

ministry to  
 youth



# ROOTED

ROOTED: WEEK 4

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# Week 4



Rooted Week 4:  
LIVE STRONG



Bible Verse:  
Colossians 2:7



Bottom Line:  
Our lives are to be deeply rooted in  
Christ so that we may stand firm, live  
strong, and bear much fruit.

# SUPPLIES

- An apple and a knife to cut it in half
- A bigger prize for whoever gets the most questions correct
- Smaller prizes for everyone else playing
- Prize Suggestions:
  - Tootsie Caramel Apple Pops
  - Apple Laffy Taffy, or a box of Appleheads (like Lemonheads)
  - Apple, cutting board, knife
- Optional: Cinnamon apple candle to burn during the lesson to connect with the theme

# INTRODUCTION

**SAY:** Welcome, students!

Today is the last day of our “Rooted” series!

We have laid out a basic foundation of how to accept the seed of salvation from God and how to utilize the spiritual nourishment that empowers us to grow deep roots in order to grow up like a strong trunk with sturdy branches and mature in our faith.

What’s left to talk about in an apple tree?

**Allow for answers. (Apples and leaves)**

We are going to talk about APPLES and bearing fruit—doing what God created us to do, multiply.

Let’s begin our time together with a game!

# OPENING GAME

**(IN-PERSON & ONLINE VERSION): APPLE TRIVIA**

## HOW TO PLAY THE GAME:

Leader, the answers to each of the questions are underlined.

Let's play a little trivia!

You have learned a lot this month about apple trees as an illustration of spiritual growth, but let's see what you know about apple trees themselves.

The object of this game is to get the most answers correct for a prize.

Hold up your fingers for the number of the answer you choose.

When I can see everyone's answers, I will tell you the correct answer.

Each correct answer is worth one point, and you will keep track of your own points.

# TRIVIA QUESTIONS

A. When planting an apple orchard, how far apart do you think it is best to plant trees?

1. 6-25 feet apart—depending on the tree that is growing<sup>1</sup>
2. 1-5 feet apart—depending on the tree that is growing
3. 25-30 feet apart—depending on the tree that is growing

B. How many seeds should be planted in one hole?

1. 5-6 seeds
2. 3-4 seeds
3. 1-2 seeds<sup>2</sup>

C. What are the benefits of only planting 1-2 seeds in each hole?

1. The seed has space to grow into a seedling
2. The gardener can see weeds growing near the seedling in order to pull it early and protect the seedling
3. Both

D. How many seeds does the average apple have?

1. 3-5 seeds
2. 5-8 seeds<sup>3</sup>
3. 8-11 seeds

E. As an example of a specific kind of tree and its productivity, how many apples do you think the average semi-dwarf apple tree produces in a year?

1. Up to 100 apples each year
2. Up to 200 apples each year
3. Up to 500 apples each year<sup>4</sup>

F. How many years do you think the average semi-dwarf apple tree produces apples?

1. 10-15 years
2. 15-20 years<sup>4</sup>
3. 20-25 years

G. If a healthy semi-dwarf apple tree produces 500 apples for 15 years, how many apples would that tree produce?

1. 6500 apples
2. 7500 apples
3. 8500 apples

H. If each of those apples produced 5 seeds, how many seeds could that tree produce in its productivity lifetime?

1. 37,500 seeds
2. 35,700 seeds
3. 53,700 seeds

OK, raise your hand if you got 8 points... 7 points... 6 points (and so on)!

The winner of the APPLE TRIVIA CONTEST IS...(student's name)!

In case you need a Tie Breaker Question, here's a great one:

A. The apple blossom is the state flower of which U.S.A. State?

1. Vermont
2. Michigan<sup>5</sup>
3. Maine

**In-Person:**

Hand out the prize for the winner (then the rest of the students).

**Online Version:**

Get the prizes to the student with the most points sometime before the group meets again.

# TEACH

Leader, cut the apple in half and show the students the seeds inside, then pull one seed out and show it to the students as you say the next statement.

Say: One little tree could produce 37,500 seeds.

That's a LOT of seeds that could become trees and produce more apples.

Let's go back to that cute little fruit bearing semi-dwarf apple tree example.

At this stage in your life, the spiritual fruit you bear will probably not get to 500 apples per year because you are still growing and maturing.

But, what if you were able to bear one "apple" this year that plants even one seed of salvation?

If you start now, let's look at the math of what God could do through you by the time you are 50.

If you plant one seed each year (tell someone else the truth about salvation), here is how many seeds you will plant by the time you are 50:

If you are:

- 12-years-old, you could plant 38 seeds.
- 13-years-old, 37 seeds.
- 14-years-old, 36 seeds.
- 15-years-old, 35 seeds.
- 16-years-old, 34 seeds.
- 17-years-old, 33 seeds.
- 18-years-old, 32 seeds.

