

GROUP EXPERIENCE

VIDEO-BASED  
6 SESSIONS

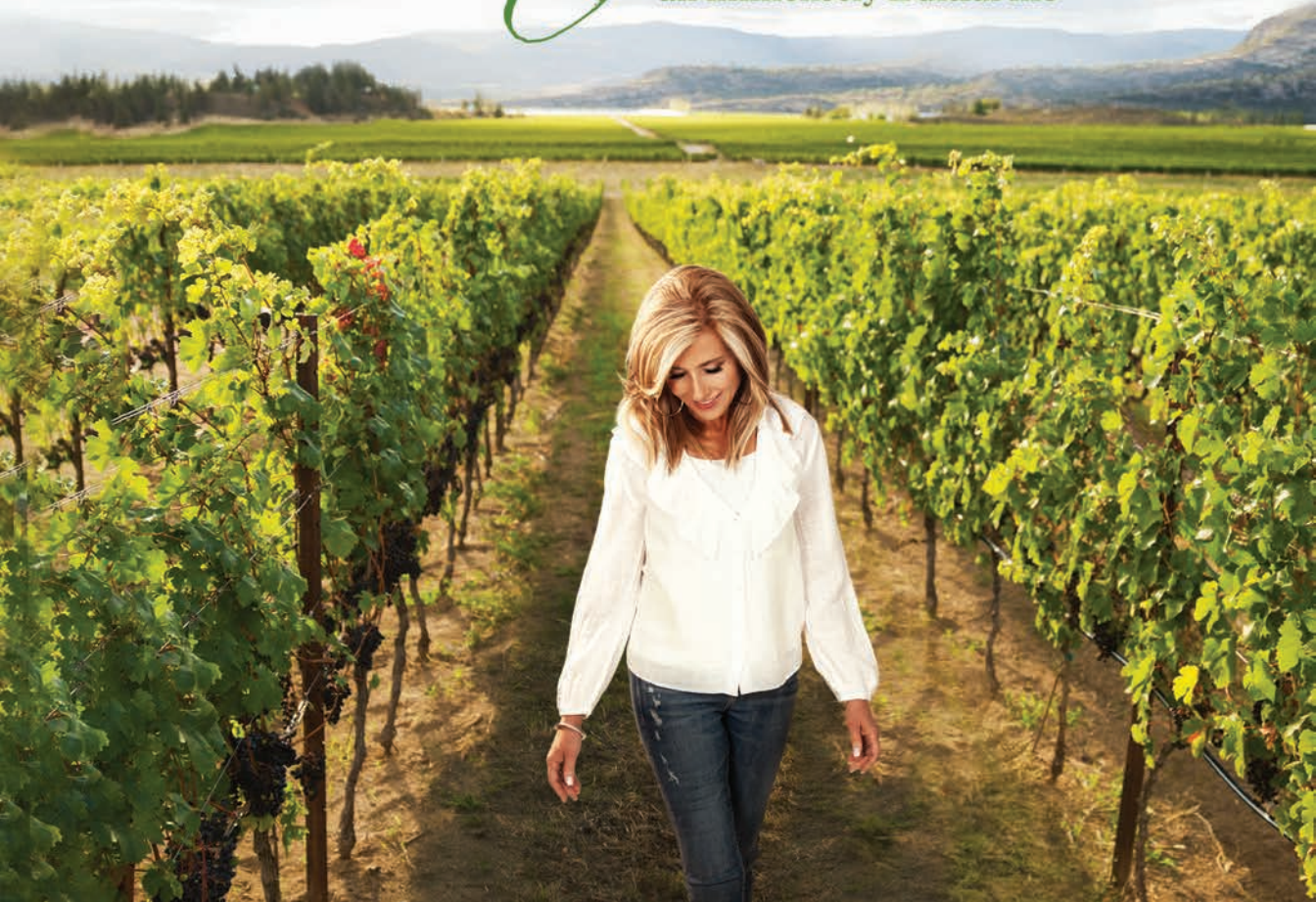
*New York Times* Bestselling Author

# BETH MOORE

WITH KARIN STOCK BUURSMAN

*chasing vines*

Finding your way to  
an immensely fruitful life



# CHASING VINES



GROUP EXPERIENCE





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## *chasing vines*

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*The Tyndale nonfiction imprint*

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*Chasing Vines Group Experience: Finding Your Way to an Immensely Fruitful Life*

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Designed by Dean H. Renninger

Edited by Stephanie Rische

Published in association with Yates & Yates, LLP ([yates2.com](http://yates2.com)).

