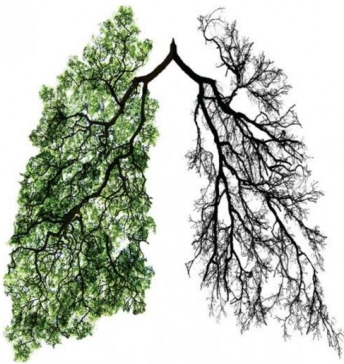


Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Genesis 2:9



Have you ever noticed the connection between Trees and our lungs?

The bronchial tubes in our lungs have the shape of a tree. And what is more, both trees and lungs serve a similar function, they complement each other and need each other.

We breathe in Oxygen, we breath out Carbon Dioxide.

Trees “breathe” in Carbon Dioxide, and trees “breathe” out Oxygen.

For trees, this is a fascinating process called “photosynthesis” that allows this to happen in trees. Light absorbed by the leaves, water absorbed by the roots, and carbon dioxide mix and provide food for the trees. As a by-product of this tree feeding process, oxygen is created.

For people, this is a fascinating process called “cell regeneration”. We eat foods, and the glucose in the food combines with the oxygen in our blood, and as it becomes energy for our body, carbon dioxide is released and we breathe it out.

And the cycle continues so seamlessly we are unaware of it except for moments like this, when we are studying the process.

Think about this process as you look at a tree and realize you are in a symbiotic relationship with that tree.

Consider how God placed the breath of life into the first human, and how God continues to put the breath of life into all creation today.



Trees dot our landscapes. Some are grouped together and are called Forests and Woodlands. Some line rivers and property lines. Others yet form wind-breaks. All trees are beautiful and provide home to countless creatures, serve as playgrounds for children, and sometimes even a cozy spot to hang a hammock.

Count the trees on your property. How many do you count?

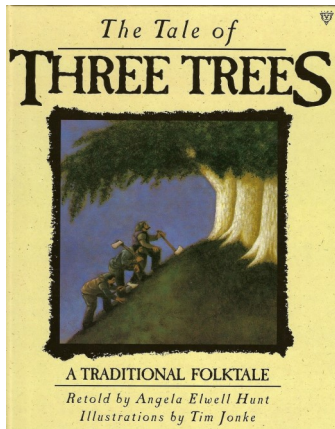
Which trees did you plant? _____

Which trees were there when you acquired your home?

What tree has the most meaning for you?

What tree annoys you the most, the one you wish you could just get rid of?

As fall is winding down, most leaves are fallen, yet colors still remain. What is the predominant color of your fall trees?



There is a story about trees that perhaps you have heard, or maybe you even read this to your children.

This is typically an eastern story, but it is a parable that applies to all times.

Three trees stand on a mountaintop and each express their dreams to one another.

One tree wishes to become a treasure chest. The next wishes to become a mighty ship. The third wishes to remain on top of the mountain, in all its grandeur and point people to the mighty God.

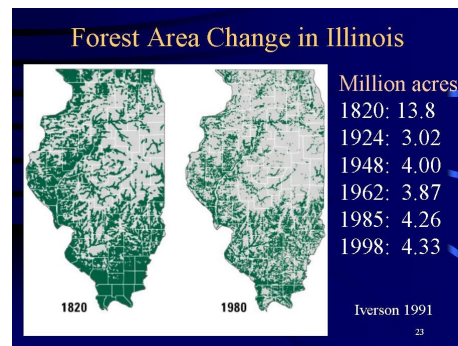
Many years go by, and the three trees are each cut down. The first two are hopeful they might become what they wished, while the third is saddened.

The first ends up as a mere feeding trough for animals. It isn't until a child is placed within that this tree realizes he holds the greatest treasure of all—the Christ child.

The second ends up as a ship, but not a mighty ocean liner, rather just a boat for a lake. It isn't until a group of travelers are caught up in a storm and one stands up from his sleep to calm the raging waves and battering winds, that this tree realizes he is carrying the mightiest of all.

The third feels very discarded, as he is formed into the shape of a cross, and the tree feels the pain of the nails piercing the man as those nails pierce its own wood. It is not until three days later that the tree realized it held the very Savior of the world, and all people will see it and find the love of God.

The tale of the three trees reminds us about what it means to dream, what it means to be called by God for a task greater than ourselves, and that sometimes we see only the brief moment, but God always sees a much larger picture. This was but a summary, and you might just desire to find your copy and read it again with your children and grandchildren.



<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/global-warming/deforestation/#close>

Check out the link above to learn more about deforestation. This article shares some alarming statistics about the rate in which we consume forestlands:

Forests still cover about 30% of the world's land area. Between 1990 and 2016, about 502,000 square miles of forest was destroyed. About 17 percent of the Amazonian rainforest has been destroyed over the last 50 years.

Deforestation is a combined process between humanity and natural disaster. And the reasons for human overconsumption of forests is complex.

At stake is habitat for animals and people, the balance of forests ability to clean carbon dioxide, and the loss of a natural resource.

Remember Genesis 2:9? It says God planted every tree. How else does Genesis 2:9 describe trees?

We have a symbiotic relationship with trees. We need wood for many purposes, we need trees to cleanse the air and provide clean oxygen. How do we, as people of faith, advocate for a restored balance that enables us to use trees as the resource they are, while slowing the rate of deforestation?
