



Small Group Notes - John 15:1-17

Some groups may find the following suggested questions a helpful starting point. Don't feel bound by them, rather work at understanding God's word for yourselves, praying that God will help you live in the light of it.

Introduction

Over the last weeks we have been reflecting on what it looks like to place our whole lives in Jesus' hands. This week, as we conclude our series, Jesus gives us his picture of discipleship - the true vine. It was such a privilege to preach on this passage on Sunday. Do take a look online if you missed the talk. In this session we are going to spend time looking at each of the three main applications.

Read John 15:1-17

1. Listen - Remain in Jesus' love by keeping his commands - verse 7, 9 and 10.

Qu. In what ways do you lack a longing for Jesus' word? How does this show itself in everyday life?

Qu. In what ways do you find it hard to obey Jesus' commands?

Qu. In the whole passage what encouragement does Jesus give us to help us listen?

Qu. Can you describe a time when you had a greater longing to listen to Jesus? What did it feel like?

Qu. What might you need to now do as a result of these reflections in this section?

2. Love - Jesus's command is to love one another - verse 12 and 17

Qu. In what ways do you find it hard to love others in the church as Jesus commands us to? How does this show itself in everyday life?

Qu. In the whole passage what encouragement does Jesus give us to help us love?

Qu. Can you describe a time when you experienced the love of Christian brothers and sisters? What did it feel like?

Qu. What might you need to now do as a result of these reflections in this section?

3. Show - Our life together is our witness to the world - verse 8 and 16.

"We all know the gospel is communicated both through the words that we say and the lives that we live. What Jesus says is that it is the life we live together that counts".

Qu. In what ways is this quote helpful? How might this quote be used unhelpfully?

Qu. In what ways could we invite those we know to see the love we have for one another in our church or in your small group?

Qu. What might you need to now do as a result of these reflections in this section?

Conclusion

Qu. The image of the vine is wonderfully simple yet deep and rich. What is the 'one main thing' for you to take away from all that Jesus has said to us in this session?

If you are willing, might you share your 'one main thing' with the group and ask them to pray for you in response? Why not now turn to pray for one another now.