



## Week 2: Remain

### Ephesians 5:8-11

<sup>8</sup>For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light <sup>9</sup>(for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) <sup>10</sup>and find out what pleases the Lord.

<sup>11</sup>Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.

Next-level connection with God, others, and our purpose is **CULTIVATED**, not **TRANSPLANTED**.

Next-level connection with God, others, and our purpose is cultivated as we remain **IN CHRIST**.

### John 15:4-8

<sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>"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. <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

### John 15:9-10

<sup>9</sup>As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. <sup>10</sup>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.

### How will you cultivate next-level connection?

### How to receive the rescue of Jesus:

- 1) Admit you, like everyone else, have been in darkness and need the LIGHT of Jesus.
- 2) Ask God to forgive your sins by the sacrifice of Jesus.
- 3) Receive new LIFE from God by trusting in Jesus as your Savior & Lord.

### You can do that now by simply talking to God in a prayer like this:

Jesus, I have been lost in deep darkness and need you to rescue me. I have done things I need your forgiveness of; I have lived in separation from you and need you to reconcile us. You died and rose from the dead, so I know you can do this in my life. I receive you as my rescuing savior and put my faith in you as my Lord. Help me to live for you in the light from this day forward. In your name, amen.

If you chose to follow Jesus today, text "LIGHT" to 309-250-2007 to receive additional information about next steps in following Jesus.

### For Further Reflection:

Are you a "green thumb" or a "brown thumb" when it comes to houseplants and gardening? Who's the best example of both "green" and "brown" thumb you know?

Read Ephesians 5:8-11--What resonates with or challenges you?

:: What is significant about the directive to "find out what pleases the Lord" in this passage? How do you think we can do that?

:: What do you think is significant about fruit & fruitlessness in this passage?

Read John 15:4-10--What sticks out to you? What is challenging and/or hopeful for you?

:: What elements of connecting with God, others, and purpose do you see in this passage?

:: Why do you think Jesus highlights the connection between our obedience ("keep my commands") and our fruitful remaining in him?

Pastor Jeremiah highlighted the difference between cultivating our own faith and transplanting someone else's.

:: How are you processing that?

:: What are evidences we are cultivating a growing connection with God/others/purpose?

:: What are indicators we may need to be more intentional in "remaining" in Christ and cultivating this connection?

What is one way you're seeking to cultivate next-level connection this week?

Find someone to pray for you and check in on you as you do this.

Unless otherwise noted, today's Scripture is from the New International Version [NIV].

Pastor Jeremiah X. Gómez (@jxgomez) – October 10, 2021

Watch this message and other recent messages online at [heritageqc.com/watch](https://heritageqc.com/watch)

**October is Appreciation Month** – Take a minute to pray for one of these Heritage ministry team members. Consider reaching out with a note of encouragement:

Steve Abel, Phun Aithang, Paul Anderson, Anna Beck, Matt Beck, Meghan Brophy, Michaela Colbrese, Sue DeVrieze, David Dyer, Murphy Falgout, Jeff Francis, Adam Friedline, Luke Friedline, Matt Fry, Yolanda Nicolas Gil, Jeremiah Gómez, Kevin Herrick, Bryce Hewlett, Dale Howard, Gracie Howard, Josh Howard, Sadie Kaminski, Carolyn O'Connor, Denise Rostenbach, Zac Sandry, Robyn Stone, Stephanie Ward, Krissy Wheeler, Deb Wickard



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