



Sermon Notes

Topic: Planted Not Potted
Series: Choosing – A Series on Discipleship
Preacher: Ps Sam Toms

Bible Passage: Psalm 92:12–15
Date: Sunday 3rd August 2025

Study Guide Overview

How **where we are spiritually planted** determines whether we **flourish or wither**. Using vivid imagery from Psalm 92, we are reminded that the righteous are called to *flourish like palm trees* and *grow like the cedars of Lebanon*—symbols of strength, resilience, and fruitfulness.

Key Takeaways:

- **Flourishing is not accidental.** It comes from being **planted intentionally** in God’s house—His people and presence—not *potted* in shallow, disconnected soil.
- Palm trees thrive in harsh conditions and still produce sweet fruit. Cedars are majestic, deeply rooted, and enduring. Likewise, God’s people are called to flourish even in difficulty—if they are rooted well.
- **Being "planted"** in the house of the Lord means **committing to the local church**, not treating faith like a convenience. Sporadic, consumer Christianity leads to spiritual dryness.
- **Evergreen discipleship** means that *even in old age*, God's people can remain fruitful, vibrant, and fresh.
- Flourishing ultimately points others to **God’s goodness and stability**—“The Lord is upright; He is my Rock!”
- We live in a low-commitment culture, but God calls us to **put down roots**. The church isn’t perfect, but it is God’s design for growth, healing, and mission.

Call to Action:

Will you **choose to be planted**, not potted? Will you commit, belong, resist isolation, and consider taking the next step – Building into with deep and meaningful relationships, or even perhaps consider becoming a formal member? – Membership class 17th August 11am



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LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE – Planted Not Potted

Scripture Focus: Psalm 92:12–15

Theme: Where you plant your life determines how your faith grows.

READ TOGETHER - Psalm 92:12–15 (NIV)

“The righteous will flourish like a palm tree... planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish... They will still bear fruit in old age... Proclaiming, ‘The Lord is upright; he is my Rock...’”

ICEBREAKER

- Have you ever planted something (a tree, flower, or veggie)? What made it thrive—or die?
- Share a place or community where you felt like you truly “belonged.” What made it feel like that?

DIG DEEP – QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Location Matters

“Spiritually, where you are planted determines how you grow.”

- What are some “locations” (spiritually or relationally) people plant themselves in today that don’t lead to flourishing?
- How do you think being “planted in the house of the Lord” affects someone’s life practically?
- What does it look like in your life to be planted in God’s presence?

2. Planted Not Potted

“You can’t flourish if you keep uprooting yourself.”

- In what ways do modern Christians sometimes act like “potted plants” in their faith or church life?
- Have you ever struggled with staying committed to a church or group? What caused that struggle?
- How does community shape your spiritual growth in ways that personal devotion alone cannot?



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LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE – Planted Not Potted

3. Flourishing Long-Term

“They will still bear fruit in old age...”

- How does Psalm 92 challenge the idea that spiritual vitality fades with age?
- Who is someone older you’ve seen bearing spiritual fruit? What stands out about their life?
- What choices do we need to make now to stay “fresh and green” in every season?

4. Flourishing For Him

“Proclaiming, ‘The Lord is upright...’”

- How can your spiritual fruit point others to God?
- In what ways is your life currently “proclaiming” that God is good, faithful, and your rock?

5. The Problem with Perfection

“If you find the perfect church... don’t join it—it won’t be perfect anymore.”

- Why do you think people often “church hop” or avoid commitment in Christian community?
- How do we wrestle with the imperfection of the church while still choosing to commit?
- What role does humility and grace play in helping the church flourish?

REFLECTION & NEXT STEPS

- Of the four responses suggested—Fan, Belong, Don’t Resist, Commit—which one is God nudging you toward right now?
- What step could you take this week to go from “attending” to “planting” yourself more intentionally in the church community?
- Is there someone in your group (or life) you could encourage to dig deeper roots spiritually?

PRAY TOGETHER

Spend time praying that each person would:

- **Be planted deeply** in God’s Word and His people
- **Flourish** regardless of life’s conditions
- **Stay spiritually fresh and fruitful** in every season
- **Reflect God’s goodness** to the world through their lives