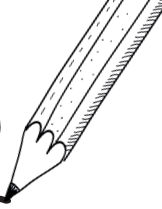


MEMORIZE IT!

"Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, and whose trust is the Lord. For he will be like a tree planted by the water that extends its roots by a stream, and does not fear when the heat comes; but its leaves will be green, and it will not be anxious in a year of drought, nor cease to yield fruit."

Jeremiah 17:7-8 (NASB)

WEEK 9



DRAW IT! This stream looks so calm and peaceful. The land beside it would be the perfect spot for a tree. Draw a big tree near the water. Give it a strong, thick trunk! Add roots that go out of the bottom of the trunk and into the water. Draw some bright green leaves and fruit on the tree's branches.

LEARN IT! How does your tree drawing look? The tree seems steady and secure, right? It has its roots stretched out to the water and appears to be growing strong. If bad weather came to a tree like that, it wouldn't dry up or get blown over.

A tree that's always growing no matter the weather sounds impossible, but God says we can be exactly like that kind of tree. When the "roots" of our hearts are stretched out to God, "soaking up" His Word and trusting Him, He will give us everything we need to handle the "bad weather" in life, like when we have a rough day or don't get what we want.

We won't be fearful of life's "storms" when we're regularly trusting God. We can depend on Him in every season of life. And when we depend on God, we'll be just like the trees in our pictures—strong and unafraid.

DISCUSS IT! Why is it important for trees to get plenty of water? How is the tree in the verse described? How is a person who trusts in God like a tree planted near water?

LIVE IT! I want to be just like the trees in our pictures, don't you? Let's ask God now to help us trust Him, so we can be growing strong no matter if the "weather" in our life is good or bad.

STUDY IT! To learn more about depending on God during life's difficulties, read 2 Corinthians 1:1-11. To study how the Holy Spirit helps followers of Jesus trust in and obey Him, read John 14:15-27.