

## SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia @10:10 Message...

### No Greater Love

With Ryan Dawson, Lead Pastor

November 17, 2019

Greater Impact - Commitment Sunday



John 15:1-16 (NLT) “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. <sup>9</sup> “I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. <sup>10</sup> When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father's commandments and remain in his love. <sup>11</sup> I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow! <sup>12</sup> This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command. <sup>15</sup> I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn't confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me. <sup>16</sup> You didn't choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name.”

John 15:4-8 (The Message) “Live in me. Make your home in me just as I do in you. In the same way that a branch can't bear grapes by itself but only by being joined to the vine, you can't bear fruit unless you are joined with me. <sup>5-8</sup> “I am the Vine, you are the branches. When you're joined with me and I with you, the relation intimate and organic, the harvest is sure to be abundant. Separated, you can't produce a thing. Anyone who separates from me is deadwood, gathered up and thrown on the bonfire. But if you make yourselves at home with me and my words are at home in you, you can be sure that whatever you ask will be listened to and acted upon. This is how my Father shows who he is—when you produce grapes, when you mature as my disciples.”

### When we remain in Christ...

- **We bear much fruit.**

v. 5

v. 8

v. 16

- **We pray bold prayers.**

v. 7

v. 16

*“Our prayerfulness will be our declaration of dependence!”*

- **We walk in obedience.**

v. 3

v. 9

- **We overflow with joy.**

v. 11

Psalm 16:11 “You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.” (NASB)

- **We love like Jesus.**

v. 9

**Big Idea: Remain in Christ to experience the flourishing life He promised.**

- **Begin a relationship with Jesus today.**

- **Make a commitment to pursue your relationship with Jesus.**

- **As an act of love for God and others give with joy.**

*The Translation of the Bible Scriptures used in today's 10:10 service are from the New Living Translation (NLT), The Message (MSG), and the New American Standard Bible (NASB).*



**Sequoia Impact Communities are where we  
live out our identity as a  
Family of Servants on Mission.**

To get plugged in email:

**impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org**

**No Greater Love**

**#4 of 5 — November 17, 2019**

1) Take some time to discuss how your IC has been and will live out the Kingdom of Jesus together.

- In what ways have we been living like family recently? How will we live out our family identity in the coming week?
- How have we lived as servants to one another or to our world this past week? What needs or opportunities to serve is God asking us to lean into?
- How have we lived on mission where we live, work, play, or went this past week? Who do we know that needs to hear the good news of Jesus?

2) How did the message resonate with you? What questions or comments did it raise for you?

3) Read John 15:1-16. Underline or circle the word “remain”. How many times does Jesus use this word & why? What is Jesus trying to communicate to his disciples? What are the implications for us as His followers and as a church?

4) Read John 15:4-8 in The Message translation. What challenges or encourages you from this passage?

5) What kind of “fruit” is Jesus referring to in this passage? Read Galatians 5:16-23 and Matthew 28:18-20. How is this fruit produced in our lives?

6) What steps can you take to grow in the area of prayerfulness?

7) Take time to ask the Holy Spirit to reveal what obedience to Jesus means for you today? Respond in faith and obedience to what the Lord tells you.

8) Read and reflect on Psalm 16:11. How does this passage challenge you? In what way is this a reality in your life and in what way do you need to see this more?

9) Reflect on John 15:9. What does it look like to love like Jesus? How can we live this out in greater ways as we journey with Jesus? How does the Gospel message empower us to do this?

10) What action step is God calling you to take today?

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