



WEEK 3 - TREES

OVERVIEW

At the very start of our Bibles, we are introduced to two trees Adam and Eve must choose between: the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and bad. From that point onward, trees play a vital literary role in depicting humanity's choice of where to find true life. Major moments in the narrative of Scripture take place near trees, such as Abraham being visited by the angel of the Lord "by the oaks of Mamre" (Genesis 18:1). The prophets also use trees as powerful images of judgment and rebirth, such as the tree of King David's family, toppled by the judgment of God, growing a new shoot and "bearing fruit from the old root" (Isaiah 11:1). And, of course, the New Testament authors fully understood the symbolism of the cross of Christ becoming its own kind of tree of life, which rescues us from the curse (Galatians 3:13). Taken together, these arboreal images invite us all to eat from the tree of life and discover the redemption that can come from being grafted into the true vine of Jesus!

On each side of the river grew a tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, with a fresh crop each month. The leaves were used for medicine to heal the nations.

Revelation 22:2

Bible Project Video: <https://bibleproject.com/videos/tree-of-life/>

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have trees played a role in the story of your life? If so, how?
2. Read Genesis 2:8-9, 15-17. Why did God place trees in the garden of Eden?
3. How do you think the Israelites felt when Isaiah shared his tree-related vision with them in Isaiah 61:1-3?
4. Read John 15: 5. What does it mean to be in relationship with Jesus?
5. Randy said, "a life rooted in God is a life free to grow." What does that mean to you?
6. What would it mean for us to eat from God's "tree of life"?
7. What would it look like for you to be a "tree of life" to the world around you?
8. How might we, in our everyday lives, be sacrificing God's perfect plan for our own?
9. What can you do right now to enter God's plan and not reject or ignore it?
10. What false tree of life might be stopping you from following God's plan for your life?
11. How does Jesus' death offer us a new tree of life?
12. Read Psalms 1:1-3. What does a truly free life with God look like?