

BIBLE OWNERSHIP REMAINS STRONG, BUT READERSHIP REMAINS WEAK.



88%

of households own
a Bible.



4.7

Average number of Bibles
per household



37%

of Americans read
it once a week or more.

LifeWay Research surveyed more than 2,900 Protestant churchgoers and found that while 90% desire to please and honor Jesus in all they do, only 19% personally read the Bible every day.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word
was with God, and **the Word was God.**

John 1:1 (NIV)

...Through these He has given us His **very great** and **precious promises**, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

2 Peter 1:4 (NIV)

Jesus replied, "You are in error because you do not know the **Scriptures** or the **power** of God."

Matthew 22:29 (NIV)

Your **WORD** is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

Psalms 119:105 (NIV)

The **Word of God** is the one tangible and physical gift that has been given to us so that we can **know the Lord, His Kingdom and His power.**



SIX STEPS TO
EXPERIENCING
GOD'S WORD



³³Teach me, Lord, the way of your decrees,
that I may follow it to the end. ³⁴Give me
understanding, so that I may keep your law
and obey it with all my heart. ³⁵Direct me in the
path of your commands, for there I find
delight. ³⁶Turn my heart toward your statutes
and not toward selfish gain.

Psalms 119:33-40 (NIV)

³⁷ Turn my eyes away from worthless things;
preserve my life according to your word.

³⁸ Fulfill your promise to your servant, so that
you may be feared. ³⁹ Take away the disgrace I
dread, for your laws are good. ⁴⁰ How I long for
your precepts! In your righteousness preserve
my life.

Psalms 119:33-40 (NIV)

6 Steps to Experiencing the Word Revolves Around Two Core Attitudes:

1. Show Up To Be Taught
2. Open Up To Be Changed

6 Steps to Experiencing The Word

Step 1: Become Like a Child



Step 1: “Become Like A Child”

*Teach me, O LORD, to follow your decrees;
then I will keep them to the end.*

Psalm 119:33 (NIV)

Step 1: “Become Like A Child”

“Teach” – implies a student starting school to learn; to flow as water, to lay or throw; to point out, to cast, direct, inform, instruct.

Step 1: “Become Like A Child”

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" He called a little child and had him stand among them. And he said: "I tell you the truth, **unless you change and become like little children**, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, **whoever humbles himself like this child** is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 18:1-4 (NIV)

Step 1: “Become Like A Child”

Becoming a child is the beginning of experiencing the **WONDERS** and **POWER** of **God’s Love Letter** to us!

A Child Lives With Deep Daily Dependence

*Teach me, O LORD, to follow your decrees;
then I will keep them to the end.*

Psalm 119:33 (NIV)

A Child Lives With Deep Daily Dependence

My soul is **consumed with longing** for your
laws **at all times.**

Psalm 119:20 (NIV)

A Child Lives With Deep Daily Dependence

Daily dependence is a moment by moment reality.

A Child Is Open To God's Version of Reality Versus The Present Reality

***Teach me, O LORD, to follow your decrees;
then I will keep them to the end.***

Psalm 119:33 (NIV)

A Child Is Open To God's Version of Reality Versus The Present Reality

Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.

Psalm 119:18 (NIV)

A Child Is Open To God's Version of Reality Versus The Present Reality

If you DOUBT the Word or ARGUE with the Word, then you won't be *blessed* by the Word.

