



## **Tri-Village Sermon Discussion Questions**

Topic: *The Olive Tree- A Source of Life*

Text: Various Scriptures

Service Date: September 15, 2024

Note: The questions are only a starting point for discussion. Don't hesitate to modify, adapt, or highlight only specific ones to fit your group and/or personal study.

### **Getting Started**

- In your life, what do you find yourself waiting on the most (i.e. something work-related, kids to grow up, retirement, a relationship to mend, a nap, a sports season to end, etc.)? Do you ever find the waiting ends?
- The sermon started out talking about how Noah waited for the dove to return to the ark with a freshly plucked olive tree. It had to be difficult to wait but the outcome was better (and it was in God's timing). Why is it so difficult to wait on something even when the outcome may be better after waiting?

### **Sermon Discussion**

- Grafting isn't easy. It involves cutting off a branch, inserting it into a new trunk, and then nurturing the graft so it lasts. What are some of the "grafting experiences" you've had in life where you removed from one place, inserted into a new/different one, and experienced a period of transition? How did God help you through that time? What did you learn about yourself and God?
- The olive tree takes seven years after being planted to yield its first fruit and another seven years to be fully mature. It also needs a period of peace to grow fruitfully. In what way does that mirror our Christian lives? How can we find peace in our whirlwind lives?
- How is our rooted faith also providing fruit for others who maybe aren't rooted as deeply? Why is it important that our "roots" of faith continue to grow?

- The fruit of the olive trees (the olives) are pressed to give us oil. Olive oil was used in lamps for light. The entire process from tree to lamp is long, hard work yet produces light. In what ways is telling others about Jesus and being a witness for Him a long, difficult process? How do you avoid becoming discouraged?
- How did your parents (or how do you as a parent/grandparent today), keep the light of Christ lit for their/your children? As your children grow or as you grew as a child, how much religious freedom did you/do you you're your children?
- Parent Question- How much freedom do you allow your children to have in choosing between church involvement and/or extra-curricular activities? Have you seen any correlation between a child's spiritual growth for those whose parents made serving and church involvement a priority for their family/the child (faith being rooted) vs. those who considered church involvement something that was one among many other options?
- If we want to become more rooted in our faith, how important is serving, giving, and telling others about Jesus? If we aren't completely "sold out" to Him, how does this impact our ability to grow spiritually?
- Colossians 2:6-7 says, "So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness." As someone grows their faith, there's a misconception that following Jesus will become easier; for many, it actually becomes more difficult because you learn how to deny the world (and self) more each day. If someone was struggling in their faith and knowing how to grow their spiritual "roots", what would you say?

## Resources

Book: *The Olive Tree and the Word of God* by Nikki Otto

Website: S.H.A.P.E. Test ([tri-village.org/shape](http://tri-village.org/shape))

---

## Have you or someone in your group experienced a Story of Life Change?

We'd love to hear about it! In fact, one of Tri-Village's values is "Stories of Life Change". Visit [tri-village.org/yourstory](http://tri-village.org/yourstory) and share how God worked.