

# Source of Life

## Life Verses Small Group Devotional — Week 2

*“The Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground — trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.”*

*— Genesis 2:9, NIV*

*Read Revelation 22:1–6.*

The tree of life stood at the beginning — in the center of the garden from which humanity emerged. It did not provide food, yet it provided life. It will also stand at the end — in the center of the city, providing life to all. It is a single tree, unlike the trees for food, perhaps because it must be shared. None of us may lay claim to it or have exclusive access to it.

We know that babies need connection and that they are harmed when they are kept in isolation. Likewise, studies show that solitary confinement has harmful, long-term consequences for adults. It is not enough to simply feed and shelter someone. They need connection. They need community.

We need connection. We need community.

The tree of life becomes an invitation to all humanity to gather under its branches, creating and fostering a new community, whether in a garden or a city, in the here and now or in a day to come. An invitation to a greater community that provides for more than basics and to more than the favorites. A thriving community for all.

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*Use these questions to discuss and explore the Scripture and devotional reading.*

What do you think of when you think of a thriving community?

Do you find this vision and promise of a thriving community in the future appealing? If so, in what ways?

What do you think this vision and promise can teach us about creating imperfectly thriving communities today?

In what ways do you and your community thrive?