FAKE SUCCESS

Personal Gain Without
Heavenly Validation

FAKE SEXUAL FULFILLMENT

Sexual Expression
Without a God Honoring
Relationship

CHASING FANTASY

PROVERBS 12:11

FAKE RELATIONSHIPS

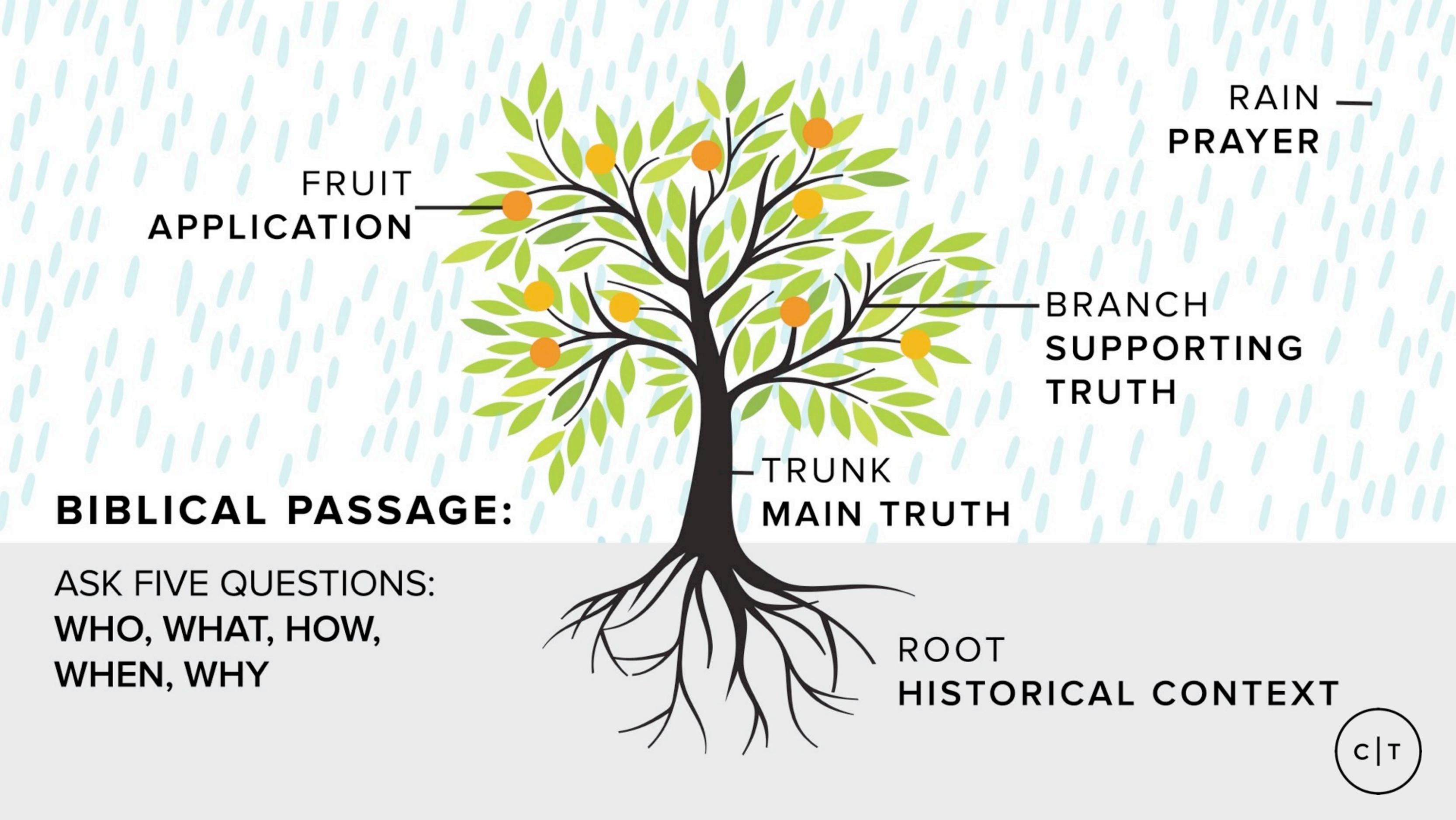
Popularity Without
Real Connection

FAKE PROGRESS

Superficial Knowledge
Without Application

Those who work their land will have abundant food, but those who chase fantasies have no sense.

Proverbs 12:11 (NIV)



RAIN —
PRAYER

FRUIT
APPLICATION

BRANCH
SUPPORTING
TRUTH

TRUNK
MAIN TRUTH

BIBLICAL PASSAGE:

