



WEEK THREE: DAY ONE / SET TO SIT

Can you believe we are already in week three? There is so much to learn about being **PLANTED** before the Lord. This week we will look at **WHO** sits before the Lord, **WHY** they sit, and the **BENEFITS** and **BLESSINGS** of ... **sitting**.

Today, I want to refresh our minds and look at our foundational passage. Read Psalm 1:1-3 from *The Message*.

*“How well God must like you—
you don’t hang out at Sin Saloon,
you don’t slink along Dead-End Road,
you don’t go to Smart-Mouth College.
Instead you thrill to God’s Word,
you chew on Scripture day and night.
You’re a tree **replanted** in Eden,
bearing fresh fruit every month,
Never dropping a leaf,
always in blossom.”*

I have to admit, when I read the phrase **replanted** in Eden, I almost jumped out of my seat. I turned straight to Genesis to the account of the Garden of Eden. Lo and behold, the imagery of trees and streams are abundant! Of course they are.

• Let’s start by reading Genesis 2:4-10.

- What word do you see in Genesis 2:8 that reminds you of our study?

- How did God place the man He had formed?

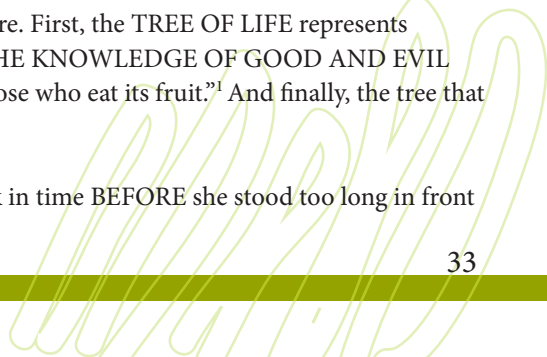
- What about the trees? Please describe them.

- What two trees are mentioned in these verses?

- What flowed in the garden?

I think it’s fascinating that God chose to use tree images in the beginnings of Scripture. First, the **TREE OF LIFE** represents “the giving of life, without death, to those who eat its fruit.”¹ **SECOND**, the tree of **THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL** signifies “the giving of knowledge of good and evil ultimately leading to death for those who eat its fruit.”¹ And finally, the tree that represents **US** when we are **PLANTED** by streams of water (Psalm 1:2).

We have already discussed Eve, the first famous window shopper. Now let’s step back in time **BEFORE** she stood too long in front of the window of temptation ... even **BEFORE** evil entered the world.





• Describe what you think the Garden of Eden was like before Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit? Look at Genesis 2 for reference. Use your senses. What did it smell like, sound like? What colors were there?

When *The Message* describes Psalm 1:2-3 as the tree being **replanted** in Eden, I believe that God is inviting us to **return** to this Eden relationship ... of course not physically, but spiritually. Let me explain.

Eden represents a time and place where man was purposefully **PLANTED** by a holy and loving God to have **perfect** fellowship with Him. God **put** Adam there to work the garden and take care of it (vs. 15). The word **put** means **PLANTED**. (I promise, I didn't even stretch this one to fit inside my creative writing box!) Put can also mean "to set."² So here's my creative writing analogy: **God SET Adam and Eve to SIT in His presence.**

Eden was a place where they could engage in holy conversation by the stream of living water that flowed and nourished the garden. Eden was where Adam was given freedom as well as boundaries (vs. 16,17). It was also a place where Adam named all the animals (vs. 19,20). Eden was the place where God took one of Adam's ribs and formed Eve, the perfect mate, a helper that was suitable for him (vs. 22). Eden was the location of the first marriage ceremony, where Adam and Eve became one (vs. 24) ... a place where God blessed them and told them to be fruitful and multiply (Genesis 1:18). In Eden, they walked around naked because there was no shame.

Eden was a holy sanctuary. This place, where "a river watering the garden flowed through it" (vs. 10), was a place with no regrets, no pain, no sickness, no sorrow, no gossip, no bitterness, no tears, no sin, and no death.

