

MONDAY: Blowing with the Wind

Have you ever seen a tumbleweed (in life or in a movie) blowing across the desert?

Tumbleweeds are bushes that have a round shape. When the desert has rain, they grow; but when the rains don't come—the bushes get dry and die. When the wind blows, the round bush breaks off the dry stem and blows wherever the wind wants to take it.

Have you noticed what happens when trees lose their leaves in the fall? When dead leaves break off from their branches, they dry up and blow with the wind as well.

Another thing that blows in the wind is straw (also called chaff.) Chaff is the covering for a seed, such as grain. Before machines were created to separate grain from chaff, people threw grain up in the air to let the wind blow away the chaff. The grain is heavy enough that it doesn't blow away.

Who does Psalm 1:4 tell us is like straw (chaff) scattered by the wind? _____

Read verse 5. What will happen to them in the time of God's judgement? _____

While all of us are sinners, the people like chaff are not sinful people who have turned to Jesus for salvation. Read Psalm 5:4–6. What are the people like that are listed in these verses? Fill in the blanks below with words that describe them.

e _ _ _ _	tell l _ _ _ _
do w _ _ _ _	m _ _ _ _ _ _
p _ _ _ _	c _ _ _ _ others

Sometimes people wonder how a good, loving God can judge people. Yet when someone hurts us personally, we want that person to pay for the wrong they have done. All of us want justice to be done to someone who uses their power to harm others. God loves all people and wants all people to turn *away* from doing evil and turn *to* Him.

Read 2 Peter 3:9. What does this verse say God wants?

What does the last part of Psalm 1:5 say sinners will not have?

God is showing a huge contrast between two types of people. The Psalm 1 happy person who delights in God's Word is like a tree—strong, stable, able to feed others with its fruit. The evil person, on the other hand, is blown around like straw, chaff, or a tumbleweed (Psalm 83:13).

TUESDAY: You're on a Path

A famous American poet named Robert Frost wrote these lines:

*“Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler. . .*

To put it less poetically, if you come to a fork in the road, you have to pick just one of the two roads. You can't take both roads because there is only one of you. You might think, I'll go down one path for a while then come back and take the other one. But our poet thought of that as well.

*Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.¹*

Frost is not saying you can never change roads, he is just reminding us that in life, one road leads to another. Once you start down one path, you can't always come back and take a different path.

Your life is a lot like a path up a mountain. You may be on the college path if you plan to go to college or on a military path if you plan to join the military. Your path is more than just what you are doing now or will do next. Your path is your life and the qualities that describe you.

Read Psalm 1:6. What two types of lives (or paths) do we see contrasted here?

lives of g _ _ _ _ people vs. lives of s _ _ _ _ _ people

These are two very different paths. You can't travel both and “be one traveler.”

According to Psalm 1:6, who is God watching over or looking out for?

According to Psalm 1:6, where does the life (path) of sinful people end up?

Typically, all the people born will one day die. Psalm 1:6 is not talking about normal human death on earth but about the destruction and separation that comes as judgement from God.

Read Psalm 9:16–18. Who is fair? _____

What traps evil people? _____

Which of the two paths do you think you are on? _____

1. Robert Frost, “The Road Not Taken,” Poetry Foundation, September 2, 2018, <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/44272/the-road-not-taken>

WEDNESDAY: What a Life!

This week we've talked about how evil people are like chaff that blows in the wind. They end up trapped by their choices and eventually face God's judgement. That doesn't sound like an appealing path to be on. Read Matthew 7: 13–14. How did Jesus describe the road that leads to destruction (judgement)?

The road that leads away from God is a multi-lane highway that is paved and easy to travel. However, it ends in death.

The road following God is narrow and challenging; however, there are huge benefits of being on this path.

We've learned from Psalm 1 that the person going God's way is blessed or happy and joyful. That doesn't mean circumstances on the narrow road are always good, but it does mean there are special joys God provides on the path to life that are not available on the path to death. One of those special joys is in Psalm 1:6. God keeps his eyes on the life of the person walking His way. This means that God cares for them. List ways God is described in Psalm 10:17–18.

What do you see God doing for His people in Psalm 37:23–24?

Read Psalm 121. What is this chapter saying about the way God cares for those who are on the godly path? Write the verse that stands out to you the most.

THURSDAY: Short Term vs. Eternal

You've taken a close look at two ways to live. Now it's time for a story, a true story about a man named Moses. Moses was born in the country of Egypt during the time when God's people, the Israelites, were slaves in Egypt. Moses was born at a time when the Egyptians had decided to kill off all the baby boys born to the Israelites by throwing them in the river. Moses's mother came up with an idea. Instead of throwing her baby in the river, she made a basket into a little boat and set Moses afloat on the river. The Pharaoh's daughter found baby Moses and took him in as her own child. Moses grew up in all the wealth of the palace. He may have wondered if he would be Pharaoh someday.

But Moses made a choice that forever changed his path. Read Hebrews 11. What does verse 23 tell us about *why* Moses's parents were not afraid of the king's command to kill their son?

Verse 24 tells us that Moses also had faith. That means he chose to believe God and follow God.

What did Moses refuse to be called? _____

If he had not been the son of Pharaoh's daughter, he would not have had all the privileges of the palace.

Read verse 25. What two things did Moses choose instead?

1. _____
2. _____

What does the end of verse 25 tell us about the pleasures that come from sin?

We find out what Moses was thinking in verse 26. What was he looking ahead to?

When you are faced with the temptation to go along with those who don't follow God, the acceptance from others and pleasure of the sin will seem amazing. But if you think sinning is fun—you really should try holiness! *Holy* just means "set apart." When Moses made the choice to leave the palace, he set himself apart from all the ways he could please himself as Egyptian royalty. It looked like he was giving up everything. Yet during Moses's lifetime, he would see the entire land of Egypt devastated by losing all their crops and their military. Moses chose pleasure that was far better and will last forever. Moses chose to follow after God.

[To find out more about Moses and the amazing ways God used him, read the book of Exodus.]

Name _____

FRIDAY: Connection Reflection

Maybe you have heard someone describe a friend by saying, “he or she is my rock.” Clearly if someone is your rock, they are strong and steady, not weak and inconsistent. We learned this week about the difference between people who are like trees and people who are like tumbleweeds. A rock friend is like a tree. You can count on them to be there for you.

Who in your life is someone you can count on to be there for you? _____

Do you think you are the type of person others can count on? _____

Do your friends count on you to encourage them to do right things or wrong things? _____

What stood out to you this week about the two different paths? _____

Do you think Moses made a good decision? Why or why not? _____

Read all of Psalm 1. What is your favorite verse in Psalm 1? Write it here. _____

What (if anything) would have to change in your life for you to become like the happy, joyful, blessed person of Psalm 1? _____
