

Planted — Bible Study Sermon **Summary**

Ps Don McDonell 30 August 2026

Leader Guide for *Planted* Bible Study Sermon

This leader guide is designed to help you facilitate engaging, transformative Bible study sessions based on Ps Don McDonell's sermon *Planted*. It provides discussion prompts, teaching tips, and practical application ideas for each chapter.

1. How to Use This Guide

1. **Prepare:** Read the sermon summary and scripture passages ahead of time.
 2. **Engage:** Use the discussion questions to encourage open, honest conversation.
 3. **Apply:** Challenge your group to live out the truths learned each week.
 4. **Pray:** Begin and end each session with prayer, inviting the Holy Spirit to guide.
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2. Chapter-by-Chapter Leader Notes

Chapter 1 — The Danger of Becoming Uprooted

- **Focus:** Help participants identify vulnerabilities in their faith.
 - **Discussion Tips:** Encourage sharing of personal experiences with spiritual challenges.
 - **Application:** Challenge members to consider where they need deeper roots.
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Chapter 2 — Moisture: The Flow of the Holy Spirit

- **Focus:** Emphasize dependence on the Holy Spirit for spiritual vitality.
 - **Discussion Tips:** Ask about practices that help participants stay spiritually "moist."
 - **Application:** Encourage commitment to regular prayer and Spirit-filled living.
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Chapter 3 — Planted in the House of the Lord

- **Focus:** Discuss the importance of belonging and consistency in faith.
 - **Discussion Tips:** Explore what "being planted" looks like practically.
 - **Application:** Invite members to deepen their commitment to church community.
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Chapter 4 — Planted People Stand, Pray, and Stay Bold

- **Focus:** Highlight spiritual resilience and prayer as key responses to pressure.
 - **Discussion Tips:** Share stories of standing firm in faith during trials.
 - **Application:** Encourage boldness in prayer and action.
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Chapter 5 — Identity: Who You Are in Christ

- **Focus:** Help participants embrace their new identity in Christ.
 - **Discussion Tips:** Discuss how past labels can be overcome.
 - **Application:** Challenge members to live out their God-given identity.
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Chapter 6 — Revelation: Knowing Whose You Are

- **Focus:** Explore how revelation of God's identity leads to self-understanding.
 - **Discussion Tips:** Encourage sharing of recent revelations or insights.
 - **Application:** Foster deeper connection with God through community and prayer.
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Chapter 7 — Dying to Self: The Seed Must Die

- **Focus:** Teach about surrender and transformation through sacrifice.
 - **Discussion Tips:** Invite honest reflection on what needs to die in participants' lives.
 - **Application:** Encourage altar moments and surrender.
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Chapter 8 — Freedom: Purchased to Be Set Free

- **Focus:** Celebrate redemption and freedom in Christ.
 - **Discussion Tips:** Discuss areas where participants feel enslaved.
 - **Application:** Encourage embracing freedom and living in victory.
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Chapter 9 — Breaking Curses & Walking in Victory

- **Focus:** Address spiritual authority and deliverance.
- **Discussion Tips:** Share testimonies of breakthrough and healing.

- **Application:** Challenge members to walk daily in Christ's victory.
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3. Final Tips for Leaders

- Create a safe, welcoming environment.
 - Listen actively and guide discussion without dominating.
 - Use prayer to invite the Holy Spirit's presence.
 - Adapt questions and applications to fit your group's needs.
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Would you like me to add a printable study sheet or sermon outline next?*

A structured breakdown for teaching, reflection, and group discussion.

Chapter 1 — The Danger of Becoming Uprooted

Scripture: *Luke 8:5–8 — The Parable of the Sower*

Summary:

Ps Don opens with the image of a plant uprooted by storms, comparing it to believers who lose stability in their faith when adversity hits.

He emphasises how *small things* can uproot Christians if they are not planted deeply.

Quoted lines:

“So many people get uprooted in their faith and it's only little things. It doesn't take much.”

“Some fell by the wayside and it was trampled down.”

Key Themes:

- Spiritual vulnerability
- Early-stage faith being easily trampled
- Importance of discipleship groups (Blokes, iGroups)

Bible Study Questions:

- What “little things” have the power to uproot your faith?
 - Where in your life do you need deeper planting?
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Chapter 2 — Moisture: The Flow of the Holy Spirit

Scripture: *Luke 8:6 — “It withered because it lacked moisture”*

Supporting Scripture: *Ephesians 5:18 — “Be filled with the Spirit”*

Summary:

Moisture represents the **Holy Spirit’s flow**. Without the Spirit, seeds (believers) cannot germinate, grow, or produce fruit.

Ps Don stresses that Christianity is not “do, do, do” but **be filled**.

Quoted lines:

“I believe the moisture is the flow of the Holy Spirit that flows through your life.”

