

GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide
SB 04.23.2023

LOVED, CALLED, CHOSEN & APPOINTED – JOHN 15:9-17

Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles or observations stood out to you from this week’s message? Discuss with your group.

Pastor Daniel tells us: “In John 15, Jesus has just shared the last supper with His disciples. They are now on their way from the upper room to the Garden of Gethsemane. As they walk, Jesus shares His heart with them. He knows He only has a few hours left with them. This adds a certain amount of weight and significance to what He says. In these final days, Jesus assured his followers that they were loved beyond measure, they were called, chosen, and appointed. Jesus is preparing them for the dark days ahead and the fruitfulness to come.” Let’s get into our lesson...

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

1. What struck you most from Pastor Daniel’s sermon?

Digging Deeper in God’s Word: Life Lessons

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 15:9-11

1. With what kind of love did Jesus love His disciples?

2. What was the motivation behind Jesus’ words in these verses?

Producing spiritual fruit is joyful, but it comes as the result of sacrifice—of pruning and abiding and seeking the heart of God. In this way, it should lead us to follow the example of Christ, who “for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame,” as Hebrews 12:2 tells us, “and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.”

3. What sacrifice do you need to make in order to bear more fruit?

4. What is the evidence that Jesus’ disciples remain in His love? What does your obedience or lack of it reveal about your love for Christ?

Jesus demonstrated His abiding in the Father’s love by obeying God’s commands. Jesus did not consider God’s commands to be burdensome. He obeyed out of love for the Father. Similarly, our obedience is a characteristic of abiding in His love. The command to abide in Christ is a life-changing one—the Son of God Himself not only allows us to draw near to Him, He commands it. And He promises that once we are walking connected closely to Him, our prayer will be powerful, our actions will have impact, and our joy will be full.

5. How do you define joy? What would Jesus’ disciples have learned from Him about joy?

6. How has Christ made your joy complete?

Joy proceeds from love. Jesus wanted His joy to be in His disciples, and He wanted their joy to be complete. Happiness varies with changing circumstances. Christ’s joy lasts forever. As disciples live in Christ’s love and demonstrate that love by their obedience, their joy will be complete.

“PROMISES” in 2023

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 15:12-14

The disciples not only were to receive Jesus’ love, but they also were to extend it to others. Remaining in Christ’s love did not mean that they merely basked in their blessings but that they would live in such a way that His love was evident to everyone they met.

- 1. How would you sum up what it means to love one another as Christ loved you?**
- 2. How is love the essential dynamic of the Christian life? How does your relationship with Jesus change once you start practicing His example of love?**
- 3. What does love for others motivate you to do on their behalf?**

Not only do the disciples of Jesus remain in His love; they must also obey His commands. Sometimes we get so busy figuring out how we should be loving God that we forget to love one another. In fact, a constant and genuine love for one another would be one way to show love for God.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 15:15-17

- 1. What emotions rise to the surface when you read these two verses?**
- 2. What do we learn about our identity in vs 16-17?**
- 3. When you look at your church, what kind of spiritual fruit do you see God developing? What about when you look at your small group?**

So far in this passage, Jesus has called His followers to obedience and to a close relationship with Himself. It shouldn’t be a surprise that He follows this with a commission to produce spiritual fruit. As His people, we’re given all we need to follow Him in obedience as we seek to fulfill the tasks He gives us in our church and community. We’re His friends and, as such, we’re commanded to demonstrate His love to others in our community. When we do, the Holy Spirit brings about spiritual fruit in our lives, in the lives of those around us, and in our churches.

Applying God’s Word

What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.

Being Jesus’ friend means you have access to Him. The closer the friend, the greater the access and intimacy they enjoy. Casual friends and acquaintances get a certain level of access. Best friends get total access. That’s the kind of friendship Jesus wants to have you with you. By sharing the Father’s whole heart and not keeping anything back, He is inviting you into His most intimate circle. You are not a stranger. You’re more than a servant. You are called, friend. Not only this, but you are called, son or a daughter of the King of kings!

- 1. What benefits are produced in our lives when we love as Christ commands us?**
- 2. How does it motivate you to realize that you are called, chosen, and appointed by Christ.?**
- 3. What keeps you from obeying Jesus’ commands in these verses?**

PRAYER – Close your group time in prayer. Thank God for the intimate relationship He desires to have with each of us and for the privilege of being called His friend. Ask for wisdom to recognize the opportunities we have to love others the way Jesus loves us. Thank God that you are His forever child, loved, called, chosen, and appointed.

“For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:7-8)