



Weekly 4G Guide

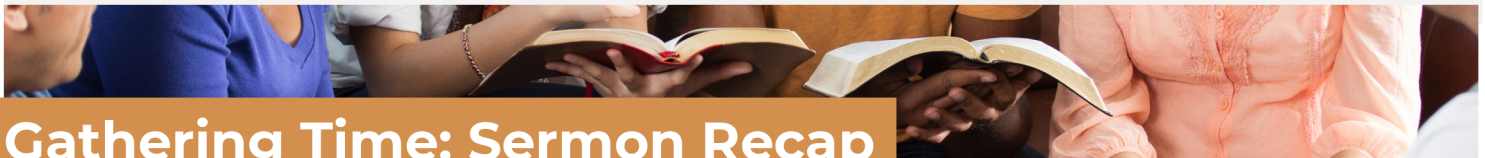
How to Use This Guide:

- **Read the Sermon Recap** by yourself (for devotions) or with your group. You can also watch the sermon on YouTube @CBCFamily.
- **Read the passage/s.** Look for truths, promises, and/or commands. Try to find the “who, what, when, where, why, and how.”
- **Group Time:** First, take turns reading the Scripture passage/s from the sermon, round-robin style, letting each person read one verse. Go around the circle until the whole passage has been read. Then, **utilize the Group Time** portion of this 4G Guide.

What's a 4G? A guide that covers:

1. Gathering Time (Sunday morning)
2. Group Time (for group meetings)
3. God Times (personal and family devotions)
4. Give Time (a prompt for reflection)

- **Personal God Time:** Use these each day to dive into the passages further and challenge yourself to apply the texts.
- **Family God Time:** Use these each week to dive into the passages with your family.
- **Give Time:** Ask your group, yourself, or your family what might be a good response to the sermon or text? How are you inspired to give of your time, talent, or treasure?



Gathering Time: Sermon Recap

If We Will: Choose Unity

Today, Pastor Dan Busse preached the next sermon in the series *If We Will*. Today's sermon focused on rest and was based on John 15:1-11.

We live in a fast paced, go, go world. Trying to keep up is exhausting! It can leave us emotionally, physically, and spiritually drained. Is this who we, as Believers, really want to be? More importantly, is this who Jesus wants us to be? Or, are we living in a rush from thing to thing because this is the hectic life we have chosen?

Jesus invites us into His presence to abide in Him. He sets a different pace for us - one that relies on Him! But the choice is ours: we must decide what pace we will choose.

Busy is the enemy of intimacy. Think about it —when we can't slow down to truly connect with God and others, our relationships suffer. But the Lord invites us to come close. In doing so, He reminds us that He has chosen to work in and through His children. We find

joy and rest when we rely on Him.

Without Jesus, we can do nothing. We must remain in Him, our vine, for nourishment, strength, and the fruit only He can grow in us! We must be very careful that we stop listening to the megaphone of the world to dictate our pace. We must not find our value or significance in what the world has to offer. Instead, we find our value and significance in who we are in Christ. We must slow down, embrace Him, and remember that we are His! We let Him set the pace, remembering that His pace is often slower than our own.

Keeping margin in our lives is important. It reminds us that we have limitations—we are not God! Margin is physically spiritually healthy; it gives us time to dwell with God and reflect on our lives through prayer.

Draw near the Lord today. Abide in the True Vine. Don't be afraid to say “no” when God leads you! And take a rest to recharge your batteries. Rest in Him, and you'll find true joy!

Conversation Starter

Ask: Do you know a “prayer warrior”? What do you admire about their faith?

Discussion Questions

Choose a track, mix and match, or do them all.

- **Track 1:** What is the main point of the passage that was discussed in today's sermon?
- What is the “who, what, when, where, why, and how” of the passage?
- Does the passage contain truths, promises, or commands to obey? What are they? As a group, make a list and pray for your hearts to align with God's Word.

- **Track 2:** How do you think most non-Believers would define and pursue rest?

- What does it show the world when Believers keep a hectic schedule? What does it say about trust in our God?

- What can Christians do to promote a healthy view of rest?

- **Track 3:** Dan said, “Busy is the enemy of intimacy.” What did he mean? Have you ever seen this play out?

- How can you seek and find rest, even when you are in a hectic or difficult season of life?

- How/when will you seek rest this week?

God Time: Personal

Use the sermon notes from our Gathering Time this week for your personal time with God. Use a spare notebook or your favorite device to journal your responses. Include prayer and application in your time with God!

- **Monday:** Read Jn 15:1-1-3. Who is the true vine? How important is it that we bear fruit? What else stands out to you?
- **Tuesday:** Read Jn 15:4-5. Those who trust in Jesus are “in” Him and He is in them; they abide/remain in Him. What's the result? (v5) What else stands out?
- **Wednesday:** Read Jn 15:6-7. What happens to those who aren't in Christ Jesus? What will God do for those who abide? (Note: “it will be done” = things that align with God's will.) How will you abide today?
- **Thursday:** Read Jn 15:8-9. How is God glorified? Pray for fruit!
- **Friday:** Read John 15:10-11. What's the relationship between love and obedience? How does obedience bring joy? How will you obey God this week? Pray and do it!

God Time: Family

Parents: Familiarize yourself with sermon recap from our Gathering Time. Sum it up in a way your child can understand.

- Consider **reading** John 15:1, 4-5. from today's sermon from the Easy-to-Read version.
- Give a **summary** statement about the sermon and the Bible passage in a way that your family can easily understand.
- **Ask:** Have you ever seen a grapevine? Or a fruit tree? (Show pictures if needed.)
- **Say:** Grapes grow when they are connected to a grapevine.
- **Activity:** Have a snack of grapes or another fruit. Say, “We would never find grapes growing in a swimming pool or on the swingset! Fruit must be connected to the vine to grow sweet and juicy. When we are connected to Jesus, through loving and trusting in Him, He grows us to have love, joy, peace, and more. We don't have to try to grow—we can rest in His strength and power to grow us into what He wants!”

Give: How does this week's sermon inspire you to give of your time, talent, or treasure?