

## **Hello Rooted Friends-**

We are already in week 5. Hard to believe we are half way. I am praying you will stay the course and finish well as we head into the second half of our Rooted journey. Also, make sure you have the Rooted Celebration on your calendars (**add date**). You will not want to miss this special evening together.

*(Give details of your Serve Experience including time and location)*

### **Week 5:**

#### **Bible Memory Verse**

“For He has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of His dear son.” **Colossians 1:13**

#### **There is an Enemy!**

It is easy to begin to believe that the devil is a cartoon character in a red suit with a pitchfork or a black caped villain from one of the Star Wars sagas, but the scripture tells a very different, but very real story. I pray this week will help us all be better equipped for battle.

*(Always draw attention to some part that is meaningful to you.)*

This week includes teachings about “**strongholds**.” This may be new to some of you, but the impact on your lives is not. We all have areas we struggle to get right. Areas we don't like to talk about and that have dogged us, sometimes for years. This may not be a deep dark secret, but it can be something in which the enemy would like you to believe you are all alone. I want to encourage you to do the work on day 5 and come prepared to discuss this battle. *(If this is a co-ed group let them know the men will meet with the men and vice versa)* This will not be easy, but it is crucial.

In the movie, *In the Heart of the Sea*, Herman Melville searches for the story of Moby Dick. Tom Nickerson, a boy on the ship Essex which encountered the great whale, is hiding in the torment of this part of his life and refuses to retell the tale. Melville offers to pay Tom for his story and Tom calls it a “devil's bargain.” Melville responds with these words, “**The devil loves unspoken secrets, especially those that fester in a man's soul.**” When I heard this I was reminded of Week 5, day 5. Don't let the enemy keep you from this week's hard work and this week's healing power.

Here are the names of those of you who **signed up to bring snacks** as well as those who will be **sharing their story** this week.

Please let me know if you have any questions at all. Looking forward to our time together. Lets come prepared to look at our calendars for a serve experience date.