ASK FIVE QUESTIONS:
WHO, WHAT, HOW,
WHEN, WHY

ROOT
HISTORICAL CONTEXT





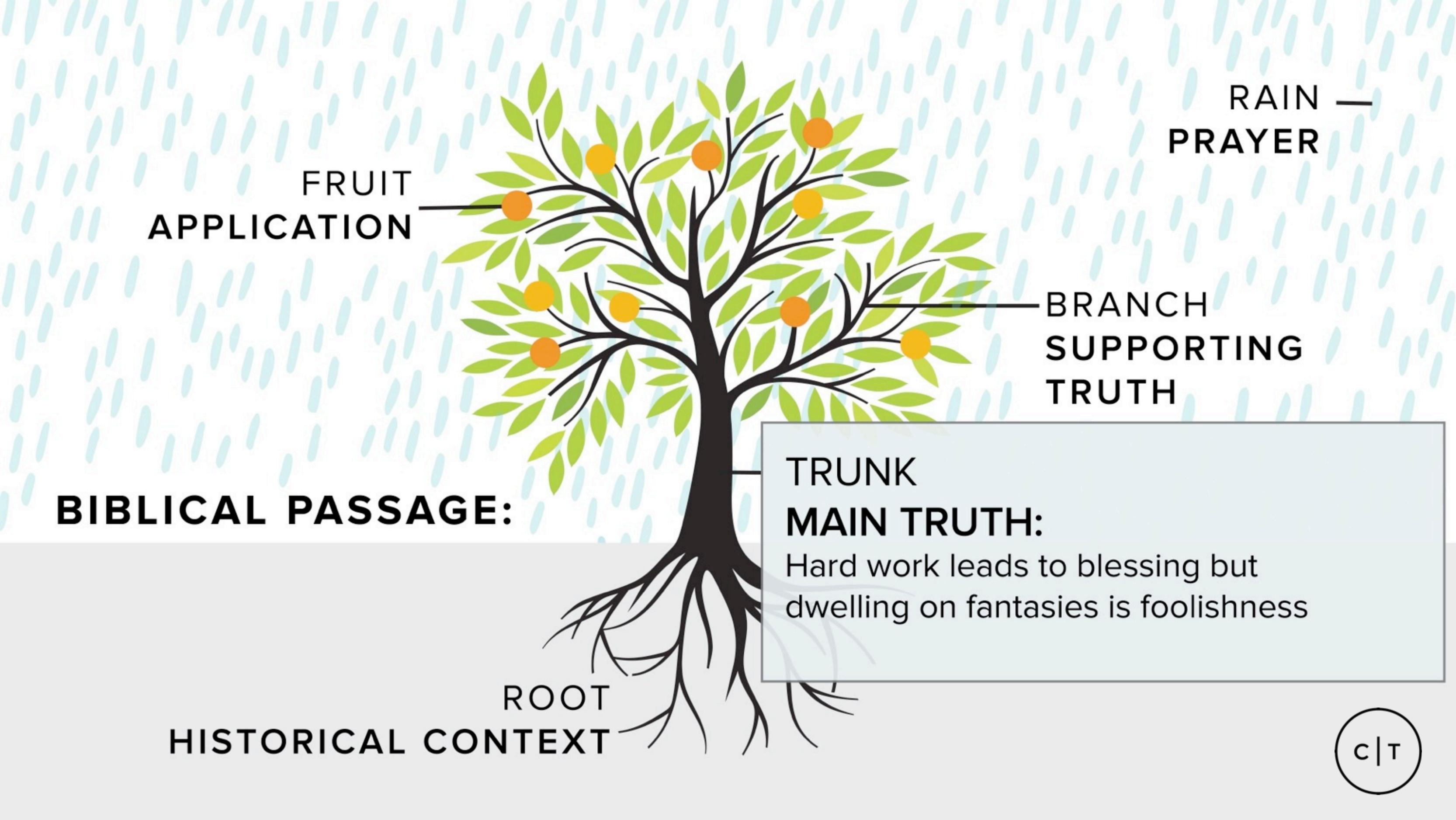
BIBLICAL PASSAGE:

ROOT

HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

Small Pieces of Advice written by King Solomon, which can have a huge impact on your life if you apply it





