

# Guided by a cloud 29 (Exodus 13:21-22)

We have a lovely Acer tree in our garden and whilst I love the wintertime it is always a little sad when it starts to lose its leaves in autumn. Trees are vital and make life possible. As the biggest plants on the planet, they give us oxygen, store carbon and stabilise the soil. They provide shade, shelter and food as well as numerous other things from rubber gloves and hair dye to the aspirin in our medicine cabinets!



## Worship time

[Let everything that has breath](#)

[He lavishes grace \(lean hard\)](#)

[Standing in your presence](#)

Other than people, trees are mentioned more than any other creation in the Bible. There is a tree at the beginning of

Genesis and on the last page of Revelation.

**Turn towards the Light** - Each year in school we do a science test. One seedling is placed in a dark cupboard and another on a sunny windowsill. The plant on the windowsill remains healthy and grows, whereas the one in the dark becomes pale and spindly. A tree naturally seeks light. **John 8:12** Jesus said, "I am the light of the world." We will thrive and grow if we seek the Light of the world.

**Put down roots** - Trees need water as much as they need light. **Psalm 1:2-3** describes those who delight in and meditate on the law of the Lord as being "like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither." We are encouraged to study the Bible and think about what it reveals about God and his plan for our lives. The deeper our "roots" go in the Bible, the more we will be able to cope with droughts and difficulties in our lives.

**Bear fruit** - **Galatians 5:22-23** "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law." **John 15:16** "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you." Asking the Holy Spirit to work within us makes us more Christ like. We are appointed to become his witnesses and tell people about Christ.

**Think long term** - Human lives are short in comparison to trees. There are trees alive today that were alive in the time of Jesus. Revelation 22 describes the tree of life, saying, "the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations." Trees remind us that life is much bigger than our present moment. Their deep roots and sprawling branches call us to look to heaven and eternity.