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ISBN 978-1-4964-4088-4

Printed in the United States of America

26 25 24 23 22 21 20  
7 6 5 4 3 2 1

# CONTENTS

*A Note to Leaders* vii

SESSION 1	The Vineyard	i
SESSION 2	The Vinedresser	23
SESSION 3	The Vine	47
SESSION 4	The Fruit	71
SESSION 5	The Harvest	93
SESSION 6	A Fruitful Life	117

*About the Author* 121



*To Cindy:*

*I can give no higher compliment to anyone than to say  
you increased our love for the true Vine. We will be forever  
grateful for your hospitality and, even more so, for your faith.  
We will love you, your family, and your vineyards all our lives.*

*For the love of the Vine,*

*Beth*



# A NOTE TO LEADERS

Thank you for investing your time into leading a group through the *Chasing Vines Group Experience*. I pray that it will be a meaningful time for all of you as you meet together to read, discuss, and pray about what it means to abide in Christ and live fruitful lives. You are my partner in this journey, and I am deeply grateful for you. I am praying for you and those you lead!

Here are a few suggestions to help your group run smoothly:

- The study is designed to be done over six sessions. We recommend that groups meet for an hour minimum per gathering to get the most out of the experience. Here is your weekly rhythm:

## **Group Gathering:**

Discuss the questions from the previous week.

Watch the DVD message for that session.

As time permits, discuss anything notable in the message. (optional)

Close in prayer.

## **On Your Own:**

Read the assigned part of *Chasing Vines*.

Complete homework (or as much as possible) before the next gathering.

**Repeat until your final gathering for session 6!**



## A NOTE TO LEADERS

- Before your group meets each session, ask God to direct your discussion in a way that honors Him and benefits all the participants.
- Encourage those in your group to read the designated chapters in *Chasing Vines* and work through the study on their own before you meet. The discussion will be deeper and more meaningful if everyone is prepared.
- If you find you don't have time to get through all the material in one meeting, choose a few specific areas to focus on. You could pick one of the two "Planting the Seed" sections to work through first, adding the second if you have time.
- Include a time of prayer at the end of the meeting. Encourage your group members to pray for one another throughout the week.
- Encourage your group members to choose one or two of the application suggestions at the end of each session's study. You might follow up the next week and ask participants to share their experiences.

SESSION 1

# The Vineyard

The LORD God planted a garden.

GENESIS 2:8

Meet with your group and watch session 1 of the DVD before you begin reading *Chasing Vines*. This is your introduction to the entire experience you have ahead. I want to officially welcome you!

## GROUP GATHERING

**Discussion:** Leader, invite participants to share what has drawn them to *Chasing Vines* and the group experience.

Watch session 1 of the DVD. Use the Listening Guide as you view the message.

### — Listening Guide —

1. *What is the goal for this book and the coinciding journey? (Fill in the blanks.)*

*For every reader, without exception, to \_\_\_\_\_ with Jesus and grow in \_\_\_\_\_ in a way that results in \_\_\_\_\_ fruit bearing.*

2. *Why is living a fruitful life in Christ a priority? (Fill in the blanks.)*

- Your fruitfulness brings direct \_\_\_\_\_.
- Your fruitfulness brings direct \_\_\_\_\_.
- Your fruitfulness brings both direct and indirect \_\_\_\_\_.
- Your fruitfulness brings \_\_\_\_\_.
- Your fruitfulness brings \_\_\_\_\_, who hoped to \_\_\_\_\_.

3. *What is your hope and desire for fruitfulness? What do you want to get out of this Chasing Vines experience?*

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Read Colossians 1:1-12. Personalize it into the following petition, to be prayed often in the pursuit of an immensely fruitful life.