“Be filled with the Holy Spirit.”

Key Themes:

- Holy Spirit empowerment
- Spiritual energy and joy
- The supernatural life vs. religious duty

Bible Study Questions:

- Where do you feel spiritually dry?
- What practices help you stay filled with the Spirit?

Chapter 3 — Planted in the House of the Lord

Scripture: *Psalms 92:12–14 — “Those who are planted... will flourish”*

Summary:

Being planted means belonging, committing, and staying rooted in God’s house.

Flourishing is not automatic—it is the result of **consistent planting**.

Quoted lines:

“Those who are planted in the house of the Lord will flourish.”

“We’re not going to be barely poking out of the ground.”

Key Themes:

- Belonging to a spiritual family
- Flourishing through consistency
- Growth in old age and longevity of faith

Bible Study Questions:

- What does “planted” look like in your weekly rhythm?
- How has being planted helped you flourish?

Chapter 4 — Planted People Stand, Pray, and Stay Bold

Scripture:

- *Acts 4:29* — “Grant your servants boldness”
- *Philippians 4:6* — “Do not be anxious... pray”

Summary:

Planted believers respond differently to pressure:

- They **stand** when others fall
- They **pray** when others panic
- They seek **boldness**, not escape

Quoted lines:

“Planted people stand when others fall.”

“Planted people pray for boldness, not escape.”

Key Themes:

- Spiritual resilience
- Prayer as first response
- Courage in adversity

Bible Study Questions:

- Where do you need boldness instead of escape?
- How does planting strengthen your prayer life?

Chapter 5 — Identity: Who You Are in Christ

Scripture:

- *Romans 1:1* — “Paul, a bondservant...”
- *2 Corinthians 5:17* — “New creation”

Summary:

Paul begins Romans by declaring his new identity. Ps Don teaches that planting begins with knowing **who you are** in Christ.

Your past labels no longer define you.

Quoted lines:

“What you thought I was, I’m no longer.”
“I’m a brand new creation.”

Key Themes:

- Identity transformation
- Breaking past labels
- Receiving God’s prophetic destiny

Bible Study Questions:

- What labels from your past still try to define you?
 - How does planting reinforce your identity?
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Chapter 6 — Revelation: Knowing Whose You Are

Scripture:

- *Matthew 16:16–18* — “You are the Christ... you are Peter”
- *John 10:27* — “My sheep hear my voice”

Summary:

Revelation comes from being planted in God’s house.
When Peter recognised Jesus, Jesus revealed Peter’s identity.
You discover **whose you are** when you stay in God’s presence.

Quoted lines:

“When you get planted... God reveals to you who He is.”
“He starts to tell you who you are.”

Key Themes:

- Revelation through proximity
- Identity through relationship
- The church as God’s altar

Bible Study Questions:

- What has God revealed to you recently?
 - How does church community help you hear God?
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Chapter 7 — Dying to Self: The Seed Must Die

Scripture:

- *John 12:24* — “*Unless a seed dies...*”
- *Galatians 2:20* — “*I no longer live...*”

Summary:

Planting requires sacrifice.

A seed must die before it can grow.

Ps Don shares personal stories of laying down old habits, addictions, and past life.

Quoted lines:

“This little seed... once it goes into the ground, it literally dies.”

“Unless it comes to the altar... you’ll carry it out with you.”

Key Themes:

- Surrender
- Breaking old patterns
- The altar as a place of transformation

Bible Study Questions:

- What needs to “die” in your life for new growth to begin?
- What altar moments have shaped your faith?

Chapter 8 — Freedom: Purchased to Be Set Free

Scripture:

- *Galatians 5:1* — “*It is for freedom...*”
- *1 Corinthians 6:20* — “*You were bought with a price*”

Summary:

Ps Don shares the powerful story of a slave girl purchased only to be set free.

This illustrates Christ’s redemption—He bought us to free us, not enslave us.

Quoted lines:

“I purchased you today to set you free.”

“Jesus paid the price... you should never be a slave again.”

Key Themes:

- Redemption
- Freedom from sin and curses
- The power of Christ’s blood

Bible Study Questions:

- What areas of your life still feel enslaved?
 - How does Christ's purchase change your identity?
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Chapter 9 — Breaking Curses & Walking in Victory

Scripture:

- *Galatians 3:13* — “*Christ became a curse for us*”
- *James 5:14–16* — *Prayer and healing*

Summary:

The sermon ends with a strong altar call:

Generational curses, addictions, sickness, depression, and spiritual bondage are broken through Christ's victory.

Quoted lines:

“The curse is broken in Jesus' name.”

“Bought with a price... to be set free.”

Key Themes:

- Deliverance
- Healing
- Spiritual authority
- Living in victory

Bible Study Questions:

- What curses or patterns need breaking in your family line?
- How can you walk daily in Christ's victory?