



Author's Note to the Leaders:

Lots of things have roots. They help things to grow, stand firm, and withstand all sorts of difficulties. They help them connect to their source of life. Trees have roots that run deep and/or wide that help them to grow hundreds of feet at times, stand against all kinds of storms and pull nutrients from the ground. Grass has roots that sprawl all throughout the ground so they can come back from season to season.

We have roots also. We have a hometown in which we were born or grew up in. We have people in our lives and a story that has caused us to grow up in different shapes and with different interests and abilities.

Since we live in a world of massive and rapid change, though, we often forget our roots. New things come out every single day ... new and "better" ways of doing things and accomplishing tasks ... new ways of helping things grow and change.

Christians and churches are not immune to these changes. We are always looking for newer and better ways to do things, new technologies to improve our worship services or connect with our members, new ideas about how to share the Gospel, or new resources to help us in our growth. Often in the midst of all this change and "improvement" we forget our roots.

No matter what changes come about, some things remain constant. We need our roots. It's pretty certain that no matter how much science we come up with, grass and trees will still need roots to grow. No matter how much we try, parts of our upbringing and roots will still follow us around. And no matter how many new technologies and strategies are placed before us, the roots of Christianity that Christ taught and the early church lived out, will still be the best way to grow and spread our faith.

All this is not to say that new things are bad, but they are when we forget where we came from and what is most important. Many of us forget this sometimes. Many of our students have forgotten or may never have known what their roots as Christians are. More than ever we, as Christians, need to remember what our roots are and get back to them. We need to get rooted again so we are connected to our life source and able to withstand the storms around us.

In this study we are going to try to strip away all the new and the changes and get back to our roots. Almost sounds like a country song! It will seem elementary at times, but sometimes elementary is good. For some of your students this will be revolutionary and new; for others it will be mundane as they think, "This again?" Regardless of their attitude, this is a study they all need; so be prepared for students from all backgrounds and walks of life.

Here is how the study will progress:

1. Prayer
2. Studying God's Word
3. Community
4. Worship
5. Evangelism

Pretty simple stuff, right? Let's see as we begin to strip away all the fluff and get back to our roots.