

# From Fruit to Root

## PART 1

*“When I am seeking to discern unbelief in the gospel, I reverse the order of those questions: 1) What am I doing or experiencing right now? 2) In light of what I am doing or experiencing, what do I believe about myself? 3) What do I believe God is doing or has done? and 4) What do I believe God is like? In other words, I trace the fruit back to the root. If the fruit is not like Jesus, that is an indicator that our faith is not in Jesus.”*

Look back at the first three weeks of this Handbook: considering as many areas of unbelief (Week 1), lesser stories (Week 2) and lies, accusations, and temptations (Week 3) you’ve identified so far. Practice the “fruit to root” process by walking through as many of those areas as possible using the following questions. Be honest: and it’s okay if you can’t fully answer every question, for every area of unbelief you try; you’ll have an opportunity to ask your close community for help.



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<b>Area of Unbelief or Struggle</b> <i>Write area here</i> →			
<b>What am I doing or experiencing right now?</b>			
<b>In light of what I am doing or experiencing, what do I believe about myself?</b>			
<b>What do I believe God is doing or has done?</b>			
<b>What do I believe God is like?</b>			

# From Root to Fruit

## PART 2

Deconstructing specific areas of unbelief is only half the process. For this exercise, we reconstruct a right belief of God as it relates to those specific areas of unbelief.

Paul said that as we repent and believe the gospel—as we turn to, look at, and believe in Jesus—we are transformed, increasingly becoming more and more like Jesus:

*“And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit” (2 Cor. 3:18).*

Pick a few of the areas of unbelief you deconstructed in Reflection #2. Then spend the rest of today’s reflection answering the following questions as they relate to each specific area of unbelief.



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<b>Area of Unbelief or Struggle</b> <i>Write area here</i> →			
<b>Who is God?</b> List as many things as you can about God's identity that specifically relate to this area of struggle/disbelief. (Ex. "God is love" or "just" or "our Father")			
<b>What has God done?</b> How has God proven each answer to the previous question in his work in the world and especially through the person and work of Jesus?			
<b>Who am I in light of God's work?</b> List as many true statements about who you are that you can think of.			
<b>How should I live in light of who I am?</b> What beliefs are you experiencing in light of the first three questions? How do you see them changing you?			