



Sermon Discussion Guide

Shared Direction - Broad Branches For Deep Roots - James Junior
9/20/26

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 is the point of a church having a shared direction? Have you had experiences with other churches doing this?*
- *Do you have a favorite tree? A memorable tree? Something you climbed in, something that fell over in the backyard, something that you brought in at christmas with a nest in it? Talk about trees!*
- *Listen to the song "Planting Trees" by Andrew Peterson. They lyrics are about what we plant now, coming to bloom "many years from now." Do you have anything in your life that you will likely not see the benefit or results of?*
 -  *Planting Trees* by Andrew Peterson

Book - Scripture

- *Read the scripture passages and discuss to understand **what the text is saying**:*
- *Scripture from this week: Acts 6:1-7; Ephesians 4:11-12; 1 Corinthians 12:12,19-20,27*
 - *Reread these and note the activities of the church body*
 - *Why was it important to have different roles?*
 - *Why is it an example for us today?*
- *During this time of the early church we are given examples of leadership recognizing their limitations. Why is this worth noting?*
- *What roles were identified as necessary, among others, in these passages?*



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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.*
- *What good was spoken about by developing (a strong trunk) different roles and purposes in the early church?*
- *How do we see this playing out in Hillcrest today? What has been the result of having people in different roles for different purposes?*
- *What does it look like in the church when the delegation of duties isn't passed around? When leadership holds onto all of the roles?*
- *What roles are you filling at Hillcrest? ... or what roles may be missing at Hillcrest to make it function at a higher level?*

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.*
- *Reflect on some of the goals and focus in the shared direction trifold (hopefully someone has it!). Discuss where you see the church going and what your part might be.*
- *Respond personally to Pastor James' final prayerful question: "God, is there a place, is there a way, you would have me serve, to increase the strength of this trunk?" Share if you feel comfortable to what the Spirit might be saying or where it might be leading.*

Time of Prayer