

Devotional Guide

June 8–13, 2026



Sink Your Roots in Jesus and Flourish

Speaker: Mike Kleven, Lead Pastor

The message explores how life's unexpected storms—whether from outside circumstances or our own choices—can topple lives built on shallow soil like careers, finances, or self-reliance. Using the powerful picture of trees with deep roots surviving fierce winds and Jesus' victory over the storm of death through resurrection, it reveals that finding our true home in Jesus is not just about belonging but about flourishing. Drawing from Colossians 2:6-7 and Ephesians 4:15-16, the sermon shows that receiving Jesus as Lord, walking daily in union with Him, sinking roots for nourishment and stability, and growing together as His body produces transformation, thanksgiving, and a mature church where each part thrives. This truth challenges us to move beyond shallow foundations and plant our lives firmly in the life-giving soil of Jesus so we can withstand any storm and help others find their true home in Him.

How to Use This Guide:

Set aside 10-15 minutes daily. Read the Bible, reflect on the thought, answer questions, pray, and take the action step. Commit to this for growth—journal insights and share with a friend for accountability.

Day 1: Our Stories of Not Belonging

Bible Reading: Ephesians 2:1-3; 2 Corinthians 5:17

The sermon opened with a gas-station worker in International Falls who panicked, “I’m sorry... I’m always in the way... I’m always a problem,” and the story of a fifth-grade girl nicknamed “Little Itch.” These painful narratives mirror our own. We all carry stories that tell us we don’t belong—dead in trespasses and sins, far off, strangers without hope.

Yet the Big Idea reminds us that connecting to Jesus changes everything. In Christ the old has passed away; the new has come. Small moments of feeling out of place are invitations to run to the home we were made for.

Reflection Questions:

1. What does Ephesians 2:1-3 reveal about our natural condition?
2. Which illustration from the sermon felt most like your own story?
3. Where do you still carry a “not belonging” narrative?
4. How does knowing the old has passed away give you hope?
5. What does the Big Idea mean for how you see yourself today?

Prayer Prompt: Lord, thank You that my story doesn’t end with isolation. Forgive where I’ve believed I don’t belong. Make me alive in Christ and draw me home. Amen.

Action Step: Journal one lie you’ve believed about yourself and replace it with the truth of Ephesians 2:1-3 and 5:17. Share it with a trusted friend.

Day 1: Storms Reveal Our Foundation

Bible Reading: Colossians 2:6-7 (ESV)

Devotional Thought:

The sermon opened with a picture: storms we don't see coming, storms we see approaching, and storms of our own making. A life that looks stable and even impressive can come crashing down when the winds hit—if it was built on shallow soil. The foundation matters.

Many of us plant our security in job titles, bank accounts, or our own strength, only to discover these cannot hold when real pressure comes. Jesus offers something far better. When we sink our roots into Him, we discover not just survival but flourishing. The big idea anchors us:

Sinking our roots deep in Jesus will grow a flourishing life and a flourishing church.

Reflection Questions:

1. What kinds of “storms” have you experienced that exposed shallow foundations in your life or someone close to you?
2. Where have you been tempted to build security on things like career success, finances, or self-reliance rather than on Jesus?
3. How does knowing Jesus faced and overcame the ultimate storm (death) through resurrection give you hope for the storms you face?
4. What does “shallow soil” look like practically in daily life, and what might “deep roots” look like instead?
5. How does the big idea encourage you when life feels unstable or overwhelming?

Prayer Prompt: Jesus, thank You for facing the storm of death and rising with power that can hold me steady. Forgive me for building on shallow soil. Help me sink my roots deep into You today. Give me courage when storms come. Amen.

Action Step: Identify one area where you've been relying on shallow soil (work, finances, approval, control). Bring it honestly to Jesus in prayer and ask Him to become your true foundation this week.

Day 2: Receiving Jesus as Lord – Coming Home

Bible Reading: Colossians 2:6 (ESV); John 1:12-13

Devotional Thought:

True flourishing begins with receiving Jesus as Lord—not just Savior. We were created for connection with God, but sin disconnected us, leaving us lost, alone, and far from home. Receiving Jesus means welcoming His mercy, forgiveness, and leadership. It brings us into a brand-new identity: child of God and member of God’s household.

This is not a one-time ticket to heaven; it is the beginning of a lifetime journey. Many people treat faith as a single decision and then wonder what to do with the rest of their lives. Colossians 2:6 show us the “so what” after we believe—**we walk in Him**. Receiving Jesus the Lord roots our entire existence in the only soil that can sustain us.

