

THERE IS MORE



Discussion Guide – Life in Christ

This week, Pastor Mark opened up our Romans 8 series with the goal for us to spiritually declutter and see clearly the life God has for us in Christ. In the beginning of Genesis 2, we're introduced to two trees: the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil (or the Tree of Self) and the Tree of Life (Genesis 2:8-9). Choosing to live from the Tree of Self looks like pride, moralism, idolatry, self-righteousness, destructive patterns, and self-judgement. Adam and Eve chose to eat from the Tree of Self, and as God promised, it resulted in death (Genesis 2:16-17). Not physical death, but the pain and destruction that comes from the fruit of trying to do life without God. But the story doesn't end there. The sin that started with a tree, Jesus defeated by dying on a tree—the cross. And by doing this, Jesus freed us all from death (Romans 5:8). Now every one of us can choose to live from the Tree of Life and have freedom, life, and no condemnation through Jesus.

Make It Practical

- **The Tree of Life is built on what Jesus has done.** We yield to Jesus. (Romans 8:1)
- **The Tree of Life awakens internal desire.** We fall in love with Jesus. (Romans 8:2; John 14:15)
- **The Tree of Life frees me to truly live.** We receive freedom from Jesus. (Romans 8:3; John 8:34-36)
- **The Tree of Life gives me God's strength.** We live a Spirit-filled life in Jesus. (Romans 8:4; Romans 5:8)

“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,”

Romans 8:1 (NIV)

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Talk About It

1. Where do you see spiritual clutter affecting your relationship with God right now?
2. In what areas of your life are you most tempted to rely on self-effort instead of surrender?
3. What does “no condemnation” mean to you personally? Is it easy or difficult to live like that’s true?
4. What would it look like this week to practically choose the Tree of Life?

Prayer

God, thank you that you always had a plan to save us from the death that comes from the Tree of Self. Thank you that Jesus died so that living from the Tree of Life could be available to us now. Thank you that life in Christ is so much better. Help us to yield to your way, to stop striving, to lean on you and your strength, and to keep falling more in love with you every day. Amen.