

## MAIN POINT

*Jesus is committed to removing anything that stands in the way of His followers bearing fruit for Him.*

## INTRODUCTION

Reflect on your life's most significant achievements. What obstacles did you overcome in order to succeed?

Were any of those obstacles overcome for you by someone else? In other words, did anyone help you along the way? Share a specific experience if you feel comfortable.

Rarely do we achieve great success without experiencing multiple hardships and failures. We are also indebted to others who identify with our cause, come alongside us, and remove obstacles for us, even though we may not ask for such help. Becoming the kind of people God calls us to be requires that many obstacles and hindrances to a life of faith be removed. Through His Word, other people, and difficult circumstances, God is faithful to remove whatever hinders us from bearing fruit for Him.

## DISCUSSION

> **READ MARK 11:12-25.**

What did Jesus expect when He approached the fig tree? Were Jesus' expectations fair? Why or why not?

Did the tree deserve to be cursed? Explain.

What do you think went through the minds of the disciples when Jesus cursed the tree?

Why would Jesus use His authority in this way?

Why did Jesus overturn tables and chairs and kick people out of the temple? Did Jesus have the authority to do this? Explain.

What did the temple and the fig tree have in common?

How did the people respond to Jesus' authoritative actions in temple?

What was Jesus' lesson to the disciples about the fig tree?

How did the fig tree and the temple demonstrate a lack of faith?

How might one misuse Jesus' words about prayer in v. 24? What should we take from this statement?

## APPLICATION

How is God calling you to rely on Him that you might bear fruit for His sake this week? How will you respond?