

## Session 8 | Fruit

### Primary Passages: John 15:1-17, Colossians

#### Big Idea

When we truly turn away from our sin and trust in the good news of Jesus, our lives will look different. When our hearts are changed by belief in Jesus, our lives will be marked by fruit that expresses gospel-transformation in every day things. Following Jesus then becomes willful and joyful, not obligatory drudgery.

#### Definitions

- Fruit is the spiritual evidence of a heart that's been changed by the gospel.
- Obedience is following what God has said in His Word.

#### Reflections

Obedience, a cultural faux pas

#### Bearing fruit in the vine

John 15:1-17

#### Gospel-driven obedience

Philippians 2:12-13

Colossians 3

### Discussion Questions

- When you hear the word “obedience,” what initially comes to mind?
- Why do you think it’s hard to talk about obedience? What makes the topic seem touchy?

### Quote

Passionate exhortation to pursue gospel-driven holiness is barely heard in most of our churches. It’s not that we don’t talk about sin or encourage decent behavior. Too many sermons are basically self-help seminars on becoming a better you. That’s moralism, and it’s not helpful. Any gospel which says only what you must do and never announces what Christ has done is no gospel at all. So I’m not talking about getting beat up every Sunday for watching SportsCenter and driving an SUV. I’m talking about the failure of Christians, especially younger generations and especially those most disdainful of “religion” and “legalism,” to take seriously one of the great aims of our redemption and one of the required evidences for eternal life — our holiness.

(Kevin DeYoung, *The Hole in Our Holiness*, loc.116)

## Session 9 | Putting It All Together

### Primary Passages: Jeremiah 17:5-10

#### Big Idea

The Big Idea is a model for understanding how the effects of sin in this world draw out the sin that lurks in our hearts. The Heat we experience in life doesn't create sin, it simply brings to light what is already there. But the good news of the gospel is that God gives us His Christ, Himself in order to create a community committed to change.

#### Definitions

- Commitment is the willful decision toward faithfulness regardless of situation

#### Reflections

##### The Big Picture

Heat

Thorns

Cross

Fruit

My heart, the problem

The rate of change

In a sinful person

In a group of sinners

## Commitments to Change

Commitment 1: We will make growth and change our daily agenda.<sup>1</sup>

Commitment 2: We will live our lives in the context of biblical community.

Commitment 3: We will encourage and ask for ways in which we can grow from those we're in community with.

Commitment 4: We will create in our relationships a regular rhythm of repentance and faith.

Commitment 5: We will commit to addressing the sin in our own hearts.

Commitment 6: We will commit to walking with other people through their struggles with sin.

## Discussion Questions

- Which of the four aspects of The Big Picture (Heat, Thorns, Cross, Fruit) is the most encouraging for you?
- What are the areas of Heat you find yourself in on a recurring basis?
- What are some of the patterns of sin (Thorns) that you commit when the Heat gets turned up?
- How has the Holy Spirit, through reading the Bible or through others, pointed you to the grace offered in the gospel, as it pertains to those Thorns?
- What makes utilizing The Big Picture in everyday life challenging?
- What do you think is lacking from this model of growth and change?
- What would it look like to build rhythms for these Commitments in relationships with a few individuals, in your marriage, or in your Gospel Community?
- Which Commitment will be the hardest for you to do?

## Quote

That's The Big Picture — Heat, Thorns, Cross, Fruit. It is an honest, insightful, and humbling view of human beings and why we do the things we do. It is a hope-filled look at the way God enters our world to change our hearts and empower us to do what is right. And it is an encouraging picture of good fruit that results when we respond in faith to God.

(Paul Tripp and Timothy Lane, *How People Change*, p.90)

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<sup>1</sup> Paul Tripp, *What Did You Expect?*, 14.