

[Roots] Group Questions

[Roots] Weed Roots that Destroy Good Roots

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.

ICE BREAKER: What do you think of when you hear the word, "Kudzu"? Many people consider Kudzu a weed and a nuisance. Most people do not know the original introduction of Kudzu to the United States was a gesture of honor and celebration. Kudzu was introduced to the United States in 1876 at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Countries were invited to build exhibits to celebrate the 100th birthday of the U.S. The Japanese government constructed a beautiful garden filled with plants from their country that included Kudzu. It started out as a solution to erosion. The problem is it grew too well! The soil and climate of the Southeastern U.S. is perfect for kudzu. While Kudzu helps to prevent erosion, the vines can also destroy valuable forests by preventing trees from getting sunlight. The vines grow as much as a foot per day during summer months, climbing trees, power poles, and anything else they contact. Under ideal conditions kudzu vines can grow sixty feet each year.

1. **Merriam-Webster defines a weeds as "a plant that is not valued where it is growing and is usually of vigorous growth especially one that tends to overgrow or choke out more desirable plants." Identify weeds that start out harmless, but eventually escalate into overgrowth.**
 2. **READ Matthew 13:22-30. What are some of the weeds that choke out the word of God in our lives?** When identifying weeds, how do we determine the roots we want to kill and the roots we want to fertilize?
 3. **There are four main enemy roots: greed, bitterness, pride, and jealousy.** What is the difference between greed and an investment portfolio or obligation and stewardship? What is the difference in a friendly competition and jealousy? How can unresolved anger develop into bitterness?
 4. **Thinking about your life, how do we identify greed, bitterness, jealousy and pride, and what weed killers do we use to eradicate them?**
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Scripture:

- **Matthew 13:22-30**

22 As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. **23** As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty." **24** He put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, **25** but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. **26** So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. **27** And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?' **28** He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' So the servants said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' **29** But he said, 'No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. **30** Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

More Information: Comments, questions and notes are taken from: The Bible, blueletterbible.org, biblegateway.com, <http://maxshores.com/kudzu/>

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