



Sermon Discussion Guide

A Kingdom Tree with Deep Roots - Tim

9/7/25

Hook - Getting to know one another

- *How is everyone doing this week? Add other questions to get to know one another, especially ones related to the topic in the sermon.*
 - *What do you think about the new 5 year plan? Anything that it inspired in you? Any questions you have regarding the plan that may be answered in coming weeks?*
 - *We have a church 5 year plan, do you have a plan like this for your family? What does it look like if you do?*

Book - Scripture

- *Read the scripture passages and discuss to understand **what the text is saying**:*
 - *Scripture:*
 - *Matthew 13:31-32; Matthew 13:1-23*
 - *Spend some time with the what, who, why of these passages*
 - *Who said it and to whom?*
 - *What did they say - specific words used?*
 - *Why was it said? What was the point Jesus was trying to make?*
 - *What other images of trees, connection, branches, etc. can you find? What images are drawn from these other passages? How could they relate to our passage today?*
 - *What can the scripture say about being Rooted in the Love of Christ?*

Look - Connections to our world today

- *This section focuses on implications about **what this text means** about what's wrong in the world, about trusting God, about who God is, etc.*
 - *Reflect on C.S. Lewis' quote in relationship to American Christianity. Share thoughts: "...the Church exists for nothing else but to draw men into Christ, to make them little Christs. If they are not doing that, all the*



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cathedrals, clergy, missions, sermons, even the Bible itself, are simply a waste of time."

- *Seeing our community, as Tim noted, like a grove of Aspen trees... connected by our shared faith and stretching for miles. What is the implication of this? What could it mean for our day to day just by our association with Hillcrest?*
- *Creating deep roots requires work. What are some things that disconnect you and/or the christian community from our walk with God?*
 - *Resist the urge to focus on societal ills. Make it personal, what keeps you, your family, your small group, your personal connections from walking with God?*
 - *What are some sneaky or even "good things taken too much" that could push their way between believers and Jesus?*
 - *Ex. yard work (maintenance... stewardship), sports, money management.*

Took - Personal Application

- *This application focuses on **how God is calling us to respond**. This could be personally, as a family, small group, or church. It could be something to believe, to meditate on, to say or do this week.*
 - *Listen to Andrew Peterson's "Planting Trees" and talk about the image of trees in our Christian walk and how roots, trunk, and branches are a part of both our personal walk and our collective walk as Christians in community.*
 -  [Planting Trees](#)
 - *Spend time together or solo praying through Ephesians 3:16-19, a passage Tim quoted today. Focus on the need to be "rooted in His love."*

Time of Prayer