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Sermon Discussion Curriculum John 15:9-17 – May 1, 2022

Helpful Resources

Check out one of these helpful videos:

The Book of John by Kenny Boyle <https://bit.ly/3rUHLQa>

Jesus in All of John by Spoken Gospel <https://bit.ly/3OzsRsq>

How to Read the Bible by Tim Mackey <https://bit.ly/3rUtgUe>

Allow God to speak to you through his written Word.

The goal of this time is to have quality connection and time together.

Choose questions from Know, Grow, and Show that will best help your group discuss the passage and take their next steps of faith. Don't feel like you need to use all the questions. Feel free to add your own too! We are praying for you as you lead your D-Group this week!



KNOW: *(Questions for Building Relationships in your group)*

- What brings you the most joy?
- What characteristics do you look for in a friend?
- Can you think of a time when someone gave up something for your benefit? Share that experience with your group and what it felt like to be loved in that way.
- When we love something - whether that is a person or a thing or an activity - we tend to dwell on the beautiful aspects of the object we love. Take a few minutes with your group and just dwell on the beauty of God, remembering why you love, appreciate, and worship Him. Name some of those aspects with your group.
- How did you experience God working in your life this week? What prayers have you been praying and how has God responded?
- What things do friends or family do that make you feel most loved?



GROW: *(Questions for Growing Spiritually and understanding the Scripture)*

- Look at John 15:9. What are some words you would use to describe God's love for His Son? Now take a minute and think about the next part of that verse – that Jesus loves us in that same way. Soak that in and write down some of the words that are particularly meaningful to you.
- What is your definition for the word “abide”? What does it mean to abide in Christ?
- What is the condition behind calling Jesus our friend?
- Vs 16 tells us that Jesus chose and appointed us. How does this bring comfort and confidence in our relationship with Him?
- John uses the word “abide” 10 times in this chapter. Why do you think that concept of abiding in Christ is so important? What benefits does it bring?
- Let's look at two passages - one from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament and discuss how they help us to love others as God loves us. As a group, read Deuteronomy 10:17-19 and John 13:34-35 – what do these passages teach us about the character of God?
- What are the characteristics of the love Jesus showed toward others?
- In 1 Corinthians 13:4-6, Paul lists out intentional choices that love makes until it becomes our lifestyle. Which of these do you find it easy to declare and live out through love? Which ones do you find it most difficult to embrace?



SHOW: *(Questions for Living on Mission)*

- How are you actively showing the people in your life that you truly love them?
- How does your life reflect God's joy and delight, so others know you are abiding with Him?
- Spend some time this week meditating on the magnitude of Jesus' love for you. Not the things you feel like you need to do to be obedient, just the beauty of how much He delights in you. How do you think the realization of how much He loves you would change you?
- In John 15:9 we saw that Jesus loves us as God loves Him, and then John 15:12 tells us to love others as Jesus loves us. What is one way that you can do that this week?
- God doesn't want something from you, He wants to give something to you--His love. Practically, how can you act in love and share the heart of God with your family, friends, at school, at work, and in the community where you live?
- Once we experience God's love, He commands us to give it away. The love we get from Him is the love we give to others. What are some ways that our group can encourage one another to be love-givers?



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John 15:9-17 – May 8, 2022

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KNOW: *(Questions for Building Relationships in your group)*

- What was a time in your life that you were filled with joy? Tell your group why this example sticks out as a particularly joyful time?
- What are some things you allow to rob you of your joy?
- What do you think of when you hear the word “joy”?
- Describe someone you know who is joyful? What is it about them that communicates joy?
- What is the difference between being happy and being joyful?
- Tell the group about a time in your life you experienced deep joy in the midst of hard circumstances.



