



**The Salvation Army  
Women's Sunday  
DATE**

Preliminary Music  
Corps Musicians

Welcome and Announcements CSM

Call to Worship  
Women's Ministry Leader

Leader: With joy and delight we gather to praise our Holy God!  
With reverence and awe, we approach our Gracious God.

**Response: We give thanks that God understands us,  
and does not want us to be that which we were never created to become!**  
Leader: Creative God, You call us to worship You as Your children, made in Your  
image,

with a divine spark within each of us.

**Response: We give thanks that God understands us,  
and encourages us to grow in our knowledge of God's awesome holiness.**  
Leader: Glorious God, you invite us to sink our roots deep into your love and holiness,  
and to grow stronger each day in our faith in You.

**Response: We give thanks that God understands us,  
and that the fruits we bear are consistent with what God created us to become.**

Leader: We gather to worship and praise our supporting and caring God.

**ALL: AMEN**

(based on Psalm 1)

— written by Joan Stott

Song #689/263 "*Trusting as the Moments Fly*," Women's Ministry Participant

Praise and Worship Team  
Suggested Choruses: "I Raise a Hallelujah," Bethel Music  
"What A Beautiful Name," Hillsong Music  
"Good, Good Father," Chris Tomlin

Video Presentation "Rooted"  
<https://www.sermoncentral.com/church-media-preaching-sermons/sermon-video-illustrations/rooted-6546-detail>

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 17:5-10, Female Teen

**Altar of Prayer**

Song #32/663 *"How Deep the Father's Love for Us"*

Pastoral Prayer - Corps Officer or Women's Ministries Chaplain

Tithes/ Offering - Corps Treasurer  
Offertory

Doxology #1036/31  
*Praise God from whom all blessings flow*  
*Praise Him all creatures here below*  
*Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts*  
*Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen*

Praise Team Special Music *"Your Love O, Lord"*  
(As sung by Third Day, available on YouTube)

Message:  
***"Deeply Rooted"***

Prayer and Personal Reflection

Song #690/522 *"Trust and Obey"*

Closing Prayer, Women's Ministries Participant

**Women's Sunday – 2024**  
**Major Marion Durham**  
**Southern Territory**

**Sermon: Deeply Rooted**  
**Jeremiah 17:7-13.**

I have a garden where I grow tomatoes, green peppers, red peppers, white eggplant, zucchini, yellow squash, watermelon, and lots of beautiful herbs. Some harvests have been better than others, but each year it's been a joy to watch the young plants develop deep roots and produce fruit.

This year my tomatoes didn't do well. The plants grew, but they just didn't produce the delicious red tomatoes that I love. It took me awhile, but I eventually learned that the irrigation system was not working properly. When I planted the tender seedlings, they didn't get enough water and therefore, weren't growing the deep roots necessary to create the fruit for harvest. Adequate water is essential to developing roots and producing fruit.

Our scripture today is from Jeremiah 17 where we see a people just like my tomatoes. They were planted in parched places with no prosperity, no increase, no inheritance because they were trusting in man and not the Lord.

**1. Judah loses its trust in God (Corporate)**

Jeremiah 17:1-4 give us a picture of a nation that was the apple of God's eye, but who became a sinful nation. They lost their inheritance, both the actual physical land which God had given them, as well as the spiritual inheritance of being God's favored ones because of their sinful habits and practices like worshipping pagan idols.

***Read Jeremiah 17: 1-4.***

The people who had been liberated from Egypt had become slaves again. It was a national disgrace. The people who had been given instructions on how-to live-in God's way had lost it all as they broke commandment after commandment.

The prophet Jeremiah, prompted by God's Spirit, after addressing the people as a group, focuses in and looks at something more personal than the shame of the nation. He shows that the broader perspective is created through the actions of each individual person in Judah. They've lost their nation, their way of life and it's not just their neighbor's fault, it was their fault as well.

***Read Jeremiah 17:5-6***

**2. Shallow Rooted Man Trusts in Self (Personal)**

The person in this scripture put their trust in man, not God. Their strength is in something that is shallow, and they live in the dry places. The people of Judah knew about living in the desert, they knew that water could not be found in just anywhere. There were parched places, salty

places where no prosperity or sustaining fruit could be found. Yet, that is where they chose to live spiritually, where they tried to develop spiritual roots.

