

**Port City Community Church**  
**Small Group Material**  
**Cultivate Change Series**  
**Week #4 – “Passing Out Potential”**

**Scripture**

**Revelations 22:1-2 (New Living)**

*1 Then the angel showed me a river with the water of life, clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb. 2 It flowed down the center of the main street. On each side of the river grew a tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, with a fresh crop each month. The leaves were used for medicine to heal the nations.*

**Ezekiel 47:12 (New Living)**

*12 Fruit trees of all kinds will grow along both sides of the river. The leaves of these trees will never turn brown and fall, and there will always be fruit on their branches. There will be a new crop every month, for they are watered by the river flowing from the Temple. The fruit will be for food and the leaves for healing.”*

**Colossians 4:5 (New King James)**

*5 Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time.*

**Proverbs 11:30 (New Living)**

*30 The seeds of good deeds become a tree of life; a wise person wins friends.*

**John 15:8 (New Living)**

*8 When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father.*

**Introduction**

So much of our lives are spent being consumed with getting where we want to go. Whether we are going to lunch or climbing the next rung on the corporate ladder, getting there is of prime importance to us. Yet, we miss so much along the way when our lives become so self-absorbed. Relationships with others become a means to an end or merely an obstacle to get around. We were designed to see things differently, to live differently. When we bear good fruit the love of Christ is displayed for all to see and experience. As we come to the conclusion of the Cultivate Change series, we will explore why it is so crucial that we take the time on a regular basis to absorb God’s presence so we can pour our lives into the lives of others. Doing so requires that we take seriously our walks, not for our own prideful gains, but for the benefit of those we encounter. It is there that we honor God and love others through that which he has given us, namely, the fruits of the spirit.

**Discussion Questions and Activities**

- \* Each one of us has the tendency towards being self-absorbed. This type of mindset is what we will drift towards when we are left to our own devices. What area(s) of your life are you more prone to have this tendency creep in and take over?

- \* Our posture ultimately determines how God responds to us. Closed fists are unable to receive. Yet, when we are on bended knee in submission, God is the one who can pick us up. How would you describe your posture towards God and His leading in your life? What is influencing this posture and how is it affecting your spiritual growth?
- \* Have someone read Revelations 22:1-2 and Ezekiel 47:12. Over these last few weeks we've learned that the way to cultivate good soil in our lives is to plant ourselves where the river is moving. Good soil absorbs His presence. What steps are you taking to "remain in His presence" so growth will take root in your life?
- \* Your thoughts, your words or your actions. Which area of your life is most in need of transformation?
- \* Have someone read Proverbs 11:30 and John 15:8. Our personal growth benefits the lives of others. How does this truth change or influence the importance you place on your own personal development?
- \* Give group members the opportunity to reflect and journal on the people God has placed in their lives (family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc.). How can your life show God to these people? In what ways can your actions and words enable them to experience the love and redemption of God?
- \* Have someone read Colossians 4:5. Think back for a moment to the people on the list you created concerning your sphere of influence. What would "redeeming the time" look like for them?
- \* Close your time together by lifting up the people God has placed in the lives of members of your small group community. Pray that God would begin to soften their heart and make His presence known in their lives. Ask that He would use the words and actions of group members to minister to these people who are in need.