

Got Roots?
The Wedding Day

DEEPER
ROOTS
REALER
FAITH
A BRIGHTER
TOMORROW

# ROOT WORK

## Who Taught You What Strong Looks Like?

Most of us already have a picture in our heads of what 'strong' looks like, and we probably didn't sit down one day and intentionally choose it. We picked it up along the way. This week, take a little time to uncover where your definition of strength has come from — and let Jesus reshape it.

### WHAT I'VE CALLED STRONG

Write the things you've believed strength is supposed to look like.

- Being in control
- Never needing help
- Having the answer
- Keeping everybody else okay
- Getting the win
- Never showing weakness
- Looking like everything is fine when it's not

### WHAT JESUS SHOWS ME ABOUT STRENGTH

Look at Isaiah 52:13–15 and write what you see in Jesus.

- A Servant who knows who He is
- A Servant who accomplishes what the Father sent Him to do
- A Servant whose suffering does not cancel His victory
- A Servant who doesn't need to look powerful by the world's standards to carry the power of God

*Sit with this question:*

**Have I been asking Jesus to make me strong — or have I been asking Him to make me look strong?**

### *Be Real Here*

Don't rush to clean it up. Just tell the truth.
This is Root Work — we're allowed to get a little dirt under our nails.

ISAIAH 52:13–15

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# Get Your Hands Dirty

*Let's Go Find Jesus in the Word*

## As you read, ask:

**1 What is Jesus doing here?**
What is He saying? How is He responding? What is He not doing?

**2 What does this show me about who He is?**
What part of His character is showing up here?

**3 What does this teach me about strength?**
Does His version of strength look anything like the one I've carried around in my own head?

**4 What can I learn from Him here?**
Not ten things. Just one thing.

## Places to Dig



**John 13:1–17 — *Jesus Serves***
He knows exactly who He is, and then He gets down on the floor and washes feet. That right there says a lot.



**Mark 10:42–45 — *Jesus Redefines Greatness***
The world says greatness means being over people. Jesus says greatness looks like serving them.



**Matthew 11:28–30 — *Jesus Is Gentle***
Jesus actually tells us what He is like: gentle and humble in heart. That may not be what we naturally picture when we hear the word strong.



**Luke 22:39–46 — *Jesus Surrenders***
Gethsemane is raw. Jesus does not pretend this is easy, and yet He still chooses the Father's will.

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# Get Your Hands Dirty

*Keep Digging*

## More Places to Dig



**John 11:32–44 —**
*Jesus Feels Deeply*
Jesus weeps, and then Jesus raises Lazarus. Emotion and authority are standing in the same scene.



**Matthew 4:1–11 —**
*Jesus Does Not Need to Prove Himself*
The temptation starts with, "If You are the Son of God…" and Jesus does not take the bait. He already knows who He is.



**John 8:1–11 —**
*Jesus Is Full of Grace and Truth*
He is not bullied by the crowd, He does not ignore sin, and He does not destroy the woman standing in front of Him either.



**Philippians 2:5–11 —**
*Jesus Lays Himself Down*
Jesus had every right to hold onto position and glory, and instead He humbled Himself and took the form of a servant.

## Your Dig

In your notebook, make four simple headings:

### Passage

### What I See in Jesus

### What This Shows Me About Strength

### What I Want to Learn from Him

## What am I seeing in Jesus now that is changing the way I think about strength?

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# STRONG Looks Like Jesus

A THIS-WEEK CHALLENGE



Choose three... or go for all nine!



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## SERVE QUIETLY

Do something helpful for someone without telling anyone.



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## CHOOSE GENTLENESS

In one conversation, intentionally soften your response.



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## NOTICE SOMEONE

Pay attention to someone who may normally get overlooked.



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## DON'T PROVE IT

Let one thing go without explaining, defending, or making sure you're understood.



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## OBEY THE NUDGE

Do the thing you already know the Lord has been prompting you to do.



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## GIVE WITHOUT CREDIT

Give something—time, encouragement, help, or generosity—with no need for recognition.



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## MAKE ROOM

Stop long enough to really listen to someone instead of rushing past them.



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## SPEAK TRUTH WITH GRACE

Say what needs to be said, but say it like Jesus would.



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## KNEEL BEFORE YOU PUSH

Before trying harder to fix something, pray about it first.

## WHAT DID I NOTICE?

1. Which one was easiest for me?

2. Which one stretched me the most?

3. What did Jesus teach me about strength this week?

*Strong doesn't always look louder.* SOMETIMES STRONG LOOKS LIKE JESUS.