits). Choose one specific act of obedience this week that aligns your life under Scripture.
- **Take a Participation Step** — Move from observing to engaging. Encourage someone in your group, initiate spiritual conversation, or take a tangible next step in serving. Roots deepen when you actively connect to the body rather than staying on the sidelines.

Small, intentional steps this week will strengthen roots that sustain you long-term.

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## GROUP LEADER RESOURCE

### Would You Survive?

#### **Purpose:**

Light-hearted, quick laughs, and subtly sets up the “roots” theme before diving into the sermon discussion.

**Time:** 8–10 minutes

**Supplies:** None

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### How It Works

Tell the group:

“Tonight we’re talking about roots — but before we get spiritual, let’s see how you’d survive as a tree.”

Then read these fun scenarios one at a time. After each one, have people raise their hand or move to one side of the room to answer.

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### Round 1: Weather Check

#### **1. A week of nonstop rain.**

Are you thriving 🌧️ or already complaining?

#### **2. 100-degree Texas heat with no shade.**

Still standing ☀️ or dramatically wilted?

### 3. A strong windstorm hits.

Firm and steady 🦵 or leaning like the Tower of Pisa?

Let people explain their answers briefly for laughs.

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### Round 2: Root Reveal

Now shift slightly: “Okay, but what actually determines whether a tree survives?”

Let them answer:

- Roots
- Soil
- Water source
- Depth

Then ask: “If your week was the weather... how did your roots do?”

No deep processing yet — just quick one-word answers:

- Strong
- Shaky
- Dry
- Growing
- Surviving
- Needs water

### Transition:

“Just like a tree’s strength isn’t determined by the weather but by the depth of its roots, our spiritual stability isn’t determined by our circumstances but by what’s happening beneath the surface. Let’s lean into tonight’s discussion and take an honest look at our roots.”