Reflection Questions:

1. What does it mean to you personally that Jesus is not only Savior but Lord—Leader and King—of your life?
2. How does the truth that you are now a “child of God” and “member of God’s household” change how you see yourself on ordinary days?
3. Why do you think so many people treat receiving Jesus as a one-time event rather than the start of a daily journey? What helps you keep walking with Him?
4. If someone asked you, “What changed when you received Jesus as Lord?”, how would you answer from your own story?
5. How does this day’s truth connect to the big idea of sinking roots for a flourishing life?

Prayer Prompt: Lord Jesus, thank You for receiving me and giving me a new identity as Your child. I welcome You as Lord of every part of my life today. Lead me. Forgive where I have tried to stay in control. Help me walk with You as the true source of my home and flourishing. Amen.

Action Step: Write or speak this simple prayer out loud today: “Jesus, I receive You as Lord of my life again. Lead me today.” Then watch for one way He leads you in an ordinary moment.

Day 3: Walking Daily in Union with Jesus

Bible Reading: Colossians 2:6-7 (ESV); Galatians 2:20

Devotional Thought:

Paul moves from being rooted to the journey picture of walking in Jesus. This is not a one-time arrival but a daily lifestyle of union with Jesus. Believing in Jesus is the first step of a lifetime journey—a journey that joins us to Jesus in His continuing mission in the world.

Walking in Him means bringing ordinary moments (school deadlines, work stress, family challenges, decisions big and small) into conversation with the One who holds everything together. It looks like asking: “Jesus, where are You walking today? I want to go with You.”

This is not religious duty; it is staying connected to the source of life so His resurrection power can flow into our steps. When we walk this way, we discover that flourishing is not about trying harder but about staying close to the One who is our true soil.

Reflection Questions:

1. What does “walking in Jesus” look like on a normal Tuesday for you right now? Where do you sense He might be inviting you to walk with Him more closely?
2. The sermon used the picture of asking Jesus each day, “Where are You walking today? I want to go with You.” How might practicing this simple prayer change your perspective on daily tasks or decisions?
3. How does Galatians 2:20 (“Christ who lives in me”) connect to the idea of walking in union with Jesus? What would it look like to live today as if Jesus is living His life through you?
4. Where have you been trying to “walk” in your own strength lately, and what would it look like to invite Jesus into that specific area?
5. How does daily union with Jesus help us even when storms hit?

Prayer Prompt:

Jesus, I want to walk with You today—not just in the big moments but in the ordinary ones. Show me where You are walking. Give me the grace to go with You. Let Your life flow through mine so I can flourish and help others flourish too. Amen.

Action Step: Set a reminder on your phone for midday today. When it goes off, pause for 60 seconds and pray the simple prayer: “Jesus, where are You walking today? I want to go with You.” Notice what shifts in your heart.

Day 4: Rooted for Nourishment and Stability

Bible Reading: Colossians 2:7 (ESV); Psalm 1:1-3

Devotional Thought:

Being rooted in Jesus provides deep nourishment and stability that nothing else can match. Some relations energize us (we leave built up), some are neutral (no gain or loss), and some deplete us (we leave exhausted). If we have more depleting relationships than energizing ones, something is wrong.

The most energizing relationship available to any of us is being rooted in Jesus every single day. When we stay connected to Him, His life flows into ours. We are nourished in ways that last. We gain stability that storms cannot shake.

Psalm 1 paints the picture of the person who delights in God’s word as a tree planted by streams of water—fruitful, evergreen, prosperous in God’s eyes. This is the flourishing life Jesus offers. It is not about trying harder; it is about staying planted in the only soil that can sustain us.

Reflection Questions:

1. Looking at your current relationships, which ones tend to energize you? Which ones deplete you? How does this awareness connect to the sermon’s teaching on being rooted in Jesus?
2. What does “nourishment” from Jesus look like practically for you—time in the Bible, prayer, worship, silence, community? Which of these feeds your soul most deeply right now?
3. Psalm 1 describes a tree that yields fruit and whose leaf does not wither. Where do you long to see steady fruitfulness in your life?
4. How does knowing Jesus is the most energizing relationship available change the way you prioritize time with Him?
5. How might deeper roots in Jesus this week help you respond differently when storms (big or small) hit?

Prayer Prompt: Lord Jesus, plant me deeper by Your streams of living water. Nourish my soul today. Help me recognize and release depleting patterns and run to You—the most energizing relationship I have. Make me like a tree that stays green and fruitful even in dry seasons. Amen.

Action Step: Choose one “root-feeding” practice (10 minutes in the Gospel of John, a walk praying the “Jesus, where are You walking?” prayer, or worship music in the car) and do it every day this week. Track how it affects your energy and stability.

