

THE BIG IDEA: Growing up starts by digging down.

The Take-Off

Over the past couple of months, we took a pretty in depth look at what it means to be part of the family.

We tried to do our best to break it down into very manageable pieces - being accepted, connected, expected, corrected and protected - so that all along the way we could answer the "so what" question.

Over the next 2 weeks, we're going to do a kind of "Family Follow-up" to help answer the "now what" question.

Sometimes that "now what" question can seem a little confusing, like pulling up to this sign [confusing stoplight]

We know we should do something, but we aren't quite sure what!

Sometimes, it can feel like we're presented with a lot of information and then left on our own to figure it out.

That's probably how drivers feel when they pass this sign [good luck sign]

We don't want to do that. We've given you a lot of information about family. We've talked about how family means we're accepted, connected, expected, corrected and protected, and how we have a place, power, purpose, perspective and peace.

This week and next, we'll talk about how family means we're directed, and how that can give us a plan.

Basically, this is for all of us who have said, "I see how awesome it is to be in a family, but how do I get in it?"

For starters, salvation gets us into the larger family of God. Ephesians 2:11-18 explains how the cross was the key that opened the door to allow orphans to come home. For some of us, this is our most pressing next step!

"Now what?" Trust in the work of Jesus on the cross and come home.

Second, membership is what gets us into the local family of God.

That doesn't mean we'll be installing locks with super-secret access cards on our doors, it just means that being welcome and being family are 2 very different things, like having your child's friend over is deferent from adopting them.

This morning, we want to describe why we think that membership is so important - and why we call it being planted - and then next week we'll try to help you discover whether or not The Gathering is the best "soil" for you to sink your roots into.

Make sense? Good, then let's get started by seeing why God was so into farming...

1. God wants us to be planted

- a. A lot of what we'll cover this morning comes from a series we did 2 years ago called "Planted," and I know that I can't possibly get 3 weeks worth of teaching into one Sunday, so you've got a QR code at the bottom of your note sheet that will take you to the series page on our website. It's good stuff, and worth your time to read, watch or listen.
- b. The first question we need to answer is simple: Does God want any of us to be planted?
- c. Here are 4 passages where God is very clear about it:
 - Psalm 1:1,4
 - God is talking about a blessed man
 - He compares blessed men to trees that are planted
 - Jeremiah 17:7-8
 - Another passage talking about blessed men
 - Again, a comparison is drawn to planted trees
 - Colossians 2:7
 - No trees here, just followers of Jesus
 - Paul is describing the growth process ("continue to walk in him")
 - A big part of that is being rooted ("rhizoo" - only used 2x)
 - Ephesians 3:17-19
 - Here is the other time "rhizoo" is used
 - Paul knew that the first step toward growing in God's love was being planted - rooted
- d. Clearly, God wants us to be planted.
- e. The obvious question that we need to answer then, isn't whether or not He want us to be planted, but why? What's the big deal about being planted?

2. God wants us to grow

- a. It really all boils down to one simple word, but before we get to it, let me show you from each of the 4 passages that we've already looked at just how much we benefit from being planted.
- b. Remember, in each of these passages, the Bible is talking about people who are planted.
- c. According to Psalm 1, planted people are
 - blessed (v. 1)
 - surrounded by good people (v. 1)
 - fruitful (v. 3)
 - strong (v. 3)
 - prosperous (v. 3)
 - watched over by God (v. 6)
- d. In Jeremiah 17:8 we find that planted people are
 - courageous
 - full of life
 - peaceful
 - fruitful even in bad times
- e. In the Colossians passage (2:7-8), we see that planted people are
 - established (v. 7)
 - strengthened in their faith (v. 7)
 - thankful (v. 7)
 - stable (v. 8)
- f. Finally, when we turn to Ephesians 3:17-19, we discover that planted people are
 - loving (v. 17)
 - in community - "together with all the saints" (v. 18)
 - full of the love of God (v. 19)
- g. It's pretty clear, isn't it, that a TON of good things happen to those who are planted!
- h. I think most of these benefits can be summed up in one word: GROW.
- i. God wants us to be planted because God wants us to grow.

The Landing

What a simple truth, and yet one that most of us would overlook, right?

Growing up starts by digging down.

If we desire to grow into the full potential that God sees in us, it will take a family, and because family can be awesome and awkward, fulfilling and frustrating, being in the family takes the commitment to say, "I'm going to be planted! I'm going to put my roots down."

This week we've seen with absolute certainty that God's plan is for you and me to be planted.

Next week, we'll see why the soil where we are planted is so critical to our growth.