



## LIVING PLANTED: Session One

*Life through Christ and Life in Christ*

### Opening Prayer

Almighty God, You plant Your people and give them life. We thank for the gift of life You have given to us in Jesus and pray that the life we have been given may always be evident in our daily life and work. Amen.

### Introduction

**Read Psalm 1 Aloud:**

<sup>1</sup> Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; <sup>2</sup> but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. <sup>3</sup> He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. <sup>4</sup> The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. <sup>5</sup> Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; <sup>6</sup> for the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

**Q: What are the two ways of life that the Psalmist identifies in verses 1 and 2 of this Psalm?**

**Read Psalm 80:8-11 Aloud:**

<sup>8</sup> You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it. <sup>9</sup> You cleared the ground for it; it took deep root and filled the land. <sup>10</sup> The mountains were covered with its shade, the mighty cedars with its branches. <sup>11</sup> It sent out its branches to the sea and its shoots to the River.

**Q: Psalm 80 speaks of God's people of old being taken out of slavery in Egypt and into new life in the Promised Land. How did they receive this new and blessed life? Who did the planting? How does this relate to how we receive the new life we have that was described in Psalm 1 above? Who plants us?**

**Q: What is the result of God's planting us and giving us new life? What does verse 3 of Psalm 1 tell us about this new life? What is produced?**

**Read Aloud Galatians 5:13, 22-23**

<sup>13</sup> For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. <sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

**Q: Is the freedom from sin God gives just a good intended to benefit us personally? What good is our freedom for our neighbor? How do the fruits produced serve our neighbor?**

**Read aloud Luke 13:6–7**

<sup>6</sup> And he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup> And he said to the vinedresser, ‘Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?’

**Q: Does God hold His people accountable for the production of fruit? Does He expect fruit?**

**Read Aloud Martin Luther’s Evening and Morning Prayers:**

**Evening Prayer:** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

**Morning Prayer:** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

**Q: What can these prayers teach us about both how we receive life through Christ and how that life is lived out in Christ?**

**Closing Prayer**

Almighty God, thank you for the life you give us through Christ. May our lives be found to be full of fruit showing forth why life in Your Son is so blessed. Amen.