

## 6– The Big Picture

### The Big Question:

How does “The Big Picture” help you understand and respond to God’s grace as he works through the details of your life?

### I. The Big Picture (The Model)

A. HEAT:

B. THORNS:

C. CROSS:

D. FRUIT:

### II. Biblical Support

**A. Jeremiah 17:5–10** (How do we see this Big Picture model described in this passage?)

1. HEAT:

2. THORNS:

3. CROSS:

4. FRUIT:

5. HEART:

6. Now, let’s look together at a well-known NT passage and organize it according to these four elements.

**B. 1 Corinthians 10:1–14** (general context of dealing with life’s hardships)

1. HEAT:

2. THORNS:

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- a) Behavior
- b) Consequences
- c) Heart

3. The CROSS (the power of God):

4. FRUIT:

### III. Make it Real

**A. DISCUSSION:** What aspects of the HEAT-THORNS-CROSS-FRUIT model do you tend to emphasize to the neglect of the others? Some examples:

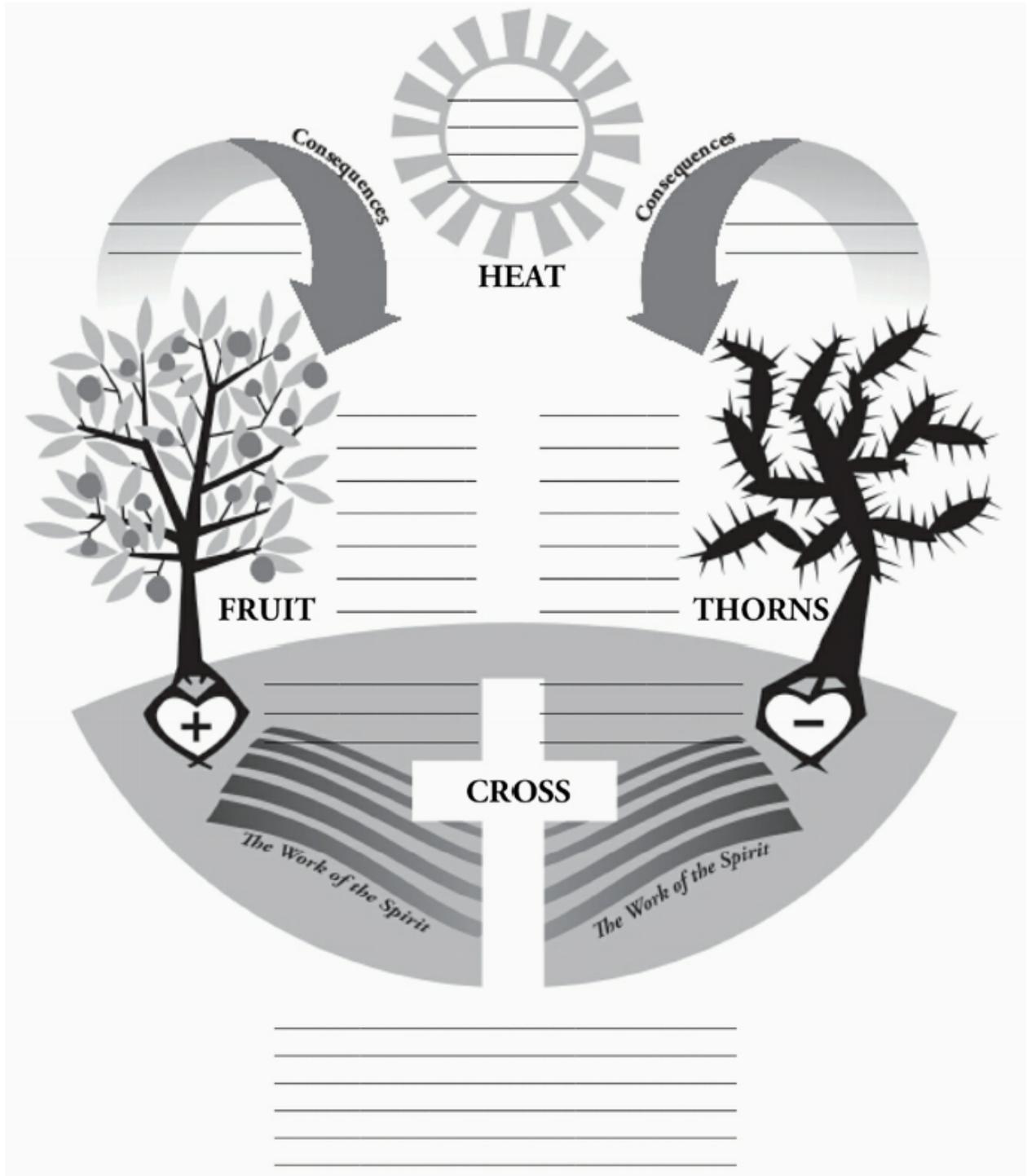
1. Pharisees emphasized behavior over the heart.
2. People who have suffered or been abused tend to emphasize their circumstances (“heat”) over everything else.
3. The overly introspective person tends to spend his time in endless heart examination.
4. The “Jesus-and-me” person tends to focus on the cross in isolation from everything else.
5. The legalist tends to look only at consequences and conclude that bad consequences prove that there must have been bad behavior (i.e., Job’s counselors).

### **B. CPR:**

1. Central Point: Practical hope, comfort, and direction in life come from looking at our lives and our world from God’s “Big Picture” perspective.
2. Personal Application: I always need to evaluate myself in light of what God says about himself, me, and change. And I need to learn to examine myself using the simple categories God provides in Scripture (heat, thorns, cross, and fruit).
3. Relational Application: I need to help people see the hope found in looking at their lives from God’s “big picture” perspective. A significant aspect of wise and helpful ministry is helping others see themselves in the simple categories God provides in Scripture (heat, thorns, cross, and fruit).

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C. **PERSONAL:** Identify a difficult situation or a big opportunity in your own life right now (physical suffering, sin against you, or a pattern of personal sin). Sort out the situation and your responses to it using the four elements of this model using the figure below. As you fill in the blanks, think about what is shaping the way you see the circumstance that you are in and how you are responding to your circumstances.



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D. **EXTRA:** In 2 Corinthians 1:1-12, Paul is looking at his own life in terms similar to our model. Use the picture below to organize 2 Corinthians 1:2-12 according to the elements of HEAT-THORNS-CROSS-FRUIT.

