

# one THING

*A year in pursuit of Jesus*



# Psalm 27:4

“

One thing I ask from the Lord,  
this only do I seek:  
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord  
all the days of my life,  
to gaze on the beauty of the Lord  
and to seek him in his temple.

”

# Welcome to One Thing, a year in pursuit of Jesus.

Over the next 9 months we will seek Jesus together, choosing the better portion of a life abandoned to Him.

One Thing is a discipleship year created to help you know God, become free and bear fruit in all aspects of your life. You will be welcomed into the staff team, working with your staff mentor to develop and support their ministry area.

Every week we will have dedicated teaching sessions, but One Thing is not about learning in a classroom; this is a year of learning like Mary, who *'sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching'* (Luke 10:39).

This booklet covers the four core areas of One Thing: *the culture, our expectations, your growth, and the mentoring relationship.*

## Culture

It is inevitable that every group of people working together develop a culture - a way of doing things. This either happens deliberately or accidentally. As Grace Church we have a vision to build a thriving community that reaches Nottingham with the gospel. In the One Thing year, this looks like creating a culture of family, encouragement and pursuit. As a staff team we are committed to One Thing being characterised by these things, but this is your responsibility too! Each one of us has the opportunity to carry and live this culture during the year. Here's what that looks like:

## Family

*'Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves'. Rom 12:10*

In a family, your place at the table isn't earned by what you do - it isn't earned at all! You are accepted, known and valued simply because you are a child of the king. In One Thing, because we are family, we accept one another, we make room for one another and we welcome one another into our homes and lives.

On One Thing, you will build a culture of family when you:

- Are on time! This is a key way of loving one another. Honour one another and your leaders by arriving on time (or even better, slightly early!) to the office, meetings, and teaching
- Speak well of one another and the staff team to and about them
- Listen and make space for others to speak in group times and conversation
- Show hospitality to one another, take opportunities to share your space, time and dinner tables



## Encouragement

*'Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.'* 1 Thess 5:11

We all need courage to live boldly for Jesus; encouragement is all about 'putting courage' into one another. We need daily reminding of the gospel, who God is, and who we are in Jesus. We have the privilege of building one another up in these things.

On One Thing, you will build a culture of encouragement when you:

- Believe the best in one another
- Say what you see! Look for opportunities to encourage and go out of your way to say when you notice courage, kindness and gifting in one another
- Celebrate one another's breakthroughs. In a family, one person's victories are everyone's!
- Remind one another of gospel truths
- Speak kindly to one another

## Pursuit

*'and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith'* Heb 12:1-2

As a family, we want to choose to pursue Jesus with our whole lives this year. We will worship Him in all aspects of our day-to-day - our work, rest and relationships.

On One Thing, you will build a culture of pursuit when you:

- Show up! Please come in on all One Thing days (unless you have booked days off) or call in if you're ill or unable to come in for any reason
- Rest well. Rest is part of our worship to God. Make a habit of leaving on time, not working late or outside of work hours,

- taking your lunch breaks and book all your allocated holiday
- Prioritise Sundays. As the high point of our church life together, please prioritise Sunday meetings and be reliable on your serving teams, arriving on time to serve and preparing for sessions if you're leading something
- Choose to be teachable and let others speak into all aspects of your life
- Reading. Please make the time to do the reading for One Thing Tuesday mornings and let your mentor know if you're struggling with this

## Expectations

We want your time on One Thing to be the best experience it can be for you. The following expectations will help you make decisions which lead to a fruitful and sustainable year.

On One Thing we ask that you commit to the following choices:

- Come in on all One Thing days (unless you have booked days off) or call in if you're ill or unable to come in
- Come on time and leave on time: please arrive at 9am and leave at 5pm unless you have time in lieu
- Do the reading for One Thing book club books on time for the sessions
- Book all of your available holiday days
- Prioritise church on Sundays and attend all Sunday serving sessions (or swap sessions if you're away from Nottingham)



# One Thing growth topics

This is a year of learning together as a family. Over the year we'll focus on three areas of growth:

*Term 1 - Knowing God*

*Term 2 - Becoming free*

*Term 3 - Bearing fruit*

This isn't simply about learning in a classroom, it's about letting God grow and change you through our teaching sessions, One Thing team time and conversations with your mentor. Each of these contexts will follow the year's 3 themes.

## Knowing God

All fruitfulness flows from our relationship with God. So this is where we start, with knowing Him and enjoying the gospel of Jesus.

The kind of topics we will cover during this term are:

- Personal Worship
- Reading the Bible
- Sabbath & rest
- Prayer
- Hearing the voice of God/making decisions
- Church

## Becoming free

Finding freedom releases us to seek the kingdom without inhibition. As Jesus sets us free, we become more like Him and more like the people He made us to be. During this term we will go through the Keys to Freedom course. With group sessions each week and five 20 minute daily readings each week, this study will take you on an interactive journey with God to explore:

- Hearing God's voice

- Committing and Connecting with Christ
- Renewing your mind
- Choosing to forgive
- Healing life's hurts
- Breaking Generational Patterns
- Using your Authority in Christ
- Maintaining life-long freedom

## Bearing fruit

Jesus said, *'if you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit'*. Fruitfulness is the natural result of knowing God and becoming free. This term is all about serving and loving others, growing in our gifting and seeing God's kingdom come around us.

The kind of topics we'll cover during this term are:

- Evangelism
- Hospitality and community
- Discipling others
- Prophecy
- Singleness and relationships
- Encouragement
- Pastoral care



# Your mentors

Your mentor is here to help you grow as much as possible this year. They will encourage and disciple you, as well as setting you work and giving you feedback to help you develop in your ministry role.

Your mentor's responsibilities are to:

- Give you work and help you manage your workload
- Give you feedback and encouragement to help you grow
- Ask what God is teaching you through the teaching topics
- Do end-of-term reflections with you and set goals for the coming term
- Help you manage your work-life balance
- Pray with you

