



STUDY GUIDE

LOVE JESUS 11.29.2015

[set up]

On Sunday we concluded our series “Love Jesus.” What has particularly impacted you from the series? Have you been able to apply something to your life?

Last Sunday we looked at how to have a fruitful life according to Jesus’ teaching to his disciples in John 15. This teaching happened most likely on the walk from the Upper Room after the Last Supper and before Jesus and his disciples arrived at the Garden of Gethsemane. This was the final hours before Jesus was tried, beaten, and crucified. What would you say to your friends and family if you knew you would die the next day?

[digging deeper]

Read John 15:1-12.

The formula for having a fruitful life from Sunday is this: abide in Jesus + Jesus’ words abide in you = ask God for whatever you want.

According to verse 10, how do you abide in Jesus?

Look at verses 7 and 8. How is asking God for whatever you want connected to God’s glory?

Thinking through the image of the vine, vinedresser, and branch, how is God (the vinedresser) glorified in the life of the Christian (branch)?

Look at verses 10 and 12. How do they relate? What is the relationship between Jesus’ commandments and Jesus’ commandment? What is the relationship between obeying the law of God and loving one another?

In your own words, can you summarize what Jesus says is a “fruitful life”?

This passage tells us that the one thing we must do in order to have a fruitful and joyful life is to abide in Jesus. What keeps you from abiding in Jesus? What keeps you from having the words of Jesus abide in you? (Here is a hint: some studies show that an average person spends 4.7 hours a day (!) on their phones). What can you do specifically to combat the things that pull you away from the vine?

[living it out]

This week Pastor Rick will post an article on the blog highlighting some of the spiritual disciplines. The spiritual disciplines are ways that we can orient our minds, bodies, and hearts to better abide in Christ. You should consider taking one of those spiritual disciplines and applying it this week. If you would like to learn more about the spiritual disciplines, the book by Richard Foster called *Celebration of Discipline* is an excellent resource. It is highly recommended!

Pastor Chad encouraged us at the beginning of the series to be LifeHouses. One way to do that is to host a soup and salad night for your neighbors. This is an easy way to love your neighborhood by developing community amongst neighbors. Have you considered doing a soup and salad night? Do you have any other idea on how to love your neighbors this month?

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