If we jump ahead to verse 13, we read, “LORD, *you are the hope of Israel; all who forsake you will be put to shame. Those who turn away from you will be written in the dust because they have forsaken the LORD, the spring of living water.*”

When we choose to forsake God, we will find no lasting spiritual sustenance. We have no holy inheritance that produces healthy fruit, but instead dry, shriveled lives that struggle to survive. This is the message that the prophet Jeremiah had for Judah and for her citizens, and it still rings true for us today. Self-reliance can only get us so far. Dependence upon what is found in self and this life alone is shallow. God has created us for so much more.

***Read Jeremiah 17: 7-8.***

### **3. Deeply Rooted Man Trusts in God (Personal)**

The person who trusts in the Lord has confidence in God! They depend on Him. They are deeply rooted and live without fear of the future. The heat will come. Dry seasons of life, difficult times and problems will come, but there is no fear because their roots run deep in the spring of living water, depending on God through it all.

When the irrigation system in my garden is working correctly, despite the heat of the day, the plants are green and bearing fruit. The same is true of when we are tapped in, irrigated, watered by “*the LORD, the spring of living water.*” (vs. 13). If we keep going and read in verse 14, “*Heal me, LORD, and I will be healed; save me and I will be saved, for you are the one I praise.*”

The deeply rooted man has great trust in God. He faces the same troubles of life that the person of shallow faith does, but it’s in the response to those problems that faith is proven genuine and God rewards those who give Him the praise that He deserves.

We can fool others, can’t we? We can say things, do things and play things, but only God knows what we really think and what we really believe. He knows our heart. “The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, reward each person according to their conduct according to what their deeds deserve.” (vs. 9, 10).

So, let’s dig in deep and develop those extensive roots. Scripture supports scripture. The Word of God interprets the Word of God. This concept of developing deep roots, nourished by the Living Water are found throughout the Bible in both The Old and New Testaments.

***Read Psalm 1.***

It’s no accident that God compares us to trees. He urges us to grow! Just like giant oak trees began with an acorn, we begin our faith with a tiny seed, planted within us, but then we have to grow! Giving our life to Christ is just the beginning.

Paul prayed for the believers he loved in Ephesus to have deep roots as well.

***Read Ephesians 3:14-19***

*“Conversion is the work of an instant; spiritual maturity is the work of a lifetime. Is your faith like a seedling, a sprout, or a mature tree?”*—Reverend Billy Graham, “Peace for Each Day.” In other words, are you deeply rooted in Christ? In John 4 Jesus called Himself “the living water.” He said that those who drink from the living water, wouldn’t thirst again. That’s how we grow those well-watered, deep roots found in our text from Jeremiah. We focus first on the roots and then the fruit will follow. We can’t look for fruits until the roots are deeply watered in Him because deeply rooted people are obedient people who say yes to God. “The seeds that fell in good soil stand for those who hear the message and retain it in a good and obedient heart, and they persist until they bear fruit” (Luke 8:15, GNT). Are you deeply rooted?

A Christian with shallow roots is often impulsive, emotional, superficial, and immature. “The seeds that fell on rocky ground are the people who gladly hear the message and accept it. But they don’t have deep roots, and they believe only for a little while. As soon as life gets hard, they give up” (Luke 8:13 (CEV)).

What evidence do you have for your own life? Are your roots shallow or deep? Growth can often be painful and even scary. We can be slow learners and it takes time to develop good spiritual habits and just as much time for us to unlearn bad spiritual habits. Judah never did. They didn’t give up the Asherah poles, their false idols, and broken-hearted practices.

In closing, allow God’s Holy Spirit to convict you of things you need to either eliminate or add to your life. He will help you develop deep roots as you tap into the Jesus the Living Water, but you must obey Him as He directs you to make those things happen.

**Women's Sunday – 2024**  
**Major Marion Durham**  
**Southern Territory**

**Enrollment Service and Meal: Deeply Rooted**  
**Jeremiah 17:7-8**

**Menu:**

Following the morning worship service, ask the Men's Club to serve a special meal for all of the women of the congregation. Depending on your budget, this could be a steak and baked potato dinner or as simple as brunch with traditional items like eggs, bacon/sausage, biscuits, and fruit. It would be fun to serve roasted ROOT vegetables (carrots, parsnips, turnips, potatoes and more) following the theme of deeply rooted. If there is no Men's Club, purchase sandwich platters from a grocery store so that the women will not have to cook for their own enrollment/recognition meal.

