



THE MAIN THING

• KEEPING JESUS AT THE CENTER •

The Main Thing

John 15:1-11

Have you ever heard the phrase, “Keep the main thing the main thing.”? This is an important thing to keep in mind with so many things in life. The challenging part with living this phrase out, is that we easily allow distractions to pull us away from the main thing. We do this in our own personal lives, but also in the church. When we don’t keep the main thing the main thing in the church, we allow outside voices and lower level issues divide us. Jesus must be the main thing, in each of our lives, but also in our church.

As our church begins a new season and transition, it’s important for us to be reminded of what this is really all about. Jesus set up the church for us and it’s ultimately about Him. When He’s the main thing, everything else falls into place. For the first few weeks we are going to look at John 15, and what this can look like in our own lives. Then, we will look at some writings in the early church, and what it can look like for us as a church community to “keep the main thing the main thing.”

- As you reflect on the message, what stood out to you? What is something you are still thinking about?
- What is something from the message that challenged you? How are you wrestling with that challenge?
- What question(s) do you have from the message?
- What is at least one practical takeaway from the message?

Main Passage:

John 15:1-11

1 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. **2** He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. **3** You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. **4** Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. **6** If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. **7** If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. **8** This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

9 “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. **10** If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. **11** I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

Questions for Group:

- Who is someone you love being around? Why do you enjoy being around them?
- Why does Jesus use this analogy of a true vine, branches, and a Gardner?
- What does it look like when followers of Jesus experience pruning?
- A branch disconnected from its vine is totally unable to bear fruit. However, we see a lot of people who reject God doing things that seem good. How is the fruit Jesus describes different from just being positive actions?
- What does it mean to abide in Jesus? What does that look like practically speaking?

- Read Galatians 5:22-23. What do you notice about the nature of the fruit described here? What would it be like to live in a community of people displaying these fruits?
- What fruit have you “grown” as a result of your relationship with Christ?
- What are some things that you can struggle to abide in instead of Christ?
- What do verses 7-8 mean? Do those verses mean that God will just grant whatever his followers wish? What should genuine followers wish for?
- In verses 9–10, how are love and obedience connected? How is this different from trying to earn God's love?
- What are some areas that you are releasing to Jesus?
- What are some areas where you are seeking to abide with Jesus?