

## **Introduction:**

In the astonishing wake of Easter – the news that Jesus is alive rang out across human history. His life, death and resurrection became the launching pad for those following in his footsteps. He is the cornerstone that sets the culture for every community of faith.

## **Scripture:**

*Then Jesus told this story: “A man planted a fig tree in his garden and came again and again to see if there was any fruit on it, but he was always disappointed. Finally, he said to his gardener, ‘I’ve waited three years, and there hasn’t been a single fig! Cut it down. It’s just taking up space in the garden.’*

*“The gardener answered, ‘Sir, give it one more chance. Leave it another year, and I’ll give it special attention and plenty of fertilizer. If we get figs next year, fine. If not, then you can cut it down.’”*

— Luke 13:6–9

## Discussion Questions:

1. Sometimes saying "yes" to something small creates a lasting impact years later. Can you think of a time when a small commitment you made had a bigger impact than you expected?
2. The parable of the barren fig tree challenges us to focus on process rather than outcome. In what area of your life do you need to shift your focus from results to the process of growth?
3. Compassion can be described as telling someone, "I accept you for who you are, right here and right now." Who in your life needs to hear that from you, and what's holding you back from showing up that way for them?
4. "Am I worthy of being loved?" "Will God forgive me?" How does it make you feel to know that people around you — maybe even in your own home — are carrying these kinds of questions silently? Do you carry those questions?
5. How would your relationships change if you approached conversations with more curiosity and less judgment?
6. How do the people in your life feel when they walk away from time with you?
7. The sermon closed by challenging us to create a culture built on compassion, curiosity, and courage. Which of these three comes most naturally to you, and which one do you need to lean into more intentionally?