RAIN —
PRAYER

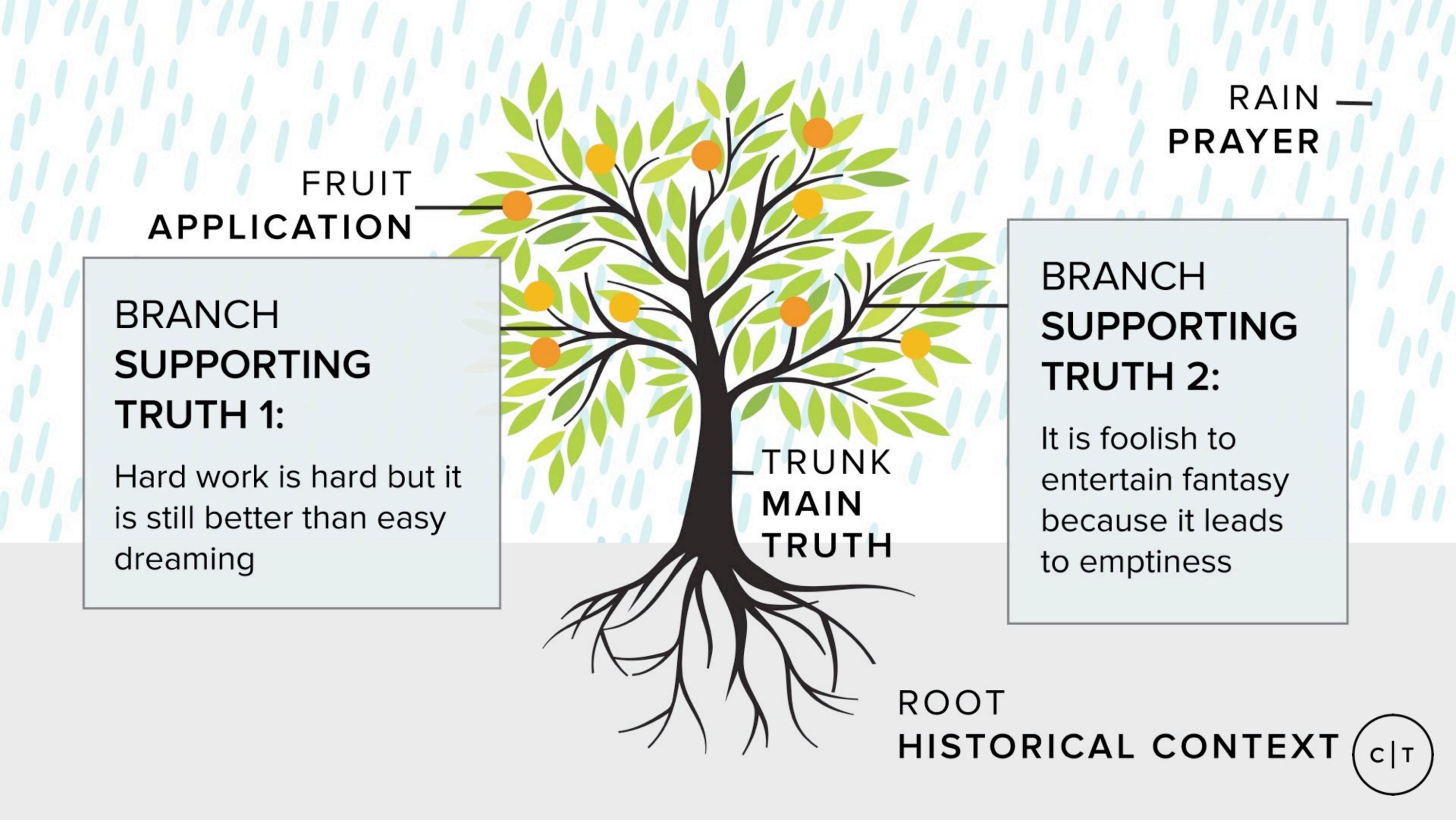
FRUIT
APPLICATION

BRANCH
SUPPORTING
TRUTH

BIBLICAL PASSAGE:

TRUNK
MAIN TRUTH:
Hard work leads to blessing but
dwelling on fantasies is foolishness

