



## Olive Tree

### Key Facts about the Olive Tree

- Origin – 6,000 years ago in Persia and Mesopotamia
- Known by the botanical name *Olea europaea*, meaning “European olive.”
- Olive trees are very hardy and resistant to drought, disease and fire.
- Considered sacred and a sign for:
  - “ peace      “ wisdom      “ glory
  - “ fertility      “ power      “ purity
- A full-sized tree can produce a half ton of oil a year and continue until the tree reaches an incredibly old age.
- 90% of all harvested olives are turned into oil, while about 10% are used as table olives.

### Interesting facts that relate to Discipleship:

- Naturally a very bitter fruit and needs to be fermented from a few days to months
- Seldom bears fruit two years in a row but rather it has a large harvest every 6 to 7 years
- Preferred way to propagate is to take new sprouts and graft them onto a cultivated tree
- Doesn't grow well in rich soil but does best in calloused ground, limestone, rock, etc.

### The olive tree in the Holy Bible:

- It speaks of the blessing of the Lord, from the olive leaf that marked the end of the Flood - Genesis 8:11 - to the two “olive trees,” witnesses who prepare for Christ's Second Coming - Zechariah 4:3, 4:11-14, Revelation 11:4
- Trees are typically planted in orchards or groves enclosed by a hedge or stone wall and called “oliveyards” in the King James Version – Joshua 24:13, I Samuel 8:14, II Kings 5:26, Nehemiah 5:11, 9:25
- Kings and Priests were anointed with the oil – I Samuel 10:1, Psalm 45:7, Leviticus 8:10, 30
- Christians are instructed to anoint the sick with olive oil when praying for their recovery – James 5:14

### Facts about the Garden of Gethsemane in Jerusalem:

- “Gethsemane” – probably an Aramaic word meaning “oil press.”
- Most fitting, in keeping with the symbolism of the tree, is that Christ, the Savior and Prince of Peace, should suffer in the Garden of Gethsemane (“olive press”) – Matthew 26:38, Luke 22:39-46; that He should ascend from the Mount of Olives – Acts 1:9-11; and that He will return to the same Mount at His Second Coming – Zechariah 14:4.

