

## [Roots] Group Questions

### [Roots] The Radical Planter

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**BIG IDEA:** “Roots: Growing A Life that Lasts”: Roots are an anchor in the soil to provide stability and a firm base for the entire structure of the trunk, branches, leaves and fruit. Roots absorb water and nutrients needed for growth. The same is true for Christ-followers. Unless we are rooted and grounded in an abiding faith in Christ, we wither beneath the weight of life’s challenges. “Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.” Colossians 2:6-7. So how do we create a life that lasts? The most effective way is to immerse ourselves in God’s word and live in a place of surrender, striking our roots deep into life-giving soil and living waters of Christ.

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**ICE BREAKER:** Barbara Walters is infamously known for her question, posed to Katherine Hepburn: “If you were a tree, what kind of tree would you be?” If you were asked the same question, what kind of tree would you be? Why do some trees endure or stand firm in a storm while others are twisted, shaken, or uprooted? Are you the kind of tree that stands in the storm or does the storm threaten to uproot you?

1. **READ 1 John 2:15-17.** What do people say you love? (i.e., loves the Georgia Bulldogs, loves technology and gadgets, has an admiration for the symphony or ballet?) **When was the last time we shared Christ with the same enthusiasm we display for our love of sports, gadgets, or the arts? In what kind of ground are you planted?** Adversity not only shows what kind of ground we are planted in, but it exposes potential weakness in our root systems. In the midst of your adversity, what do people see when they see you?
2. **American Lawn recommends the following:**

To promote a lush, thick lawn, it is important to put proper watering procedures in place. When you must water, the goal should be to water the grass roots. Not just the grass blades. Light, frequent watering encourages a shallow root system, and increases the chances that your lawn will go into drought stress.

**What does the Apostle Paul recommend to promote a thick, lush spiritual life in Galatians 6:7-8? What can we do to water our spiritual lives deeply, frequently and strategically? Or do we only water it two hours a week?** What kind of ground have you sunk your roots into? What nourishes you? What things can your Group do to encourage a vibrant spiritual root system? What is the reward for those who are persistent (v. 9)?

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#### Scripture:

- **1 John 2:15-17**

15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world. 17 And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

- **Galatians 6:7-9**

7 Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. 8 For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. 9 And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

#### FOR REFLECTION:

##### From “Radical” by David Platt

As the American dream goes, we can do anything we set our minds to accomplish. There is no limit to what we can accomplish when we combine ingenuity, imagination, and innovation with skill and hard work. In direct contradiction to the American dream, God actually delights in exalting our inability. He intentionally puts his people in situations where they come face to face with their need for him. In the process he powerfully demonstrates his ability to provide everything his people need in ways they could never have mustered up or imagined. And in the end, he makes much of his own name.

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**More Information:** Comments, questions and notes are taken from: The Bible, blueletterbible.org, biblegateway.com. Radical by David Platt, pg. 45, pg. 47.

If you have any comments, suggestions, **life-change** stories, or feedback to give regarding these questions or your group please email [lesa@midwaychurch.com](mailto:lesa@midwaychurch.com).