



## **Investing Wisely**

Sermon 1 – Relationship with God

Pastor Kevin

**January 8, 2023**

### **MAIN SCRIPTURE: John 15:1-8 (NLT)**

**15** "I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup>He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. <sup>3</sup>You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. <sup>4</sup>Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. <sup>5</sup>"Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. <sup>7</sup>But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! <sup>8</sup>When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.

### **Opening Discussion**

- What thoughts, feelings, or impressions do you have about the sermon this week?
- At the beginning of the sermon, Pastor Kevin talked about how much more focused he seems to feel after chatting with his financial advisor. Who are the people in your life who help adjust your focus on important things? What is it about conversations with these people that helps adjust your mindset and intentionality?

**(Below you will find the main points of this week's sermon along with discussion questions. Feel free to use, reword, or omit**

**questions depending on the needs of your group and the time needed for prayer, care, and fellowship. Thank you for your leadership.)**

### **Thought #1 – What is our long-term goal?**

#### **What is the return on our investment?**

Verses: John 15:1-8, 14-16a. Galatians 5:22-23

- Often God is working in ways that we do not see. Looking back is required in order to see some not-so-obvious returns on our spiritual investment. With this in mind, discuss the following:
  - What fruit has God blessed you with in regard to your prayer life during the past year? In other words, how has God answered prayer?
  - What fruit has God blessed you with in regard to leading others to Christ? In other words, how have you seen God work through you in helping others come to know Him more?
  - What fruit has God blessed you with regarding your spiritual development? In other words, how have you experienced yourself growing in love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control?

### **Thought #2 – Let's be honest about where we are now!**

Verses: John 15:1-8

- Pastor Kevin encouraged the congregation to commit to letting God do a new work in us. He admitted that "This is the hard part of the message."
  - As God continues the pruning process in your life, are there areas of your life, schedule, habits, etc. that you already know need to be pruned or cut off?? Where would you begin? Why do you say these things need to be pruned?
  - We all have areas we are aware of that need to be pruned, but there may also be areas we are unaware of. As you consider committing yourself to God's further pruning, how do you feel about surrendering in this way? In other words, what makes this type of commitment so difficult?

### **Thought #3 – Let's live with intentionality!**

Verses: John 15:1-8

