

ROOTED - Week One

Song Suggestion's (Key of A)

Tell the World that Jesus lives – Hillsong

One Way – Joel Houston

Everlasting God- Glenn Packiam

You are Good - Deyo

Announcements

1. We are going to be stocking the shelves of a food bank this year! What you need to do... get a can (or two) of your favorite food to bring to youth convention!!!! Get it now, and put it in your room and every time you look at it, PRAY for people who are hungry right here in Southern California. Then, bring it with you to convention Friday Night or Saturday Morning! Be a blessing with your food and your prayers!
2. Be sure to be checking in on the SOCALYC.COM website and also the facebook, myspace and twitter page! Lots of information is being posted there and it's a great way to connect with all that's happening at ROOTED Youth Convention!
3. Check your Bulletins for more information!

Game

What you need: Just people.

Everyone gets in a line in order of birth date.... So Jan 1st is at the front of the line and Dec 31st is at the back.

Connect the line so that it forms a circle.

For every 10 students, one student goes to the middle. (I would pick whoever has the closest birthday.)

They have 1 Minute to look at the circle and remember where everyone is standing.

During that minute, everyone in the circle is encouraged to jump and scream and make faces and whatever they can do to be distracting.

At the end of a minute, everyone in the circle mixes up except the first and last birthdays – and those in the middle of the circle rearrange the circle back to how its suppose to be.

Can they?

At the end, have the circle sing happy birthday to the person(s) in the middle.

Offering

God, Bless this offering where we give back to you a portion of what you have given to us. I pray that you would bless the finances of this church and that through this offering we would demonstrate and proclaim our trust in you to be our provider in every way.

Sermon Notes

SERMON KEY –

Anything in Italics is a guide... feel free to flavor the italic with your own personal stories... that's what students really like!

Anything Bold is a fill or some typed aspect of the bulletin. You probably shouldn't deviate from this because then things won't match.

INTRO

One of the first steps things that happens to a seed planted in good soil is that roots shoot out of the seed. This first step is so crucial. If the roots come out or the seed but don't go far enough, the plant will not be able to get enough nutrients and it will die. Or it will seem to grow fine but some wind blows and the plant is lifted right out of the ground. Now, for the most part these roots will never be seen. No one looks at a tree and thinks "That tree has a beautiful root structure." However, if the roots aren't doing well, then people look at the tree and say, "That tree looks like it needs help."

Here is a crazy question, how many of you have seen people who are proclaiming to be Christians but you look at them and know they need help? See, living the Christian life is only partly about what we proclaim. It also has a lot to do with how we look. Don't get me wrong, I am not saying we all need a diet or to go buy new clothes, instead I am saying that we should look like Jesus in our actions and attitude. BUT – Lets take this one step farther, I don't want a bunch of you to head out and pretend to be Jesus, Christ isn't interested in filling the church with a bunch of actors, He is interested in filling the church with servants whose roots grow deep into Him.

God is interested in each of you being well rooted... Your roots matter to God, because you matter to God.

ROOTED BECAUSE YOU MATTER

See, roots are important because that's where you get your nutrients and support.

You can –LOOK- at a tree and know it has good roots!

Right?

The same is true of people. We need to have intentional root systems that focus on bringing us nutrients and support. Does anyone remember this story of Jesus cursing the Fig tree?

What does this story mean?

²⁰In the morning, as they went along, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots. ²¹Peter remembered and said to Jesus, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree you cursed has withered!" **Mark 11:20-21**

Why does Jesus curse the tree?(LET THEM ANSWER)

Because the tree wasn't fruitful. The tree wasn't producing figs – The tree had a purpose but it wasn't fulfilling its purpose and Jesus took a pretty serious action against this tree. Now, we can talk about how the tree is symbolic of Israel and how there is more going on in this story but look at this part in particular, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots... The tree was officially dead because the roots were dead. If you are here tonight and feel like you haven't been fulfilling your purpose, I have good news. I look at you and know you have good roots. Why, because you have roots in this youth ministry, roots in Christ Himself and they aren't dead... you are here! Your roots are able to bring you nutrients and stability, but you have to be intentional about them!

You matter, so your ROOTS matter.

⁶Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. ⁷Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

Luke 12:6

OK – So you matter to God! You crazy matter to God! You are so loved by God, in fact you have never been more loved than you are right now. God is concerned that you have various ways to plug into Him... not just tonight... but every night, all the time!

I have already said lets have intentional roots... so why don't we stop this sermon for five minutes and just talk about ways to have intentional roots...

How can you stay rooted to God?

- Daily Devotions
- Prayer
- Church attendance
- Serving
- Worship
- Poetry
- Art
- Sharing your Testimony
- Having a great friend who you commit to grow in faith together.
- Crafting sermons!
- Forgiveness
- Honesty
- Love

-Hey, a lot of what happens at Fine Arts can be used a root!

(Let the students come up with as many answers as possible. I would encourage you to think way out side the box so this isn't just a message about "Read your Bible") It's about finding several avenues and taking a moment to use those avenues to connect with God. If time permits I would actually do this! Stop and read scripture, honestly pray – worship... let them do something... show them that even in the middle of a sermon we can stop and be rooted!)

You matter, so what you SHOW matters

²²"Have faith in God..." whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it,... if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him **Mark 11:22-25**

Remember that tree at the beginning. The one Jesus cursed. What will you be displaying as people come to you? We have spent some time talking about how to have roots in Christ and we do this so when the time comes, we can offer prayer to others. We can offer forgiveness to others. We can offer a believing heart to others. We will look different because of how we are nourished and supported. Our roots demonstrate that we are Christ followers and we bring a message of good news, God is as close as a faithful heart and prayer opens the door to forgiveness. And to the world we say, "You don't have to believe the words, believe what we show you. We believe. We pray. We forgive. And our roots give us the ability to do this.

Take care of your roots and your life will demonstrate that you are a person of faith, who believes in the power of prayer and forgiveness.