

# Welcome to Church!

We are glad you chose to join us today to worship our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We hope that your stay has been both meaningful and memorable.

Here are some activities going on with us!

## ☐ How can we pray for you?

Inviting you to join our **Prayer Meeting, Tuesdays at 7PM**. You may send your **prayer requests** and **praise reports** by text (0912 130 6148), by writing them on the prayer cards provided, or by sending us a private message on our Facebook page.

## ☐ Discover life with our Small Groups.

Looking for deeper connections and a closer walk with God? Our **small groups** are where we cultivate meaningful relationships and grow in faith together. Want to join? Visit our Information Booth after the service to find the perfect group for you!

## ☐ Stay for fellowship and refreshments.

Stick around after the service for **coffee** and **connection**! It's the perfect chance to meet some friendly faces, learn more about our small groups, our ministries, and discover all that our church has to offer. We'd love to see you there!

## ☐ Free Blood Pressure & Sugar Check-up

Encouraging those who wish to monitor their **Blood Pressure & Blood Sugar** levels to avail of our free check-up, happening **every after Sunday service!**

## Schedules for Services:

### English Service:

Morning 10:00 AM  
Afternoon 01:00 PM

### Cebuano Service:

Afternoon 04:00 PM

2nd Floor,  
Northgate Center.  
across Gaisano Country Mall  
Banilad, Cebu City.

## ways to give TITHES and LOVE GIFTS

BPI Checking  
Acct no: 0421-0041-16

Paypal  
@livingwordnra  
GCash Account  
0912-130-6148

EMAIL ADDRESS  
livingwordnra@gmail.com

FACEBOOK PAGE  
facebook.com/lwnra

WEBSITE  
www.livingwordnra.com

OFFICE TELEPHONE  
(032) 517 5991

TEXT ONLY NUMBER  
(63) 912 130 6148

**GET IN TOUCH  
WITH US!**

Living Word NRA  
Worship God. Advance His Kingdom.

## THE CASE OF THE FRUITLESS FIG TREE

The Jerusalem Ministry: The King Confronts Empty Religion (series)  
Ptr Nic Sy | November 23, 2025 | Mark 11:12-25

### SERMON NOTES

#### CLUE #1: A (FIG) TREE COVERED WITH LEAVES.

*People see your "leaves" but God checks fruit.*

*Appearance without substance is fruitlessness.*

#### CLUE #2: A TEMPLE FULL OF ACTIVITY.

*Jesus wants a praying heart because a praying heart is where fruit grows.*

*When prayer disappears, spiritual life collapses.*

#### CLUE #3: A TREE WITHERED FROM THE ROOTS (CASE CLOSED).

*The health of the unseen determines the fruit of the seen.*

*Fruit doesn't begin with effort. It begins with faith.*

Two concrete expressions of faith:

#### 1. Fruitful faith prays with expectation.

*Prayer is the first mark of faith because prayer reveals the root.*

#### 2. Fruitful faith forgives freely.

*Unforgiveness disconnects us from the very root of our faith, which is God's forgiveness of us.*



**SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE**  
For the week of November 24–30, 2025  
“THE CASE OF THE FRUITLESS FIG TREE”

## Getting Started

*To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.*

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

What is one product that you bought which was way different from what you expected?

## Group Discussion

**Read Mark 11:12-25.**

1. Why do you think Jesus cursed the fig tree just for having leaves but no fruit? What might “fruit” look like in a follower of Jesus today (see Galatians 5:22–23; John 15:8)? How can you evaluate if your spiritual life is “leafy” but “fruitless” and what steps can you take to cultivate genuine, lasting fruit instead of just looking the part?

2. When Jesus entered the temple, what was happening that made him call it a “den of robbers”? Knowing that the outer courts were historically the only place where Gentiles could pray, how does that add weight to this scene? What might it look like for a church to unintentionally crowd out people who are seeking God? How can we personally help make our church a place where outsiders encounter the presence of God?

3. Mark 11:20–21 highlights that the tree withered “from the roots.” Why is this detail important? How does this image help us understand Jesus’ immediate call to “have faith in God” in verse 22? What does this teach us about the difference between surface-level spirituality and deep-rooted faith? In what practical ways can you strengthen the “root system” of your faith this week?

4. Jesus talks about mountain-moving faith and prayer (vv22–24). What’s the difference between presumptuous prayer (demanding what we want) and expectant prayer (trusting God to respond)? Consider your own prayer life: do you pray more out of obligation or expectation? What would change in your prayers if you truly believed God hears you and wants to respond?

5. Why do you think Jesus connects prayer with forgiveness in verse 25? How can unforgiveness affect our hearts? Is there a person or situation that you sense God inviting you to release? What small step of forgiveness can you take this week to free your heart for prayer and spiritual growth?

6. The temple had become cluttered with business and noise. What are some things – habits, attitudes, distractions – that have cluttered your own worship or prayer life recently? What is one thing you could remove or reduce this week to make more room for God?

7. Jesus called the temple a house of prayer “for all the nations.” How does this widen our understanding of prayer beyond personal needs? What would it look like for your small group to pray regularly for people who are far from God? When was the last time you prayed for someone outside your immediate circle? What is one people group, country, or community you can begin praying for this week?

## Next Steps

*People see your “leaves” but God checks fruit.*

- **Bear Fruit, Not Just Leaves:** I will examine my spiritual roots, not just my outward leaves.
- **Connect to the Source:** I will protect my time with God as a true “house of prayer,” free from distractions and hypocrisy.
- **Pray in Faith:** I will turn to God in confident, faith-filled prayer, especially in impossible situations.
- **Practice Forgiveness:** I will release unforgiveness so my heart can be free and my prayers unhindered.

## Closing the Session

Close the session by taking the time to *pray for one another*. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray for faith that prays boldly, trusts deeply and forgives freely,
- Pray for relationships to grow with other Christ-followers, that you will encourage and care for one another.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends, and loved ones.
- Pray for protection, provision, healing and comfort for everyone who’s going through physical, emotional, mental and spiritual pain.

### BIBLE READING GUIDE

November 24	<b>Mark 11:15-19</b>
November 25	<b>Mark 11:20-25</b>
November 26	<b>Jeremiah 17:7-8</b>
November 27	<b>John 15:1-8</b>
November 28	<b>Hebrews 11:1-12</b>
November 29	<b>Psalms 84:1-12</b>
November 30	<b>Psalms 66:16-20</b>

