

## MAIN THINGS

### GET TALKING

What is something that you have ever argued passionately about and why?

### MESSAGE HIGHLIGHTS

#### The Main Thing: Jesus

- His death and resurrection
- Connecting relationally with Him

#### The other things:

- Rightly handle the Truth
- Not all things are equal value (closed hand, open hand, preferences, experiences)
- It's not our job to fix everything
- It is our goal to restore people

### DIG IN

#### Read 2 Timothy 2:14-26 and 1 Corinthians 15:3-4,14

- In the 2 Timothy passage, what warnings do we see about arguing? What picture does the passage describe that we should strive for in how we talk about important issues?
- We see in 1 Corinthians that the absolute most important part of our faith is Jesus. Without His death and resurrection our faith is "in vain." Often times Christians can end up being known for many other things instead of Jesus. What can we do to make sure that we are known for Jesus?
- Verse 15 in 2 Timothy talks about being an "approved workman" and "rightly handling the Word of Truth." What do you think that looks like as we also are called to not be quarrelsome and to teach patiently and correct with gentleness?
- God gives us opportunities to be "with" those who have different beliefs from us. He gives the opportunity to come along side them, not to isolate ourselves. Think about your sphere of influence and the people around you. Are there people who believe differently and live differently than you? How might God want to use you in their lives?
- Jason talked about things that are closed handed issues, open handed issues, preferences, and experiences. He also said, "When we confuse our message, we lose our impact." Are there any beliefs, ideas, or values in your life right now that you think are actually open handed, preferences, or experiences, that you have been holding as closed handed?
- As we see in 2 Timothy that it is NOT our job to fix everything, but our goal should be that people are restored. And it is not by us, but it's through God (v.25-26). How do you think this mind set changes the way handle disagreement with others? What do you think our role is?

**BIG IDEA:** Keep the main thing, the main thing.

### NEXT STEPS

Take some time to use the closed handed/open handed chart that Jason showed us. Carefully think through which of your beliefs, values, and ideas belong where. Also, take the time to think about how you can lovingly and gently communicate those things to others.

### Prayer

Lord us help us to hold fast to the main thing, which is your son, Jesus. Help us to keep the message of His redeeming work clear in our lives.