



## Better Roots Robert Morris

**Focus** In order to bear good fruit we have to *take root*. We must plant, water, and fertilize good roots in our lives and cut away the roots producing bad fruit.

**Fun** Bring some fresh fruit as a snack this week. Ask if anyone has ever grown their own fruit. What was the process like? What did they do with the harvest?

**Review** Key Scripture: 2 Kings 19:30

- **Better roots must be planted.**

*Psalm 92:13–14*

We must ask ourselves what areas of our lives have bad roots. It could be finances, marriage, work, or any area with an ongoing struggle. In these areas, we must take root by planting ourselves in the house of the Lord. It's not enough to attend church and hear a message. We'll flourish when we're connected and involved in our church through small groups, classes, or volunteering.

- **Better roots must be watered.**

*Jeremiah 17:7–8; Psalm 1:1–3*

Hearing, learning, and meditating on God's Word is the water that produces good fruit. After we plant good seed, we have to water it often with God's Word. When Satan brings a flood of destructive words against us, we can use God's Word to counter every lie he throws at us.

- **Better roots must be fertilized.**

*Luke 13:6–9; 2 Kings 18:13–25, 19:6–7, 19:20–22, 19:25–37*

Fertilizer may not be desirable at first, but it will bring about something beautiful. When we press into the Lord during tough, uncomfortable times, that's fertilizing. When we go through a tough time, we should call out to God. We dig around the root, cut the thorns, pull the weeds, and fertilize the better roots with prayer.

### **\*Group Dynamics Idea\***

Encourage community in your group through food! Once a month, extend your meeting time and host a potluck dinner. This gives everyone time to get to know each other more and bond.

### **Discuss**

1. Share about a time you were involved in a ministry or connected to others at church and, as a direct result, grew in the Lord.
2. We need to water our roots with the Word of God. What challenges hinder you from reading the Bible? What strategies help you study? How do you find scriptures that pertain to your situation?
3. Read 2 Kings 19:30. What do the words "shall again" mean to you?
4. Fertilizer is unpleasant but makes a plant flourish and become beautiful. Have you experienced a situation that was extremely uncomfortable but produced godly change in your life? Share with the group.
5. What are some reasons people believe they can't live without a bad root? What can you do to help someone cut a bad root out of their life?

### **Take Home**

We take root and bear good fruit by:

- Planting ourselves in the house of the Lord by getting connected through groups, classes, and volunteering.
- Studying the Word of God in the areas where we struggle.
- Praying through the difficult times in life, knowing the Lord will defend us.
- Repenting and pulling out the bad roots in our lives.

### **Prayer**

Father, thank You for Your great wisdom and sovereignty. Reveal the areas in our lives that need attention. Guide us to the people, classes, and groups in the church that can help us establish strong and healthy roots. Lord, give us the courage and strength to pray through the difficult times in our lives, to

trust You, and to dig deep into Your Word. We desire to bear Your fruit that is good and holy. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**\*New Leader Tip\***

It's a good idea to have your group's basic information on hand to give people who are interested in joining. Make several copies for your group members to use as invitations at the start of a new semester.