

## MESSAGE HIGHLIGHTS

**Scripture:** John 15:9-17

- In order to abide in Him and His love, we need Him to show us. We need to learn, and that takes time.
- We will not find complete joy anywhere but Jesus. It is possible for us to have complete joy!
- Obedience is not what makes us friends of Christ, it is what characterizes and shows that we are his friend.
- When we abide in His love, that love WILL pour out of us.
- We are chosen out of His love. We are chosen to abide in His love. We are chosen to bear the fruit. We are appointed to love.

## GET TALKING

Have you ever been the first pick for a team picked by captains? Ever been the last one picked? Ever been left out? Share your experiences.

Where do you feel most at home or safe? What makes you feel that way?

What do you LOVE? Share what comes to mind.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS *(Choose 2-3 questions to discuss)*

1. Before we dive into today's section of John, please share your experiences this last week trusting in the Word of God. If you were not able to be intentional about this last week, consider how you could for this week.
  - a. How did it go surrendering to Christ that which is not fruitful in your life?
  - b. Were you able to commit to the intentions you made to deepen your relationship with God this week?
2. As Abby pointed out, these passages in John 13-17 we have been studying are Jesus' last words to his disciples. Read John 15:9-17 slowly and contemplate this point. How does this perspective affect how you read what Jesus is sharing? Imagine He is speaking them directly to you, His beloved. How does this knowledge make you want to respond and why?

How are you doing at connecting with Jesus and abiding in his love? As we have been learning, the more connected we are, the more the love of Jesus will pour out of us. Read 1 Corinthians 13 then go around your group asking "How am I doing at loving you?" Or ask others who are closest to you the same question. How scary is that for you?

3. Followers of Christ are called to love others as He has loved them. Jesus loves us as the Father has loved Him. This means we need to experience the depth of His love before we can attempt to love others. Abby referenced Romans 5:6-10 to illustrate this love.
  - a. Read Romans 5:6-10. As you consider the depth of God's love how does it make you want to respond?
  - b. How does, or should, it look for people to love their enemies like God does?
4. Reading through John there are so many conditional statements teaching us that this love relationship is directional. Challenge your group to create a visual display or graphic organizer of the source of love, how it flows, and the fruit that comes from it.
  - a. How do you believe God has chosen you to bear fruit?
  - b. How can your expectations for relationships be holding you back from experiencing the greatest love of all? How does it impact you sharing Jesus with others?
  - c. Where do we seek to find our joy? Where do we look to fill that in our lives?

(continued)



## **PRAYER**

*Use Ephesians 3:14-19 as a script to begin your prayer time today. Fill in the blanks below with your own name or of someone you want to experience the deep love of Christ.*

*For (the gospel of Jesus), I, \_\_\_\_\_ bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant \_\_\_\_\_ to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in \_\_\_\_\_ inner being, so that Christ may dwell in \_\_\_\_\_ hearts through faith- that \_\_\_\_\_, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that \_\_\_\_\_ may be filled with all the fullness of God.*