

# Growing Trees (part 2)

## Psalm 1

Blessedness – God wants to bring you wholeness / goodness / well-being / “Yes”

- Review: two paths, one of which requires intention (no drifting into it)
- Big Truth: whoever has your ear helps determine your path

What does this blessedness look like? 7 Words

### *Trees*

- Substantive, consequential, beautiful

### *Planted*

- Not sown / scattered seed – planted
- He cares – even when it feels like He doesn’t and the world is crazy (v.5-6)

### *Streams*

- The psalms help us through every human condition (doubt, betrayal, sin, etc.)

### *Fruit* (can...not always, but can)

- Reveals what’s in you
- Magnet for those watching you
- Sustenance for those close to you

### *Season*

- If the tree doesn’t bear fruit in season, you wonder what’s wrong with the tree
- If the tree bears fruit out of season, you wonder what’s wrong with the fruit

### *Leaf*

- Nourishment from the roots
- Synthesizing by exposure / presence of sun

### *Wither*

- You will not crater / lose your life
- You have built your life on REAL nourishment (tree planted by streams)
  - Not your experiences, circumstances, preferences – “but it didn’t work for me...” means you wanted God to do what you wanted

## Questions for Discussion

1. Have someone read Psalm 1 out loud three times (yes, this may seem a little weird). After the third reading, what word or phrase can you not escape? Why is it sticking with you?
2. What is your favorite part of the Bible? Do you have a favorite story or passage? Why is it your favorite? What has God said to you through that book / story / passage that has stuck with you through the years?
3. In the first sermon on this psalm, Trent talked about the descent of those who do not listen to God's instruction (v.1). How does Jeremiah describe them (Jer. 17.5-10)? Can you think of someone (even yourself) who has walked this descending path? Where and how did it end? What kind of warning does that give?
4. Out of the three phrases we looked at in the psalm, which is hardest for you to believe: "planted by streams of water," "bearing fruit in its season," or "leaf does not wither?" Which is easiest?
5. In the sermon, we closed with the passage from Romans 8.28-39. Reread that passage. We described it as "a life that works," even when it's hard. What's your favorite promise from the Romans 8 passage? How can / should that affect the week that you're facing?