

Rooted Frequently Asked Questions

What is Rooted?

Rooted is a ten-week interactive discipleship journey designed to help people connect with God, the church community, and one's purpose in unexpected, life-changing ways.

Rooted is designed differently from other discipleship models and small groups in that it includes the value of experiential learning and group dialogue as an important part of how we learn and grow spiritually.

Rooted is an amazing journey. In the course of ten weeks, groups meet and talk about what God has been revealing to each person through the week's readings, journal entries and prayer. Each group will share in experiences outside of group time. These include prayer, serving, breaking strongholds, and sharing your story.

Rooted is our discipleship pathway, and the way you get connected to a life group and serving opportunities at Ventura Missionary Church.

Is Rooted only for new believers?

No, Rooted is for everyone! We believe that no matter where you are at on your faith journey, the Holy Spirit speaks and God continues to transform lives. Rooted connects and bonds people with each other in remarkable ways – building meaningful, genuine relationships in Christ.

Here are a couple testimonials from our last session of Rooted (from both ends of the spectrum):

- I now fully understand what it means to have a personal relationship with God. My co-workers, family and friends notice I am different, free and happy.
- I entered into ROOTED thinking it was a Christianity Refresher Course. And with a thoughtless, "How cool is that...I should go!" — I signed on. I ended up renewed in the Spirit and focused on a brighter, blessed future.

How much does Rooted cost?

Rooted costs \$40 per person and includes Rooted materials, t-shirt, and the celebration dinner.

When does Rooted meet?

Spring 2022 Details:

When: Wednesdays, March 9 – May 11, 6:30-8:30 pm

Where: On Campus at Ventura Missionary Church. Rooted groups will meet outside, and participants from different households will be appropriately socially distanced to comply with COVID-19 requirements.

What are the additional experiences and when are they?

Prayer Experience Sunday; March 27- 5-7:30 pm

The prayer experience is an integral part of Rooted and is designed to create space in your busy schedule to spend some extended time alone with God seeking to hear His voice.

Serve Experience: Varies by group

The serve experience is an opportunity to meet outside of your regular Rooted meeting to serve together as a group in our community. In the past, groups have served at places like The City Center Transitional Living Facility, Casa De Vida Recovery Home and Tender Life Maternity Home. Your Rooted facilitator will let you know when and where your group will be serving.

Celebration Dinner, Wednesday: May 18, 6:00-8:30 pm

The celebration dinner is an opportunity for all the groups to come together at the end of Rooted to celebrate how God has transformed lives through Rooted, and how people are connecting with their passion, purpose, and community. It's a fun evening of celebration. Don't miss it!

What if I need to miss some of the Rooted sessions?

Consistent attendance is important in Rooted. If you know that you will miss 2 or more sessions, please wait and attend Rooted at a later date.

What if I can't join this session? Can't I just do Rooted on my own or lead my own group?

Rooted is designed to be experienced in the context of community. Without the relational component and weekly discussions, you would miss many of the key elements of Rooted. There are also several times throughout Rooted when the small groups meet together in a larger group context for teaching, prayer, or other experiential elements. By simply doing Rooted on your own, you would miss out on these important components of the Rooted experience.

In terms of leadership, we believe it's important that people experience the Rooted journey personally before they lead others through the process. There is a formal leadership selection process to become a Rooted Facilitator at Ventura Missionary Church, which includes an application, reference-checks, training, and weekly facilitator meetings.

Is there childcare available?

Yes, childcare is available by pre-registration for children age 0-5th grade - \$30 per child, \$75 max per family. Rooted Childcare should be requested at the time of registration to secure your spot.

What types of groups are available? Can I be in a women only or men only group?

Rooted groups are designed to be co-ed and typically consist of both men and women. We don't offer gender specific Rooted groups at this time. The feedback received from our Rooted pilot groups was that having both men and women in the group was an important part of the experience.

When asked, several participants indicated that although they might have chosen a gender specific group if given the choice, in retrospect, they were glad it wasn't offered. They loved having the different perspectives and that the diversity of the group contributed to both the weekly discussion and the overall Rooted experience.

There are several times throughout Rooted where the women and men meet separately for prayer or for sharing on topics that are better suited to gender specific discussions.

Can I request the people in my group?

One of the aspects people love most about Rooted is the opportunity to meet new people. Because Rooted is so community oriented, we encourage people to be open to developing new relationships. If you have invited a friend to attend Rooted with you that you would like to be in your group, we will do our best to accommodate those requests when possible.

A lot of prayer goes into the creation of each group. We pray and ask God to help form each group, and for the Holy Spirit to lead and guide and place just the right people together. It's been amazing to see some of the ways God has worked in the past, putting people with common experiences or backgrounds together. Please join us in trusting that God would place you in the group you need to be in.

What happens after Rooted?

After Rooted, groups continue to meet as small groups, where their focus is on living a more authentic and missional life as they meet and serve together in their communities.

Our hope and desire is that the majority of our Rooted groups continue on and become small groups. Small groups are ongoing groups that are built around the rhythms of Rooted – God’s Word, deep relationships, prayer, serving, and sharing our stories. Our small groups will intentionally continue to build on the experiences introduced in Rooted. Our small groups will be open groups, so anyone who has completed Rooted can join the small group that best works for them.

What if I've already attended Rooted? Can I participate again?

Absolutely, we'd love to have you go through Rooted again. Many people have experienced Rooted a second time! And, even after that decide that they want to become a Rooted facilitator and take others through the discipleship experience.

Where did Rooted come from?

Rooted is based on a model from a church in Nairobi, Kenya. They were seeing significant life change and growth in their church through Mizizi (Swahil for “roots”). Mariner’s church in Orange County, adapted the Mizizi curriculum to create the Rooted curriculum you will experience.

What are people saying about Rooted?

Here are just a few comments from our previous Rooted session:

What was the best part of Rooted for you personally?

- Awaiting with anticipation for Rooted Night to arrive — just to hear how God moved forward in everyone’s week. Is there a better way to spend 10 weeks...I don’t think so.
- Wow, hard to pinpoint one thing for me. This whole experience was amazing. I guess for me sharing this experience with my husband was the best part, growing and seeing how this transformed my husband and myself. Growing and deepening our relationship with our Lord.
- I felt like certain strongholds were broken resulting in freedom.
- Getting to know these fabulous people! I loved hearing their stories and getting to know their hearts!
- Being led to explore my spiritual gifts.
- Overall total growth, and a deeper understanding of my purpose.

How did Rooted impact or change your relationship with God?

- My reliance on God for His insight, meaning and purpose, and transformation of who I am has grown significantly.
- My prayers are more purposeful again and I look for more opportunities to share Christ’s love with others.
- A renewed focus on my faith and a greater awareness of the work He is doing around us. Also wonderful seeing the impact He is having on real people in our church family.
- Rooted continues to increase my desire to dig into the Word and share the Gospel more and more.

100 percent of survey respondents stated that Rooted was a good investment of their time, energy, and money.

Sounds Great! How do I sign up?

Just follow the link on the Ventura Missionary Church website – Rooted Registration Spring 2022. Spots are limited so please register early to guarantee an opportunity to participate.

We look forward to you joining us for Rooted and pray that no matter where you are in your faith journey, God would take you deeper and do a transforming work in your life through your participation in Rooted.