

**FAMILY LESSONS ON  
THE ROOT OF PROSPERITY**

**Based on Psalm 1:2-3**

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**LESSON #2**

**A BUSH OR A TREE**

**“But his delight is in the law of the LORD,  
and on his law he meditates day and night.**

**He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which  
yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither.**

**Whatever he does prospers.”**

*Psalm 1:2-3 (NIV84)*

One of the great gifts God has given us is our imagination, the ability to see things in our mind. The Bible is full of such images. In Jeremiah chapter 17, the great prophet has given us a couple of mental pictures to ponder: a bush in the desert and a tree by a river. If you close your eyes for a minute, you can actually paint a picture of that bush and tree in your mind. Try it. Use your imagination to see the two pictures: a bush in the desert and a tree by a river. Now describe what you see. How are the bush and the tree different? What do you see in the area surrounding them? What kind of ground do you see, what kind of fruit, what kind of leaves? How much water is there?

Jeremiah said that you and I will be like one of those pictures. It all depends where we place our trust. Jeremiah spoke in very simple terms. He said we can either trust in man or we can trust in God. But the result will be dramatically different. Man and his word are unreliable and constantly changing, but God and His Word are trustworthy and never change. The picture of the tree by the water, extending its roots by a stream, is amazingly similar to David’s description of the “blessed” person in Psalm 1:3. David says that the blessed person not only delights in God’s Word, but meditates on it day and night, like a tree by a stream putting its roots deep into well-watered soil. How do you know where your roots are? Jeremiah says your roots are wherever you place your trust. Which one of these do you want to be, the bush or the tree?

*What are the spiritual benefits of being like a tree by a river rather than a bush in the desert (Jeremiah 17:5-8)?*

For additional study materials on the Bonus Verse and a copy of the “Ten Step Bible Memory Method for Life,” go to [www.icsva.org/student-life/bonus-verse](http://www.icsva.org/student-life/bonus-verse) on the Immanuel Christian School website.