\_\_\_\_\_, that I may be filled with the knowledge of Your will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding, so that I may walk worthy of You, Lord, fully pleasing to You: \_\_\_\_\_ and growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power, according to Your glorious might, so that I may have great \_\_\_\_\_ and patience, \_\_\_\_\_ to You, my Father, who have enabled me to share in the saints of inheritance in the light. \_\_\_\_\_ from the domain of darkness and transferred me into the Kingdom of Your Son whom You love. (Taken from Colossians 1:9-13, CSB)

— Prayer —

Take some time to share concerns with your group and pray together. Thank God for His tender care and for the process of growing in faith. Ask Him to help you see

beauty in the slow and sometimes difficult growing process, and to trust that He is at work in your life. Ask Him for grace to be fruitful wherever you are planted and for faith to find your truest place in Him.

+ + +

## ON YOUR OWN

During the week, read the introduction and part 1 (“The Vineyard”) of *Chasing Vines*. Then proceed with “A Word from Beth” and this week’s homework. Resist thinking of the homework as drudgery! This isn’t high school. This is the high calling! Pray that God will help you love every minute of it, because none of it will be wasted. God will use it to increase both His glory and your fruitfulness.

### — *A Word from Beth* —

If there’s one thing I want to say to you as you get started on this study, it’s this: God made you to contribute to His Kingdom in a way only you can. This is true whether you’re a superachiever who seems to have it all together or someone who feels like you are one mishap away from losing your grip on life. You are a child of God, loved by Him and created by Him for a purpose.

That’s the foundational truth we’re going to build on in this study. And yet, as much as we may know it, we don’t always feel it. As I write in the introduction to *Chasing Vines*, “I know what it’s like to fear not being seen. I know what it’s like to worry that I’m not of use. I know how easy it is to feel gift-less in a gift-driven society.” I’m pretty sure I’m not alone in this. We long for our lives to make an impact, even if we’re not sure how.

The focus of this book—and of our lives—is being fruitful. But the fruit itself is not always the point. God Himself seems to consider the process of growing to be almost as important as the fruit.

If you’re a gardener, you understand this. You may have tended your own tomato plants, like I did with Keith and his parents, and watched with excitement as the fruit first appeared and then grew bit by bit. You might know the joy of seeing green begin to turn orange and the sheer delight of feasting on the first

ripe tomato with dirt still on it. The fruit is all the more delicious when we've seen it grow. When we've tended something with our own hands. When we know the obstacles that have been overcome. When we see the beautiful end that we could hardly imagine at the beginning.

Our growth is important to God—and He plants us in just the right spot.

## — *Planting the Seed* —

*Note to leaders: You'll see that I have selected several questions that might be especially good for discussion in your next group gathering, but feel free to select ones you prefer!*



In a book about fruitfulness, it makes sense that everything begins with dirt, because that's where all fruit begins. In chapter 1, I write, "It is a poor soul who confuses dirt with filth or soil with soiled. . . . The fact is, in the hands of the consummate Potter, dirt is fodder for His wheel."

*1. How does a gardener look at dirt differently from someone who isn't a gardener? How might we look at our lives differently if we saw the less savory parts from the Gardener's perspective?*

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*2. The word human means "a creature of earth," so perhaps it's not surprising that Genesis recounts that the first human was made from dirt. In chapter 1, I write,*

We could imagine the Creator with arms long enough to keep His face from getting dusty through the whole creative ordeal, but blowing breath into the human's nostrils sketches a different posture.



Here we have a Maker leaning low, near to the ground. Here we have God who is high and lifted up but is now bending over, animating dust. God, mouth-to-nose with man.

3. *Consider this image of God bending low, getting close enough to breathe life into Adam. What does this description show us about God and about the relationship He wants to have with us?*

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The creation account in Genesis 2, which fills in some details that are missing in Genesis 1, says, “The LORD God planted a garden in Eden.” In John 15:1, we see Jesus telling the disciples, “My Father is the gardener” (CSB). That’s a surprising image to some of us. We’re more likely to think of God as Creator or King—as One who used His power to set the stars in place, create the roaring oceans, and order the universe. But a gardener is someone who tends. One who sees. One who plans—and plants.

In chapter 1, I write,

The reason planting is so crucial to appreciating the process is because it is spectacularly deliberate. In life, so many unexplainable things happen that can make a person feel like everything is one enormous accident. . . .

