



## Roots

### **P**review

This lesson will guide us toward grounding ourselves in the Word of God.

### **P**raise

The Bible is not just any ordinary book. Did you know...

- The Bible has 66 books, 40 authors, each with a unique writing style, written over a 1500 – 1600 year time span, yet it is unified in theme and content.
- It's been copied thousands of times throughout the centuries, yet still reads the same when modern copy is compared with early copy.
- It is relevant in every culture in every epoch of world history.
- It's the only book inspired by God that gives the universal source of salvation.

Let's thank God for His Word.

### **P**arable

Supplies: 20-30 empty plastic coke bottles. Separate into two equal teams, the "up" team and the "down" team. When the timer begins, you have 60 seconds to set all of the coke bottles up or down, depending on your team. The team with the most facing their direction wins.

What part of the game was difficult? Each team had the same bottle, so why wasn't it just as easy for one team as the other? [The top side of the bottle is difficult to stand up. The bottom side is designed to have the weight on it while keeping balance.]

### **P**resent

Playing football is something most guys enjoy. Let's say the guys organize a game and an inexperienced player asks to play too. We'll call him Steve.

Steve is lined up next to you. The ball is snapped. He takes off inside toward the quarterback. There's a wide open sack opening up. Steve is about to tackle the quarterback when he makes a huge mistake: he lunges forward and grabs the QB's shoulders. The QB simply shrugs him off and Steve ends up at the bottom of a heap on the ground.



What Steve didn't realize was, the tackle has to bend his knees for a good gravity base and balance while keeping his feet moving. He then tackles low, wrapping the QB up at the knees. His stance determines the success of the tackle.

Too many times as Christian young people we treat the Bible like a dusty old history book. Or worse, ignore it altogether, not realizing that in order to live a successful life in Christ we must set our roots deep in the Word of God.

Roots are interesting things. You don't see them, but they're down there, providing nourishment and moisture vital to the life of the plant. The new shoot develops a reciprocal relationship with its tender roots: as the roots push downward, the shoot pushes upward. The shoot can't grow any taller above ground than the roots develop below ground. If the plant is weak and scraggly, you know the roots are the same. But if the plant is full and flourishing, you know the roots are healthy, growing, and doing their job. Paul wrote in **Colossians 2:7** that we're "rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith." How healthy and vigorous our roots are in God's Word determines the strength and growth of our spiritual development in God.

**Read John 4:24.** The bottom line is if we don't expend as much energy feeding our souls with the Word of God as we do when we're praising God, we are tackling life from the shoulders. The success of our walk with God depends on a healthy balance between truth and spirit. That's what God is looking for in our lives.

## **P**practice

What are some practical ways we can establish roots in the Word of God?

Set a time and place to read the Bible every day, and make it a habit.

Assemble two or three versions of the Bible to use as references when a passage is hard to understand.

Keep in mind that what you're reading is God's message to *you*, and apply it to yourself.

Follow up with prayer about what you've read. What point is God making to you at that particular time?

## **P**ray

Jesus, thank You for the opportunity to study Your Word and learn how to apply it to our lives. We are passionate about Your Spirit dwelling in us, but we also want to set our roots deep in Your Word. Jesus, we love You and are thankful for the spiritual enrichment we have received today.



Make a tangible commitment today to start reading the Bible every day. It's the only way to put down spiritual roots. No matter if it's one or two chapters each day, God will honor that and you will see your life change through it!