That is AMAZING.

Just telling one person per year—planting one seed each year—you could make that big of a difference.

Let's pause right here for a moment.

Please close your eyes.

I want everyone to think of one person who does not yet know the truth about Jesus.

Try to picture that person's face.

Picture yourself talking to that person about normal everyday things.

Then realize you may be the person God placed on this earth that will plant the seed of salvation in that person's life.

Think of the person who told you the truth about Jesus and how thankful you are for that person.

You are meant to be that person for someone else—most likely the person who came to mind.

We are going to pray silently for a few minutes.

I want you to take this time to pray for God to give you an opportunity to plant the seed of salvation in that person's life—to tell that person the truth about Jesus.

Allow time for the students to pray.

Pray for any students who have not yet decided to follow Jesus, that this would prompt them to start asking about salvation today.

Pray for your students to be brave and ask for opportunities to share the truth of Jesus with the people God has placed in their lives.

Don't rush this prayer time—give them at least 3 minutes to pray.

The silence will start to feel awkward and heavy but give it at least 30 more seconds after that awkward feeling begins for the Holy Spirit to do work in their hearts.

Our Scripture verse for today is a great one for this series.

Colossians 2:7 says, "Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness."

When our lives are built on Jesus as our foundation, and our spiritual roots are grown down deep, our faith will grow strong and tall in the truth we were taught.

I love how this verse says we will overflow with thankfulness!

We want to tell others about Jesus and who He can be for them because of who He is to us and what He has done for us.

We tell others out of our thankfulness to God for these truths in our lives.

When we truly realize what God has saved us from and FOR, we are thankful, and the truth just overflows from us.

We can't help but tell others the truth about Jesus!

One of the fruits we bear as believers is the truth about Jesus.

Through the Holy Spirit dwelling in us, we also bear some other pretty amazing fruit, some of which I mentioned before in this series.

This fruit is called the fruit of the Spirit, and we read about it in Galatians 5:22-23, "But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!"

I don't know about you, but this is definitely the kind of fruit I want to bear—what I want people to see in me.

Let's take just a few moments to define and discuss this fruit.

LOVE is not romantic love or the love between friends, but unconditional, sacrificial love like we talked about last week; loving God first and others second before ourselves.

JOY is different from happiness because we always have a reason to rejoice because of our salvation in Jesus.

Happiness depends on circumstance and feelings, but joy does not.

PEACE is the shalom of God mentioned in Phillipians 4:6-7,

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.

Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

This says that when we are worried and pray, God exchanges our worries with a peace that goes beyond anything we can understand.

I want that kind of peace in my life.

PATIENCE is calmly waiting without complaining no matter the circumstance, inconvenience, annoyance, disruption, distraction—no matter what.

KINDNESS is doing good out of the tenderness of your heart (i.e. helping your little brother with his math homework because you love him and it's the right thing to do, AND because you want to).

GOODNESS is doing the right thing because it's the right thing to do no matter how you feel (i.e. obeying your parents and doing the dishes when you would rather catch up on your favorite YouTuber's videos, finishing the test with the knowledge you have instead of looking at your teacher's desk where she has left the answers uncovered).

FAITHFULNESS is putting your faith in God because He is trustworthy, being trustworthy because you want others to trust in God, as well.

GENTLENESS is controlled power.

Gentleness is knowing you have the power to harm someone with your words, but choosing to use kind, encouraging words instead and knowing you are stronger than someone, but choosing to use your strength to help others instead of harming or controlling them.

SELF-CONTROL is tied to love and all the other fruits of the Spirit.

It is a decision and an awesome sign you are becoming mature and more like Jesus.

Our lives are to be deeply rooted in Christ so that we may stand firm, live strong, and bear much fruit.

Let's pray for each other and thank God for the opportunity to share His truth with others.

Close in prayer.

Leader, pray or have one of your volunteers or students pray to close, then break into small groups (or Zoom breakout rooms).

# SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is something that stood out to you from this lesson?
2. What is something new you learned today, or something you were reminded of about God in this lesson?
3. Who is the person who introduced you to Jesus, and how do you view that person?
4. What does it make you think or feel to know God has placed you in someone's life to tell him/her the truth about Jesus?
5. Which of the fruits we have talked about today stands out to you most and why?
  - a. Truth of salvation from your thankfulness
  - b. Love
  - c. Joy
  - d. Peace
  - e. Patience
  - f. Kindness
  - g. Goodness
  - h. Faithfulness
  - i. Gentleness
  - j. Self-Control
6. Which of the fruits of the Spirit do you think is the hardest to bear (show others) and why?
7. What is something that has stuck out to you about the Rooted series?

8. What do you think God wants you to do with what He taught you through the Rooted series?

9. Please share any questions about what we learned today.

10. How can we pray for you today?

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