ROOT
HISTORICAL CONTEXT



RAIN —
PRAYER

FRUIT
APPLICATION

**BRANCH
SUPPORTING
TRUTH 1:**

Hard work is hard but it
is still better than easy
dreaming

**BRANCH
SUPPORTING
TRUTH 2:**

It is foolish to
entertain fantasy
because it leads
to emptiness

TRUNK
MAIN
TRUTH

ROOT
HISTORICAL CONTEXT

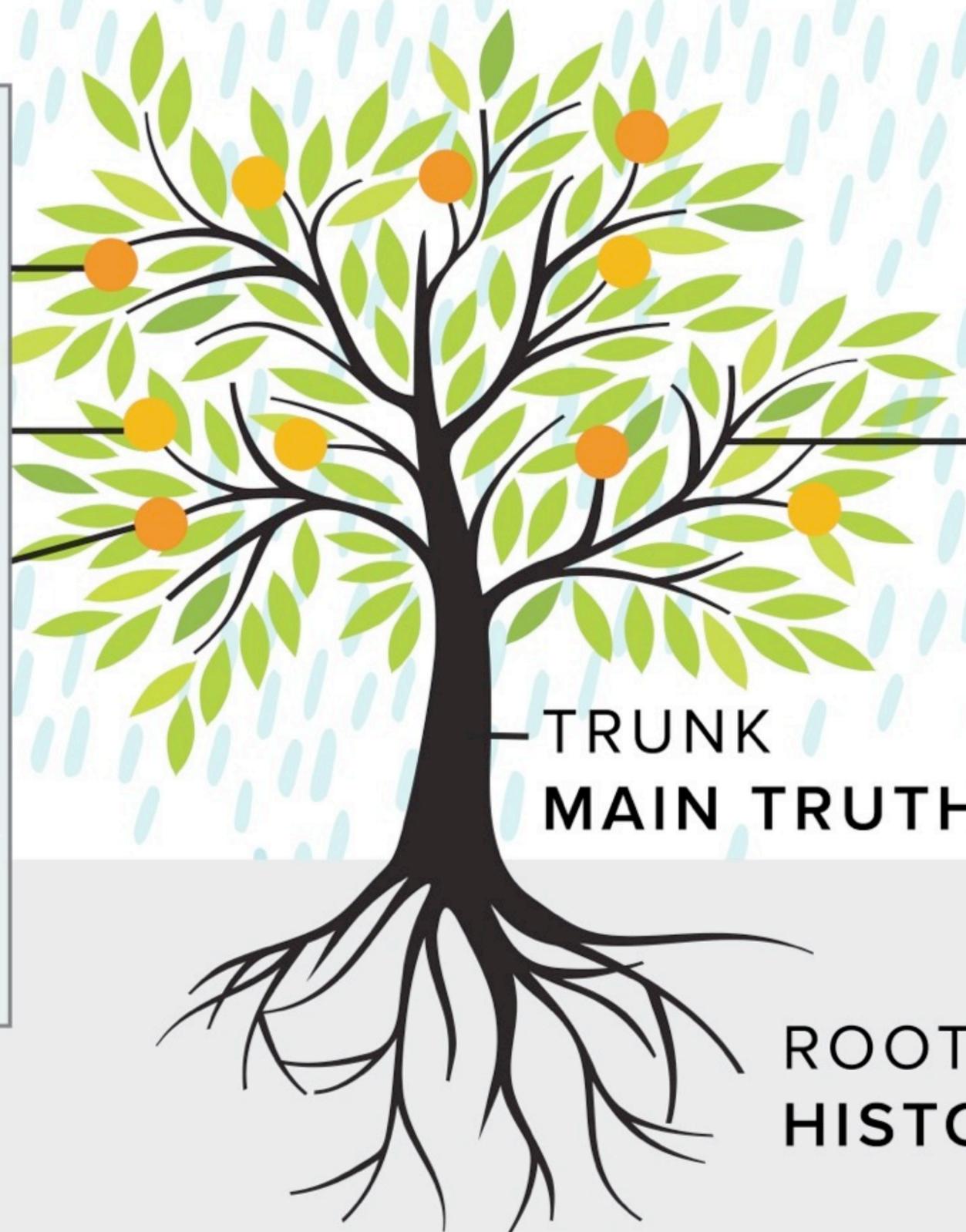


**FRUIT
APPLICATION:**

Lord, help me to see
the value and blessing
of work

Please give me grace
to work hard

God, help me to
identify fantasy



**RAIN —
PRAYER**

**BRANCH
SUPPORTING
TRUTH**

**TRUNK
MAIN TRUTH**

**ROOT
HISTORICAL CONTEXT**

A Child Is Open To God's Version of Reality Versus The Present Reality

If you ask the Bible questions, God will speak to You.

You have to interact with the Word to experience the Word.