



always be support and help – that you, their friends, the church community and God are part of their root system.

Together

Let's start our time with God and each other well

If used in a mixed-age group, then young people can support younger ones in using the gathering prayer in Faith Adventures: Children Together. If used in a youth group, you could use this opening prayer or encourage young people to open the session with a prayer of their own.

All mighty God,

Be with us as we learn more about you through stories and people in the Bible.

Help us to walk in your way and follow your path.

Be with us as we make decisions that affect our lives, and the lives of those around us.

Amen

In-person and alternative game

See this week's Faith Adventures : Children Together for suitable games for this theme.

Experience

Research different versions of this reading on <https://www.biblegateway.com/> Recommended versions to try are NRSV, Easy-to-read, The Message, NIRV

Watch: Jubilant Arts Bible Journalling <https://youtu.be/0bFqjastUs0?si=4eeFftzw5TilK6Fv>

Watch from 1:44 minutes in to hear the reading, fast forward through the painting to see it develop, then watch from 12:22 to the end.

Questions for discussion

- How has the reading from Jeremiah influenced the artist in her painting?
- What do you think might be a benefit of journalling like this?
- How does the artist interpret what she has read? Do you read it the same way or does the passage say s(pW*nBT/F2 11.04 Tf1 0 0 1 0.8 17846Tm0 g0 G[pa)3(ssag)3(e slpChl)-6 G)]TJ2ai



- Can you think of any other ways you might illustrate the way your faith grows other than like a tree?

Watch: The tree God intends us to be <https://youtu.be/qbEthS0oz9Y?si=wPsDPBKdKml5CQ9->

Questions for discussion

- This devotional looks at the trees growing in the landscape where Jeremiah will have lived. It also starts with an earlier bit of the reading than just the part we are thinking about today. Does it help your understanding? What do you think the two different lifestyles might look like?

Explore

Ideas and activities to explore this week's Bible passage together

A new way to explore the theme

Use the explore section from this week's Faith Adventures: Children Together to guide your exploration of the theme this week.

Expand on the activity by considering different types of plant with different root systems. Research plants such as bonsai, moss, tumbleweed. Can you extend the analogy of our faith being rooted in God and nurtured to bear fruit like a tree is to these different types of plant? Consider, too, the fact that there is such variety in the plant world – what can this tell us about our faith and the fruits we bear?

Have you heard about the way trees communicate through their root systems? Look at the video from the modern parable or research a bit more about how this works. What difference does it make



Consider where your roots are grounded and what are the fruits of growth in your life.

Research – Trees in the Bible

The image of a tree is one that would be familiar to people almost anywhere in the world, with a few exceptions. Do some research – what sort of trees would have grown in Bible lands and what would they have looked like? Perhaps you could print out some different photographs to create a collage.

Can you find any other references to trees in the Bible, other than in Jeremiah? How is the image of the tree used?

Think about the benefits of trees to our environment and the effects of deforestation. Perhaps you could arrange to plant a tree somewhere as a group, or maybe collect and plant some acorns in plant pots and nurture them until they are strong enough to be planted out somewhere. (Remember not to plant them too close to houses – the root system grows out as wide as the tree grows tall and the roots are very strong – they can undermine bricks and concrete!)

Challenge

Discipleship doesn't stop when you walk out of the church door – it is a part of everyday life. Take a challenge with you and try to make it part of your week.

You may think of your own suggestion of what you as an individual or a group might do in the coming week in response to what you have explored today? If not here are some suggestions:

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- Use one of the “conversation starter” questions