Day 5: Built Up and Established – Transformation

Bible Reading: Colossians 2:7 (ESV); Ephesians 2:19-22

Devotional Thought:

When we live day by day in Jesus, something grows, rises, and is built in us. Jesus is renovating our lives: transforming character, attitudes, and the very shape of our story. If you have faithfully followed Jesus, you are not the person you once were. He has been at work—building, renovating, establishing. It's not self-improvement; it's the Spirit's transforming work.

We are also established in the faith—the big story of God in Jesus—so that our personal story becomes part of something far larger than ourselves. The result? Transformed, energized lives overflowing with thanksgiving to God. This built-up life is never just private. It feeds the flourishing of the whole church. When your roots sink deep, the whole body grows strong and mature welcoming more people home in Jesus.

Reflection Questions:

1. How have you seen Jesus “build up” or renovate areas of your character, attitudes, or responses you could not change yourself?
2. The sermon said, “You are not the person you were when you first received Jesus.” What specific changes in you give you the most gratitude when you look back?
3. How does knowing your story is now part of God's much bigger story (the five-act drama of creation, fall, redemption, and restoration) give you hope and perspective on your current season?
4. Ephesians 2 describes us as being “built together” into a holy temple. How does your personal transformation contribute to the church becoming more like Jesus?
5. Where do you sense Jesus at work renovating you right now? What area is He inviting you to surrender to His building process?

Prayer Prompt:

Jesus, thank You for not leaving me as I was. Keep building in me. Renovate the areas I still try to control. Establish me deeper in Your story so my life overflows with thanksgiving and helps Your church flourish. I trust You as the skilled Carpenter of my soul. Amen.

Action Step: Write down one specific way you have seen Jesus transform you since you first came to Him. Thank Him for it out loud, then ask Him what area He wants to renovate next.

Day 6: Flourishing Together – Personal Roots, Body Fruit

Bible Reading: Ephesians 4:15-16 (NIV); Colossians 2:6-7

Devotional Thought:

The week closes with the beautiful truth that our flourishing is never meant to stay private. The sermon made it clear: God’s plan is for the church to flourish as well. Our growth in Jesus is deeply personal and beautifully communal.

When we speak the truth in love, we protect one another from being tossed off course and we produce growth. When each part does its work, the whole body builds itself up in love.

Your flourishing helps me flourish. My flourishing helps you flourish. And together, our flourishing helps more people find their true home in Jesus. This is the mission of FBC Falun. For those who have been burned by religious people or who think church is just pretend, Jesus offers something completely different: Himself as life-giving soil.

He invites us to leave behind what belongs to brokenness and take up our proper role as agents of the new day that is dawning. The big idea becomes our lived reality: **Sinking our roots deep in Jesus will grow a flourishing life and a flourishing church.** Keep planting yourself here. Grow here. Help others grow. The world needs the life of heaven flowing through a church that is deeply rooted and joyfully flourishing.

Reflection Questions:

1. How has someone else’s faithfulness or flourishing in Jesus helped you grow? Who might God be inviting you to encourage or help grow this week?
2. What does “speaking the truth in love” look like in your relationships—at home, at work, in the church, or with friends? Where is God inviting you to practice this more courageously?
3. If you have been treating church more like a gas station (stop in once a week for a fill-up) than a place to plant and grow, what would it look like to “plant yourself here and grow” instead?
4. For those not yet following Jesus: What would it look like for you to “test the soil” of the life Jesus offers this week—perhaps by visiting a group, having coffee with a Jesus follower, or starting to read the Gospel of John?
5. How will you celebrate and keep the momentum of sinking your roots deeper going beyond this week? Who can you share one takeaway with today?

Prayer Prompt:

Loving Father, thank You for the gift of deep roots in Jesus and for the church family where we grow together. Help me sink my roots deeper this week. Use my flourishing to help others flourish. Make FBC Falun a place where more and more people find their true home in Jesus. Keep us rooted, built up, and overflowing with thanksgiving. Amen.

Action Step:

Memorize Colossians 2:6-7 this week as your “Power Cord” verse. Share one insight from this guide with a friend or family member today, and invite them to sink their roots deeper with you.

Keep Sinking Your Roots

Review the week: from recognizing shallow soil and storms, to receiving Jesus as Lord, walking daily in union, staying rooted for nourishment, being built up by the Carpenter of our souls, and flourishing together as His body.

The big idea—**Sinking our roots deep in Jesus will grow a flourishing life and a flourishing church**—becomes our daily reality when we stay planted in Him. Keep staying connected; the world needs the life of heaven flowing through you and through FBC Falun.



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