

Conversation Starters

For the FLOURISH Course

Conversation starters for Part One: ROOTED

- What kind of tree are you most attracted to? Why do you like them? Why do you suppose God used a thriving tree to illustrate a person who is flourishing?
- Try your hand at drawing the tree sketch. No judgment here on artistic ability. :)
- There's not a lot of emphasis these days on the inner life. What is the danger if it is neglected?
- How familiar are you with the Bible? Would you say it is a delight in your life? What could make it more so?
- Solitude, Scripture and _____. How might you fill in the blank to enhance reading the Bible in your life?
- What would work in your life to help reflect on a passage of the Bible throughout the day?

Conversation starters for Part Two: REFRESHED

- Where do you connect with the biblical analogy of water? Where have you seen water make all the difference?
- Since God wants you to be saturated with His presence, how might that look in your typical day? What makes it hard to recognize God's presence? And what would make it easier?
- What part does the local church play in your life? Since it is so important, do you need to reconsider a deeper involvement? What would you need to rearrange to do so?
- Do you have refreshing faith-filled friends in your life? How can you insure that you are regularly "watered" by them?

Conversation starters for Part Three: HEALTHY

- In the video, Doug reminded us that God loves us each exactly the way we are. How easy is that for you to accept? Why?
- Revisit the sketch of the tree. Try drawing it again. Again, no judgment here on artistic ability. ;)
- Why is allowing God to make us spiritually healthy a prerequisite for fruit (good results) in our lives?
- What are some of the core fears behind your typical worries? How could you replace them with God's truth?
- What are some of your false securities? How could you replace them with God's truth?

Conversation starters for Part Four: FRUITFUL

- Where do you connect with the biblical analogy of fruit? Any experience growing fruit?
- Jesus said that we could not be truly fruitful apart from Him. How could you link your efforts to your relationship with Jesus more?
- Do you see any green fruit (godly attitudes) that God is growing in you? Where are they ripening (leading to good actions)?
- Since spiritual fruit in our life can be seasonal, do you take time to be recharged? Are you in more of a season of being used or being replenished?
- For what fruit in your life are you most grateful? What could you let God develop more in you?
- How has this course helped you? Sometimes the way to solidify something in us is to share it with someone else. Is there someone you'd like to share it with?

OUTLINES for each talk on following pages:

ROOTED

Series: Flourish

If you are going to flourish spiritually it will take a commitment to four essentials. These commitments can be unearthed as we look at a recurring analogy in the Bible – a thriving tree. Today we look at the first essential – being **rooted**.

 **Spiritual success starts beneath the surface**

Hos 14:5

Therefore ...

- **Be intentional about your inner life**

Jeremiah 17:7-8

- **Let Scripture grow from a duty to a delight**

Psalm 1:2-3

- **Let the Bible be your new preoccupation**

Psalm 1:2b

REFRESHED

Series: Flourish

In order to flourish spiritually it takes a commitment to four essentials. Last week, in the first message of this 4-part course, we discovered that like a thriving tree, we must be **rooted**. Today we identify the second essential commitment – **being refreshed**.

 **Without spiritual refreshment you will wither**

Jer 17:8; Isa 44:2-4; Psa 1:3

How do you do that?

- **Be saturated with God's presence**

Hosea 14:5-7

- **Tap into the weekly rhythm of church**

Psalm 92:12-13


- **Be revitalized by refreshing friends**

Numbers 24:5-7

HEALTHY

Series: Flourish

*In order to flourish spiritually it takes a commitment to four essentials. In the first two messages of this 4-part course, we discovered that, like a thriving tree, we must be **rooted** and **refreshed**. Today we identify the third essential commitment – **being healthy**.*

 **Without spiritual health you will be ineffective**

Jer 17:8; Psa 1:3

So how does God produce in you a health that flourishes?

Matt 13:6-7; 22

- He deals with your core fears
- He confronts your false securities

FRUITFUL

Series: Flourish

*In order to flourish spiritually it takes a commitment to four essentials. We have already covered the first three of this 4-part course. Like a thriving tree, we must be **rooted**, **refreshed**, and **healthy**. Today we identify the final essential commitment – **being fruitful**.*

 **A thriving life is ultimately fruitful**

Hosea 14:8; John 15:5-8

So, what kind of fruit can we expect?

- **GREEN:** *In our attitudes* Gal 5:22-23
- **RIPE:** *In our actions* Gal 5:22-23
- **SEASONAL:** *Balance of effort and rest* Psalm 1:3; John 15:1-2
- **PROPAGATED:** *In others* Psalm 128:3-4
- **ESTABLISHED:** *Endures for a lifetime* Psalm 92:12-14