

WORKOUT

JOHN 15:12-17

Believe
and
LIVE
THE GOSPEL OF JOHN



Read all of John chapter 15, focusing on verses 12-17.

Ponder how our abiding in Jesus and our love for one another relate.

- Why is it so significant that our love for one another be grounded in Christ's love for us (1 John 4:7)? What is the danger of forgetting or neglecting this foundation?
- How does Jesus's teaching in 15:13 relate back to His teaching in chapter 13 and His model for us as our exemplary servant?
 - Consider the charge that Jesus gives His disciples: it is because they love one another that the world will know their identity as Christ followers (15:13).
 - Consider the relationship between John 13:1, "Jesus having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end" and John 15:13, "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends."
 - What is the connection between Jesus's love and our obedience to His commands (15:9-10)?
- Why does Jesus call us "friends" (15:13-15)? How does this compare to the world's definition and idea of friendship?
 - Why does Jesus say, "No longer do I call you servants" (15:15)? How is this an expression of His humility and grace toward us?

Read 1 John 4:7-21 alongside John 15. How do these passages speak about the love of God?

- How does this love of God lead you to praise and worship Him?



Pray Holistically

Read John 15:16 and give honor to the Father who is working in His people to bear fruit, and through His people to accomplish His purposes.

- Father, you are our God in the heavens, you do all that you please (Psalm 115:3). Thank you for the gracious gift of our salvation, that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8). We did not choose you, but you have chosen us and appointed us to go bear fruit (John 15:16). Even now, as we pray, you are the one who does the work, who gives us what we ask in Jesus's name. You are the giver of every good and perfect gift (James 1:17).

Pray Personally

Read John 15:15. Consider the people in your life who you would call "friends." Why do you call them friends? Is your idea of friendship more aligned with how Jesus calls His disciples friends, and lays down His life for His friends, or more aligned with a self-focused, worldly understanding of friendship?

- Pray that the Lord would shape your view of friendship according to His Word and according to the example set forth by Jesus.
- Pray for your friends by name, and ask the Lord to help you see opportunities to love them well and make Jesus known to them this week.



Jesus says, "If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love... This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."

Whoever believes in Jesus abides in Him. As the Father has loved the Son, so has the Son loved us, and so we are called to love one another.

- Every day this week, remind yourself of the love of God and praise Him for His loving kindness to us.
 - Memorize verses like John 3:16, John 13:34, 1 John 4:9-10, Romans 5:8, or Romans 8:37-39.
- Every day this week, seek out an opportunity to love someone else. Look for opportunities to sacrifice your time, energy, preferences, or peace to build someone else up in Christlikeness.
- Every day this week, seek to have a conversation to make Jesus known to someone around you. Jesus has called us friends, for all that He has heard from the Father He has made known to us. As you think about your friends, be purposeful to have conversations that make much of Jesus.