

# LIVING PLANTED: SESSION ONE

## Christian Duty

### OPENING PRAYER

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

### Introduction

#### Psalm 1:

*“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; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. 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. The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; for the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.”*

1. What are the two ways of life identified in this Psalm? What images are used to describe each?

#### Psalm 80:8–11:

*“You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it. You cleared the ground for it; it took deep root and filled the land. The mountains were covered with its shade, the mighty cedars with its branches. It sent out its branches to the sea and its shoots to the River.”*

2. 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?

3. How does this relate to how we receive the new life we have in Christ? Who plants us?

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

Galatians 5:13, 22–23:

*"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. ... But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."*

5. Is the freedom from sin that God gives us just meant to benefit us personally? If not, how does this freedom help our neighbor? How do the fruits mentioned in these verses serve our neighbor?

Luke 13:6–7:

*"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. 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?"'"*

6. Does God hold His people accountable for the production of fruit? Does He expect fruit?

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."*

7. What can these prayers teach us about both how we receive life through Christ and how that life is lived out in Christ? What is the emphasis of each prayer, and why is such an emphasis appropriate for the time of day it is prayed?

### CLOSING PRAYER

Almighty God, thank You for the life that You give us through Christ. May our lives be found to be full of fruit manifesting Your good work in us and through us. Amen.