

## House On The Rock Life Group Study outline

### August: Growth against all odds

Week 2: Growth against all odds

#### Introduction

Some of the most interesting analogies of growth in the bible use the example of plants. The most famous example is possibly the parable of the sower, in which Jesus traces the entire lifecycle of growth from seed to plant, to fruit - in other words, back to seed. We see other examples involving trees, for example the barren fig tree that did not bear any fruit despite the best efforts of its owner. It is therefore fitting that we continue our study on growth by considering the examples of two trees; one that survives against all odds and another that thrives against all odds. Today, our focus will be to understand how we can apply this to our lives so that, regardless of what the weather brings, we continue to grow and thrive.

#### Pilot text

***Job 14:7-9 “For there is hope for a tree, if it is cut down, that it will sprout again, and that its tender shoots will not cease. Though its root may grow old in the earth, and its stump may die in the ground, yet at the scent of water it will bud and bring forth branches like a plant***

***Jer 17:7-8 But blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in Him. 8He is like a tree planted by the waters that sends out its roots toward the stream. It does not fear when the heat comes, and its leaves are always green. It does not worry in a year of drought, nor does it cease to produce fruit.***

- Example 1: The tree that survives
  - Consider the first pilot scripture and discuss the following [Round table]:
    - What led to the tree’s situation?
    - What made the tree’s situation worse?
    - What kept the tree going?
    - What got the tree back into growth?
- Example 2: The tree that thrives
  - Consider the second pilot scripture and discuss the following [Round table]:
    - What are the situations shown here that were the “odds” against the thriving of the tree?
    - Why was the tree not affected by the heat or the drought?
- What have we learned from these two trees?
- Take home actions
  - Consider which of the two trees may represent your situation, and what you should do as a result of this study