We long for continuity, for some semblance of purpose—anything that might suggest we’re on the right track. Instead, we feel like ashes, leftovers from a bygone fire, blown aimlessly by the wind. . . .

Our perceptions can be very convincing, but God tells us the truth. Nothing about our existence is accidental. We were known before we knew we were alive. We were planned and, as a matter of fact, *planted* on this earth for this moment in time.

4. *What kinds of deliberate steps are involved in planting? Have there been times in your life when you felt like an accident? How might this idea of God deliberately planting you inform your view of who you are and why you're here?*

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Read Psalm 92:12-15, which gives us a glimpse of what it's like to be planted by God.

The righteous flourish like the palm tree  
and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.  
They are planted in the house of the LORD;  
they flourish in the courts of our God.  
They still bear fruit in old age;  
they are ever full of sap and green,  
to declare that the LORD is upright;  
he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.

5. *Where are the righteous planted? What does this passage say is true about them? What is their ultimate goal?*

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Here's a fact you can rely on: If God plants you, He will tend you. He is not the kind of gardener who gets bored and forgets to water His plants. He is not the kind of gardener who will walk away and let His plants die. He knows exactly how much sun, water, and fertilizer each plant needs. And He knows how to make the plants in His garden thrive.

Gardening takes time. Flowers don't bloom immediately, fruit takes a while to form, trees take years to mature and deepen their roots, and the gardener must put forth patient effort to help His plants to thrive.

So when we think of ourselves as plants, it raises some questions. Why does the omnipotent God choose to use this slow and sometimes painful process to bring us to full maturity and fruitfulness?

In chapter 1, I write,

It's a wonder that God would choose to slowly grow what He could have simply created grown. Why on earth would He go to the trouble to plant a garden forced to sprout rather than commanding it into existence, full bloom? Why leave His desk and get His pant legs soiled?

Because God likes watching things grow.



6. *Why do you think God uses this slow process to shape us? What slow-growing fruit have you seen in your life? How do you think the results would have been different if they had come quickly, without struggle?*

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7. *What qualities, characteristics, or service do you think might be sprouting in your life now? What kind of cultivation might they need?*

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It's reassuring to me that we are not wildflowers (or weeds!) that have sprung up in a field or forest. We are plants in a garden—put there deliberately and cultivated by a gardener who knows what He is doing. And He is working on us—preparing

the soil, removing weeds and other obstacles, giving us the sun and water and air we need to thrive. He knows the conditions we need so we can bear the biggest, tastiest, most beautiful fruit.

God, the master Gardener, is working even when we can't see Him.

*8. What helps you to trust that God is cultivating fruit in your life even when you're not sure you see it?*

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Read Psalm 77:11-19, where the psalmist is reminding himself of all God did for his ancestors when they escaped from slavery in Egypt and passed through the Red Sea.

I will remember the deeds of the LORD;  
yes, I will remember your wonders of old.  
I will ponder all your work,  
and meditate on your mighty deeds.  
Your way, O God, is holy.  
What god is great like our God?  
You are the God who works wonders;  
you have made known your might among the peoples.  
You with your arm redeemed your people,  
the children of Jacob and Joseph.

When the waters saw you, O God,  
when the waters saw you, they were afraid;  
indeed, the deep trembled.  
The clouds poured out water;  
the skies gave forth thunder;  
your arrows flashed on every side.  
The crash of your thunder was in the whirlwind;

your lightnings lighted up the world;  
the earth trembled and shook.

Your way was through the sea,  
your path through the great waters;  
yet your footprints were unseen.

List some of the things the Lord did for the Israelites. How does remembering God's faithfulness in the past help us trust Him for the future? What are some tangible ways we could remember God's faithfulness—to us personally, to figures in the Bible, and to those in our church family and others we know?

The psalmist talks about God guiding the people through the Red Sea, yet His "footprints were unseen." I love this image of invisible footprints leading the way. The Israelites could see the water parting, but they couldn't see God Himself. Even the pillar of cloud, which had been leading them through the desert, moved behind them to shield them from the Egyptians. One of the Israelites had to take the first step into the parted waters.

