



-- **Big Idea:** The cross of Christ is the ultimate tree that brings us back to life with God.

1.) Paradise _____ (Genesis 2).

- One chief consequence of banishment from God's presence was the loss of access to the eternal-life-giving nourishment of the Tree of Life.
- Our need for nourishment is not a consequence of sin, but the deliberate design of God for the human race.
- Even as the Tree of Life satisfied the body and gave life that would not end, so the immediate presence of God thoroughly satisfies the soul.

2.) Paradise _____ (Genesis 3:17-19).

- The immortality-sustaining nourishment which once came to Adam and Eve freely and without limit, would now only come through great toil.
- The food for which we must labor and strive not only fails to give immortality, but it falls infinitely short of that mark.
- The difficulty of satisfying our bodies with food is a lesser image of the great toil that it would take for the soul to return to the presence of God.
- The hungry stomach is a physical signpost of our ultimate hunger for God—to know Him and be with Him again.
- The cursing of the land and gives us an immediate, physical understanding of the futility of seeking salvation through the _____ (Galatians 3:10).
- The frustrations of growing food that only provides temporary life on earth is a picture of attempting to save ourselves by our own good deeds.

3.) Paradise _____

- In Revelation 22:3, we are specifically informed that the curse of sin will be reversed and the Tree of Life will return (Revelation 22:1-4).
- In the day of resurrection, redeemed sinners will once again dwell in the immediate presence of God, see His face, and know His glory.

4.) Paradise _____

- The entire Bible is the story of how humanity might return to God and live again in the holy place where He most immediately dwells.
- The transition from the former Tree of Life to the final Tree of Life comes by a third tree, which is the cross of Jesus Christ.
 - Acts 10:39-40, 1 Peter 2:24, Galatians 3:13
- Most importantly, the uniquely nourishing and supremely satisfying fruit of each Tree of Life points to the _____ and _____ of Christ.

The Lord's Supper - Look, take, eat, and live.

- The curse of sin came cascading down all of creation, when Satan, offered Eve one insidious invitation in three parts: Look. Take. Eat.
- Jesus reverses Satan's cursed command in order to reverse the curse itself, "saying, look, take, eat, and live."
- The _____ is the ultimate Tree of Life, for all who eat its fruit shall be redeemed from the curse to live an immortal life with God once again.

Considering Christmas Trees

- May the trees we put up and decorate convey the Gospel of Jesus Christ to our families year after year.
- Because of Christ, that tree meant by man to bring death is now the centerpiece of everlasting life.