

A ROCHA



What's the point in committing to one place or thing?

A Rocha has created this discussion guide as a companion to our short film, 'Take Root'. We hope you enjoy digging a bit deeper into the theme. For regular news and inspiring stories about our long term work in special places, please [sign up to Field Notes](#), our monthly email.

Marcial Felgueiras says in the film that roots are needed to 'grow, flourish, and give shelter to others.'

1. What experience do you have of putting down roots in a place?
2. What do you think Marcial is thinking of when he talks about giving shelter?

Sara Kaweesa talks about the need to embody what she was teaching: 'If you go to a church or community and tell them to care for creation, they say "What does that look like?"'

3. What other reasons might there be for choosing to stay somewhere long term?
4. What are the challenges that come from commitment to a place?

There are many stories in the Bible of God calling people to follow him away from their homes and stability – the lives of Abraham, Moses and even Jesus were nomadic for example. But there are also times God says, 'Stay. Invest. Put down deep roots.' This is what the prophet Jeremiah said to the exiles in Babylon:

"Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper." (29: 5–7)

5. What does this say to us, today, with all the opportunities and options open to us?
6. How can we be a blessing to the place we live? In what ways can we 'seek the peace and prosperity' of our home patch?