

# SHRUBS & TREES

• All In Group Discussion Guide •  
Week of Feb 13, 2022

## SCRIPTURE

### Jeremiah 17-5-10

Thus says the LORD: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals  
and make mere flesh their strength,  
whose hearts turn away from the LORD.

They shall be like a shrub in the desert,  
and shall not see when relief comes.

They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness,  
in an uninhabited salt land.

Blessed are those who trust in the LORD,  
whose trust is the LORD.

They shall be like a tree planted by water,  
sending out its roots by the stream.

It shall not fear when heat comes,  
and its leaves shall stay green;  
in the year of drought it is not anxious,  
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

The heart is devious above all else;  
it is perverse—  
who can understand it?  
I the LORD test the mind  
and search the heart,  
to give to all according to their ways,  
according to the fruit of their doings.

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### Introductions:

- Share something about yourself with the group. Where did you grow up? What was one thing you loved about where you grew up?

### Scripture Reflection:

- What do we learn about God (traits, personality, priorities) in this passage?
- What do we learn about people, and ourselves in particular, this week?

### Sermon Reflection:

- Before this sermon, what was your impression of the confession in worship?
- Pastor Lara talks about how trusting God is more crucial than working to be/do the right things as a Christian. How does this strike you?
- Pastor Lara tells the story of Robert Dinero's character in the mission, have you ever experienced a time when a burden of guilt/shame has been cut from you? What are you carrying now that you need God to take from you?
- If we are always fully forgiven and fully sinful, how does this change how you view others, especially those who frustrate you?

### Closing Question & Application:

- Given what we've discussed today, how might God want you to apply your learning in your life or in your community in the next week? Who might you share this with?

### Closing Prayer:

- This week, do a "hands down/hands up" prayer. Have people place their hands facing down on their laps. Open with prayer and invite people to speak what they need to let go of and give to God. When it feels like everyone who wants to has spoken, invite people to turn their palms up and invite people to a few moments of silence to receive God's forgiveness, grace, love, and peace. Leave a solid minute or two for silence and then say amen.