**Color Palette/Décor Ideas:**

- Black and White Buffalo Plaid napkins
- White Tablecloths
- Green potted plants (from nursery or garden center)
- Black and White Buffalo Plaid Placemats

**Centerpieces and Decorations:**

- Fresh potted plants (to be given to the local leaders in recognition)
- Buffalo Plaid Paper Placemat (to put under the plants)
- Invite a local bonsai club to exhibit their plants.

**Leader Recognition:**

We would like to take a moment to thank all of our Women's Ministries leaders. Our key verse for today is "*Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in Him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream*" (Jer. 17:7-8).

Leaders, in the center of our tables today is a beautiful fresh plant purchased in your honor. We give them today to \_\_\_\_\_ (list names and jobs of local officers) in honor of your service to our corps and Women's Ministries. You add a freshness and life to our group, and we appreciate all that you do. Optional: Give a watering can (tie a buffalo check ribbon on the handle) to your Women's Ministry leader as an extra gift for all the little extras that she does to bring nourishment and life to the group.

**Creative Time**

As a filler while different tables of women are being served or going through a buffet line, enjoy a creative time with these three different craft ideas. This could also be done at the conclusion of the meeting.

**Creative Time Set-up:**

- Station One: Yarn Hearts
- Station Two: Adult Coloring Page
- Station Three: Succulent Potting

### **Yarn Hearts:**

Have premade heart templates 2"-3" cut from posterboard or cardstock. The women can use the template to trace the heart on pieces of cardboard from a used shipping box. Take colored yarn and tape one end to the middle of the heart. Wind it around the cardboard heart. It should be free form and fun. Once the cardboard is completely covered, cut the yarn with a several inch tail and tie to the yarn covering the heart. Print and frame this scripture to display at this station next to a sample: *"I the Lord search the heart and examine the mind, to reward each person according to his conduct, according to what their deeds deserve."* (Jer. 17:10).

Supplies Needed:

- Scissors, yarn, tape, pencils needed
- Heart templates
- Cardboard

### **Adult Coloring Page:**

A quick internet search will reveal free scripture-based coloring pages for the women. If your budget allows, you could give everyone a Christian Adult Coloring Book of their own. Or print several free ones, which are available online and they can make your own book. Have colored pencils, markers, and crayons available for women to use. If possible, find a tree with roots for women to color. Print and frame this scripture for this station: *"Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in Him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its rooted by the stream."* (Jer. 17:7-8).

Supplies Needed:

- Adult Christian coloring pages
- Adult Christian coloring books
- Colored pencils, markers

### **Succulent Potting:**

Small succulent plants which are available at most local nurseries. At this station women can take those plants and group a few together in a larger pot with fresh potting soil. Be sure and use a plastic tablecloth at this station. Plastic spoons can be used instead of expensive gardening tools. An extra touch would be ribbon to tie around the pot with a tag. The women can write the scripture on it, or it can be printed on a label.

Print and frame Jer. 17:8b *"It (She) does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green."*

Also have a sample plant.

Supplies Needed:

- Succulents
- Potting soil
- Pots
- Plastic spoons
- Plastic tablecloths

- Ribbon, tags and stickers (extra touch)

**Enrollment Ceremony:**

We are so pleased to have new members as part of our Women's Ministries groups this year. As I call your name, please come forward. Today as part of our recognition of you joining our Women's Ministries, I'd like to present to each of you a Pothos plant.

- Pothos plant are inexpensive and available at most garden centers.
- Display an example of a pothos plant where you can see the stem growing roots in a clear glass vase or glass jar.

This is the easiest plant in the world to take care of. In fact, if you cut off a small stem from this plant and put it in water, you see something wonderful happen. After a few days, the cutting will begin growing roots. No soil or special treatment needed! Then you can share this cutting with a friend. Just like someone brought you to our group, you can share a new plant and invite someone that you know to join us.

I would like to take a moment to pray over each of you and thank God for you.

**Devotion:**

In our theme scripture, Jeremiah 17:7, 8, we read how a person who trusts in the Lord is like a tree, rooted deep into nourishing grounds. Today you found as your table favor, a small journal or notebook. Inside you will find a printed copy of those verses. Let's read them out loud together.

I see the qualities of rooted faith in each of you, and I believe you can see it in each other. Please take a moment on the first page to write your name at the top of the journal. We are going to take time now to encourage each other by passing our journals around your table (or around the room if a small group) to each other. On the lines under the listed name, write a rooted quality that you see in that person. For example, if you see in (name) the spiritual quality of joy because of her effervescence and perseverance despite difficult circumstances, write a line or two to encourage her in the faith.

Close in prayer.