*9. Imagine being one of the Israelites by the Red Sea, seemingly trapped between the Egyptian army and the water. How might you have reacted when the water parted? Would you have had the faith to move forward?*

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*10. Where might God be working in your life even though His footprints are unseen to you right now?*

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God's work in us is sometimes invisible—and always takes time.



Have you ever wondered why God goes to the trouble of sanctifying us? He could instantly zap us into His image the moment we decide to follow Jesus, or He could transport us into heaven the moment of our conversion. Why would He opt for taking us through the long, drawn-out process of planting, watering, pruning, and harvesting? But sure enough, He rolls up His sleeves, puts palms to the dirt, and begins putting the pieces of our lives together in a way that matters.

I think it's because He's not looking for a store-bought tomato. He wants the real thing, raised by His own hands, hard won as it is.

To a gardener, grown is overrated. It's growing it that makes the fruit sweet.

*11. Have you ever experienced this kind of joy over a project you have seen through from start to finish? What is satisfying about seeing the fruit of your labors? How does your reaction change when the growth process was especially difficult?*

There are two parts to our salvation. Scripture is clear that justification—becoming right in God's sight—comes right away when we trust in Jesus' sacrifice to save us. Read Romans 10:9 and 2 Corinthians 5:17.

If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

*12. What transformation occurs when we trust in Christ and confess Him as Lord?*

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Sanctification—the process of becoming more like Jesus—takes time. In fact, it won't be complete until we are with God and we fully become the people He created us to be.

Read 1 John 3:2.

Dear friends, we are already God's children, but he has not yet shown us what we will be like when Christ appears. But we do know that we will be like him, for we will see him as he really is. (NLT)

*13. How does this verse highlight the tension between the “already and not yet”—what we are now and what we will eventually become?*

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Read Ephesians 4:13-15.

This [teaching] will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. (NLT)

*14. Based on this passage, how would you describe the process of sanctification? What is its ultimate goal?*

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15. *Why do you think God makes sanctification a process rather than a single moment? What are the benefits of this process?*

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Read Philippians 1:6.

I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

16. *What work are you grateful that God will be faithful to complete in you?*

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 PLACE 

If we're thinking of ourselves as plants in this gardening metaphor, one of the most basic questions we face is, Where are we planted? What's our *terroir*, our sense of place? In chapter 2, I write about trying to find a place where I belong but never quite being able to do it.

After countless conversations, I've come to the conclusion that what most of us have in common is the feeling that we're misfits.

I've also been told a few times to stay in my place. I wanted to respond, "I'd be more than happy to, if I could just figure out where on earth my place is."

Maybe nothing is more normal than feeling a bit abnormal. Maybe feeling comfortable in our own skin means coming to the realization that we weren't created to feel particularly comfortable in this skin.

1. *Most of us can relate to this feeling that we don't quite fit in. Why do you think that is? When in your life have you been most bothered by this feeling?*

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In chapter 2, we look in depth at Psalm 80, which presents the image of the people of Israel as a vine God brought out of Egypt and transplanted to the Promised Land. At first it thrived. Then things began to change.

Read Psalm 80:7-13.

Restore us, O God of hosts;  
let your face shine, that we may be saved!

You brought a vine out of Egypt;  
you drove out the nations and planted it.

You cleared the ground for it;  
it took deep root and filled the land.

The mountains were covered with its shade,  
the mighty cedars with its branches.

It sent out its branches to the sea  
and its shoots to the River.

Why then have you broken down its walls,  
so that all who pass along the way  
pluck its fruit?

The boar from the forest ravages it,  
and all that move in the field feed on it.

2. *How did the vine grow at first? What do these lavish descriptions suggest? Now what has happened to the vine? Why?*

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While we don't know the precise historical context for what was going on in this psalm, there are enough descriptions throughout Scripture of Israel's unfaithfulness to God to give us an idea. The people thrived when they followed the Lord, but all too often they turned to idols, following the pagan practices of the nations around them. They did what seemed right to them, forgetting that God had planted them in a specific place for a specific purpose. They were not there by accident—and neither are we. We, too, are chosen to be His children.

In chapter 2, I write,

He didn't choose you because you happened to be in the right place at the right time or because nobody better was in arm's reach. God's arm is neither short nor weak (Isaiah 59:1). No one is out of His reach. If He chose you, He did so on purpose.

