

Sermon Based Small Groups Study Questions

The Fruit of Love and Joy

John [15:9-17](#)

Start It: Connecting with each other

1. Have you ever been chosen for something that you did not seek after? How did you feel about it?
2. Have you ever had to sacrifice something that was very dear to you for a friend? Or has a friend ever sacrificed for you?

Study It: Connecting with God's Word

3. [v. 9] How has the Father shown that he loves the Son (3:35; 5:20; 17:24)? And how has the Son shown that he loves the Father (4:34; 6:38; 8:29,55; 10:17-18; 12:27-28; 14:31)? How does Jesus state the depth of his love for his disciples?
4. [v. 10] How does a disciple of Christ "abide" in his love? How are obedience to Christ and love of Christ interrelated?
5. [v. 11] What is Jesus' "joy?" What does it mean that Jesus' joy is also in the disciples?
6. [vv. 12-13,17] What is the command Jesus gives that they are to obey? What is the supreme test of this love? Why do you think it is so difficult for us (and has been for the church over the ages) to obey this command? What is at stake (13:34-35)?
7. [v. 15] How is it possible that Jesus Christ who is the Messiah King and Lord of all, calls these disciples his friends? How does Jesus demonstrate his friendship with the disciples?
8. [v. 16] Jesus chose the disciples rather than the disciples choosing him (typically a disciple choose a rabbi). How does this relate to the vv. 5-6?

Live It: Apply the Truth of Scripture

1. Discuss the depth of love that Jesus has for you. What two analogies (cf. vv. 9-10) does he use and how does he help you understand how you are to love and obey?
2. How careful are you in imitating Christ's love by your love for him and for others? How full is your life of Christ's joy? How can these verses help you to increase Christ's joy within you?
3. Friendship is a mutual relationship. Jesus demonstrates his friendship with you in that he desires to reveal to you all that the Father has shown him. How have you responded to his friendship? How eager have you been to hear what he has to say to you? What have you done to be Jesus' friend?
4. How does the knowledge that Christ chose you rather than the other way around help you understand your dependence on him? For what purpose has he chosen you?