GROW: *(Questions for Growing Spiritually and understanding the Scripture)*

- The purpose of the branch is to bear fruit. People don't raise grape vines to look at the leaves. They take the trouble to cultivate, plant, water and tend the vines so that fruit can be enjoyed. In this sense, how are we cultivating our relationship with God to produce healthy fruit?
- What does it mean that "your joy may be full?" This is the result of abiding in Jesus' love, and obedience flowing from that abiding relationship.
- For Christians, what relationship do gratitude and joy have with one another?
- Read John 15:10-11. When we think about the joy of Jesus, we understand that it isn't the same as what we often think of as "happiness" or "excitement." According to these verses, how is our obedience to God directly related to our joy?
- Based upon this passage, explain the difference between happiness and joy. What is the basis of happiness? What is the basis of joy? Share about a time when you were not happy, but you were still joyful? How is this possible?
- Jesus said in John 10:10, "I have come that you may have life, and have it to the full." In what ways is Jesus' coming into the world a message of great joy for you personally?
- Read Galatians 5:22-23. What evidence do you recognize in your life or in the life of others that the Spirit is producing the fruit of joy?



SHOW: *(Questions for Living on Mission)*

- How does your life display His abundant joy?
- How are you abiding in Jesus' love and obedience?
- How does our joy or lack of joy communicate to others what we believe about Jesus and our salvation? How can we be more intentional to live with joy?
- This week is Mother's Day. While this is a time to honor our moms, it can be a hard day for many people. Take a minute to share about your own experiences around Mother's Day. Are you thankful for your mom, today? Why? Are you feeling the absence of your mom today or the desire to be a mom yourself? Take time to pray together, both thanking God and asking for His comfort on this special day. Joy is a choice. Do you agree or disagree with that statement? Explain.
- We have a choice to live out the joy of Jesus in our lives. We can choose to block that joy through things like envy, ingratitude, and comparison, or we can activate joy through contentment, thankfulness, and celebrating others. Where is joy being blocked in your life? What could you do to activate joy in that area?



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John 15:9-17 – May 15, 2022

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KNOW: *(Questions for Building Relationships in your group)*

- What is the difference between friends and acquaintances?
- What is the most meaningful thing a friend (besides Jesus) has done for you? Why was this so meaningful?
- What qualities and characteristics do you look for in a friend?
- How have your friends changed (or remained the same) through different seasons of life?
- We don't get to choose our family, but we do get to choose our friends. Think about some of the best friends you ever had. Why did you choose each other? What are some of the characteristics that are found in a good friend?
- How have you expressed love to someone else this week? What is one way you received love this week?



GROW: *(Questions for Growing Spiritually and understanding the Scripture)*

- Read John 15:9-17. According to these verses, how does Jesus view us? What are the things he has done to show that these are more than just feelings? What response does Jesus look for in us?
- According to these verses in John 15, what do we learn about our status as Jesus' friend. What makes us His friend?
- In what ways does Jesus qualify calling us friends?
- What is the difference between being called a servant versus a friend?
- Read Proverbs 12:26; 17:17; 18:24; 27:5-6 together. What are some of your feelings, thoughts, and takeaways from these verses on friendship? Share about some of your own experiences with the truth of these verses.
- A friend is loyal, encouraging, and honest (and so much more) – how have these specific traits been expressed in your friendships, and what has been the impact as they have been expressed?



SHOW: *(Questions for Living on Mission)*

- In this series, we've talked about how God sees us. As you reflect on John 15, how does understanding God's love for you change the way you view other people? How does it change the way you talk about God to others?
- How do you show and bring value to your friends?
- Who is one person you can reach out to and encourage this week? Make a plan to do something specific to encourage a friend that they are loved not only by you but also by God. Write a note, send a text, or invite them to coffee or dinner.
- If you could make one change in your friendships, what would it be? What is one thing you could do to develop closer friendships in the next month?
- Talk together about some of the reasons why it is hard to have deep friendships – for example, we live in a highly mobile and transient society. How can we as believers fight for deep friendship, and hold it as a high value by loving and investing in others?
- Think about a friend that you have not invested in lately. Why haven't you done so?