**Psalm 1**

**Introduction:**

Two images: v3 ‘*a tree planted by streams of water’*

v4 ‘*chaff that the wind drives away’*

1. **Living like a tree v. living like chaff (v3-4)**

*Tree*

* Blessed
* Planted by streams of water
* Fruit in its season
* Leaf does not wither
* He prospers

Chaff

* Not living / not useful
1. **The daily choices of the blessed (v1-2)**

v1

To walk in the counsel of the wicked

Don’t **think** like the world

To stand in the way of sinners

Don’t **behave** like the world

To sit in the seat of scoffers

Don’t find your identity from the world

v2

delight in God’s word

meditate on God’s word

…and worldly thinking / behaving / identity is displaced

1. **Consequences for trees and chaff (v5-6)**

**Questions**

**Opening question before the talk:** What are some of the voices around us – in contrast to God’s word - that have an influence over how we think and/or how we behave and/or where we get a sense of belonging?

Try and list lots….. Eg (parents / education / newspapers / etc etc)

**After the talk:**

1. How do the images of a tree and chaff help us to understand what is at stake?
2. **From the first point (v3-4):**

Share some of the things that surprised you

What realistically are the ‘streams of water’ for us?

1. **From the second point (v1-2):**

What might it look like to delight in God’s word? Share some ideas.

What might it look like to meditate on God’s word? Share some ideas.

If God’s word displaces worldly thinking / behaviour / identity – what should we expect to happen to us?

1. **From the last point (v5-6):**

How do the consequences of these verses provide even more motivation to live the blessed life?