Read Ephesians 1:3-4.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.

*3. When did God choose us? Why is this significant? What did He choose us for?*

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Read 1 Peter 2:9.

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.



*4. How does this verse describe believers? For what purpose have we been chosen?*

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*5. Where has God chosen to plant you right now?*

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Years before Psalm 80 was written, the vine of Israel had been struggling in Egypt. From there, the people cried out to God for deliverance. Scripture says that He heard them: “And God knew” (Exodus 2:25).

But the phrase “And God knew” is not a simple statement of fact. Of course God knew about their plight. He knows everything; nothing is hidden from His notice. “And God knew” means that He knew what would happen. He knew how He would act on the Israelites’ behalf. He knew the joyful future they could not see.

God knew that slavery wasn’t the end of His people’s story. He knew the enemy wouldn’t get the final victory. He knew He would keep His promises in dramatic fashion. He had delivered them before, and He would deliver them again. . . .

God transplanted the vine—He snatched it right out of the ground and carried it out of Egypt, with four centuries of roots dangling, so He could plant it back in the soil of its belonging. Its home. Its true terroir.

*6. What might God “know” about you in this sense? What are you struggling with that will not be the end of your story?*

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God's action in this case was to transplant His people. He had sustained them in their oppression for many years, but now He took them out of their suffering and moved them to a place where they could flourish.

It wasn't easy being transplanted after four hundred years. The Israelites had to form new roots that would grow down deep into new soil. At times it was painful. They worried that God had brought them into the desert to die. (He hadn't.) They complained that they were going to die of thirst. (They didn't.) They complained that they had no food to eat. (They did—food straight from God's hand.) They didn't trust God, so they turned to idols. And as we talked about last week, when they reached the Promised Land that God had prepared for them, most of them didn't believe they could defeat the Canaanites who lived there.

But a few generations later, one transplanted Israelite family produced a young boy named Samuel, who would become a great prophet of God. Later, another family produced a boy named David, who became king, wrote beautiful psalms, and became known as a man after God's own heart.

Transplanting, like growing, takes time. Time for new roots to form and function. Time to get used to new soil, new rain patterns, new climate. And yet, when we're transplanted, we know that the master Gardener has put us in our new place for a purpose. He understands the conditions we experienced before and the new ones we're facing now. We can trust that His goal is always our flourishing and our fruitfulness.

*7. Do you feel like you've been transplanted? What might be a reason for the change?*

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Sometimes transplanting involves taking us out of something that was harmful for us. Sometimes it has to do with planting us somewhere that will be beneficial for us. Sometimes it's both. Other times transplanting us might help someone else—a new neighbor, a new friend or acquaintance, someone who sees our faith as we try to put down roots in a new situation.



8. *What are some of the challenges that come with being transplanted? What can be the benefits? How can we exhibit faith during a time of transition?*

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It's interesting to note that although God transplanted the Israelites so they could be more fruitful, that doesn't mean their vines were bare in Egypt. Even in tough growing conditions, they produced fruit.

Read Genesis 41:51-52.

Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh. "For," he said, "God has made me forget all my hardship and all my father's house." The name of the second he called Ephraim, "For God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction."

9. *What does the name Ephraim mean?*

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Maybe you wish God would transplant you, but for now He's keeping you right where you are. Maybe you would like a fresh start, better soil, more sunlight, but for the time being you are dealing with rocky ground and too much rain. Don't give up! God can produce fruit in you even in these conditions. Even in the land of your affliction.

Never confuse fruitfulness with felicity. That's not to say that fruit bearing can't be fun. But equate the two—fruitfulness and fun—and you'll miss some of your most fertile opportunities to bear inexplicable fruit.

10. *When have times of affliction brought fruitfulness in your life?*

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We read story after story in the Bible of people who felt out of place. They may have wished that God would transplant them somewhere else where they would finally fit in and feel at home. And yet God uses their stories to speak to us in our own sense of isolation or discomfort.

