



**Real Big Community**  
**We Are Focused (Acts 15:1-4)**  
By Pastor David Hillis, 30 October 2016

**BIG IDEA: The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing.**

The world is always changing, and we have to change with it. We can't stop change; it is a part of life. What we can change is how we navigate it, because change can make us bitter or better. While lots of things change, God's Word and God's big plans, His vision, for our lives do not change.

If we are focused on God's leading, if we are unified and all playing a part in allowing God to use us, we can be a part of seeing God move in some incredible ways together!

To stay focused and keep the main thing the main thing, the leaders of the early church:

1. decided to work through their questions together. (v2b-3a)
2. celebrated how the "main thing" was happening. (v3b)
3. prioritized making everyone feel welcome. (v4)

More than ever before, we need to stay focused and remind ourselves that it's about Jesus and that our community here matters – it matters a lot, because we are laser focused on being a welcoming, real, authentic community where people are becoming fully devoted followers of Christ and sharing His love with our city, in our neighborhoods, in our schools and everywhere God brings us in our community.

Will you stay focused with us? How might you be a little bit more focused on the "main thing"? Maybe for you, it's taking one of our 4 spiritual commitments to a new level, to be more focused on it than you have been before - serving others; being in a Life Group or a mentoring relationship; getting more structured in your personal time with God; or being here more faithfully to give God your best and worship Him in community here on Sundays.

**NEXT STEP:**

*How is God calling me to be more focused on the "main thing" in my life? In my church?*

**FOR MY PERSONAL TIME WITH GOD THIS WEEK:**

1. Read Acts 15, paying special attention to verses 1-5. If you have been a Christian for a significant portion of your life, can you think of some of the extra-biblical rules or behavioral expectations that others tried to impose upon you? Why? Were they damaging (how)?
2. Read Proverbs 29:18. Can you think of any ways you have lacked (or do lack) vision in your life? Is there a "main thing" God has told you to focus on in your life that should stay more important than all else? How are you doing with it lately?
3. Read Ecclesiastes 3:1-11, which speaks to the changes we encounter in life. What changes have been hardest for you so far in your life, and why? What types of change do you most tend to resist rather than embrace? Why?