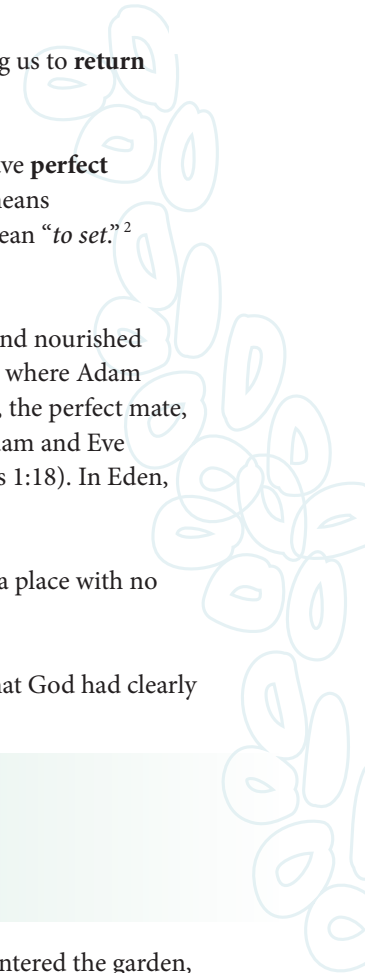
Because of the serpent's cunning and Adam and Eve's disobedient choice to step outside the boundaries that God had clearly set, we cannot re-enter Eden. Why?

**Eden is holy, we are not.
God is holy, we are not.**

Sinners are not allowed into holiness.

Because of Adam and Eve's choice to walk, stand, and sit on their own, instead of being **PLANTED**—sin entered the garden, and the "YOU'RE NOT WELCOME" sign was nailed to the gates.

• What does Genesis 3:22-24 say about this?





Along with the “Do Not Enter” sign, God hung the sign of **redemption through Jesus Christ**. He did not leave them in an eternal state of no-returns, but initiated **a plan**—a plan to one day **restore** the Eden relationship where men and woman could once again have holy conversations at the river.

Because the blood of Jesus washes away our sin (1 John 1:7-9), we are **RE-INVITED** to be **REPLANTED** in Eden where we can **SIT** in His presence again. In fact, Scripture says we can come with confidence to the throne of grace (Hebrews 4:16). God invites us to come ... to **SIT** where once again we can lay down our regrets, our pain, our sickness, our sorrow, our battle with gossip or bitterness, and our tears.

I'll close today with this story.

I was visiting Brevard, North Carolina, when a little boy walked up to me, motioned for me to hold out my hand, and proceeded to place his used, chewed-up gum in my palm. What is it about kids? Do they really believe moms are living trash cans? In this case, any mom would have done the job just fine—I just happened to be first in line. Gross. I didn't even know the kid. Then it occurred to me. I give God my used, chewed-up gum all the time. We are born with an emptiness in our souls that can only be filled when we invite Jesus into our lives. No amount of money, pleasure, popularity, prestige, or power will ever satisfy the natural longing we have in our hearts for the Lord. We long for the Savior, who lovingly opens wide His hands and motions us to give Him our soggy, chewed-up lives. In return, He doesn't throw us away, but gives His life so we can have **new life**—a new stick of gum that lasts forever. Willie Wonka can't even beat that! Are you ready to come and sit today and be **replanted in Eden**? The sign that hangs on the east gate now says, **“Come, ALL are welcome!”**

“But if we LIVE in the light, as God does, we share in life with each other. And the BLOOD of his Son Jesus washes ALL our sins away.

If we say that we have not sinned, we are fooling ourselves, and the truth isn't in our hearts. But if we CONFESS our sins to God, he can ALWAYS be trusted to FORGIVE us and take our sins away.”

1 John 1:7-9
(CEV)

EXTRA VERSES BY THE STREAM:

- Do you know that you have been purposefully PLANTED by a holy God who invites you to SIT in His presence?
- What do the following verses say about this promise?

• Psalm 138:8

• Philippians 1:6

• Psalm 100:3-5