11. *Choose one or two people from the list below and discuss how they were able to be fruitful even when they felt out of place. What kind of fruit did they bear?*

- *Abraham:* He moved away from his family and his culture to follow a God he didn't even know. (See Genesis 12:1-8.)
- *Esther:* She found herself queen of a pagan empire and separated from anyone else who shared her faith. In fact, she was instructed to tell no one about her Jewish heritage. (See Esther 2:1-10; 15-20.)
- *David:* When Saul was trying to kill him, David had to run away and live in the wilderness to escape. (See 1 Samuel 19:1-17; Psalm 57.)
- *The woman who anointed Jesus with oil:* She found herself the object of scorn in a room full of men. (See Matthew 26:6-13.)

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All of these people—and many more—struggled, but their stories still speak to us. Abraham's faith became the prime example of what it means to trust God and step out in faith. Esther's lonely position in the palace allowed her to save her people. David's need to run from Saul bolstered his dependence on God and led him to write psalms that still encourage us today. And the woman who anointed

Jesus became an example of what it looks like when we love Him more than our own reputations. They were fruitful where they were, even while they longed for their true place.

It's not a coincidence that so many of us feel like misfits in this world. That's because this world is not our home, and our true place is not here.

Nothing haunts us more than our search for, finally, a sense of place. As it turns out, true belonging is found only in the sovereign palm of God. There alone we find our place, even amid the seasons of moving, planting, uprooting, and replanting.

It's only when we find our place in Him that we find rest.

Read Psalm 91:1-2, which points us to our true home.

Those who live in the shelter of the Most High  
will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

This I declare about the LORD:

He alone is my refuge, my place of safety;  
he is my God, and I trust him. (NLT)

*12. What words does the psalmist use to describe God?*

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*13. Resting involves stopping whatever else we're doing—worrying, striving, strategizing. How do we exhibit trust when we find rest in God?*

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Several New Testament passages talk about the true home we will have in heaven. Read Ephesians 2:19-20.

You are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. (NIV)

*14. What was our old identity? How does Paul describe our new identity?*

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*15. What are the implications of our true citizenship being in heaven, with God? What might become more or less important to us if we remembered this truth?*

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Hebrews 11, the great “hall of faith” chapter, talks about myriad Old Testament figures who lived by faith. Read Hebrews 11:13-16.

All these people died still believing what God had promised them. They did not receive what was promised, but they saw it all from a distance and welcomed it. They agreed that they were foreigners and nomads here on earth. Obviously people who say such things are looking forward to a country they can call their own. If they had longed for the country they came from, they could have gone back. But they were looking for a better place, a heavenly homeland. That is why God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them. (NLT)

16. *The writer of Hebrews calls these people “foreigners and nomads here on earth.” What are some characteristics of foreigners and nomads? How do these descriptions apply to us as believers?*

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When you find yourself feeling out of place and like you don't belong, let it be a moment of encouragement. This doesn't mean there's something wrong with you. Instead, it means you were created for someplace else. When we feel that sense of longing, we can embrace it—because it's pointing us to our true terroir, our ultimate place, our home.

— *Wrapping Up* —

Let's close our time together with these words from 1 Corinthians 13:12:

Now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

This verse is the key to our truest sense of place, isn't it? A place where we understand fully—and where we ourselves will be fully known and understood by God. A place where we don't have to hide any part of ourselves, where we don't have to worry about whether we're like those around us but can be truly ourselves.

This is a promise for the future, but parts of it are realized right now. God knows us fully; we don't have to hide any aspect of ourselves from Him. And through His planting, His cultivating, His transplanting, His intimate knowledge of us, He is making us more fruitful. As we become more like Him, we become more the people we were created to be—and we become more and more at home in our true place.

## — *Deepening Our Roots* —

On your own this week, try one or two of these activities:

- Take a few minutes to think about the person you were a year or two ago. How have you changed? What growth have you seen? What have you learned in the process?
- This week, identify a person or two in your group whom you have seen be fruitful in the midst of affliction. Write them a note to tell them what you've observed and encourage them to persevere.
- In a journal, write about your own sense of place. Where do you feel you belong? When do you struggle to feel rooted and secure? How might you lean in to the idea that God is your true place?
- Write Psalm 92:12-15 on an index card and place it where you will see it every day. (You can also text it to yourself or put it in your digital calendar so it will pop up on your phone periodically.) Meditate on what it means to be planted in the house of God.