



Sermon Discussion Guide

Love Walked Among Us: Intimacy with Jesus

John 15:1-17

May 22 & 23, 2021

Part 1: Pray

The primary goal for our Life Group meetings is to experience Jesus in our midst in his presence and power. We want him to be at work by His Spirit ministering to us and through us to one another so that people are cared for and encouraged to lead God-pleasing lives. Ask God to reveal his truth in this passage to transform you through your discussion time.

Part 2: Read the Text

Read the passage(s) from the sermon. Keep a focus on key words, repeated phrases or major themes.

Part 3: Reflect on the Sermon

Introduction

1. David Kinnaman and Mark Matlock, who have surveyed thousands of 18-29 years who grew up in the church, have found that the key characteristic of those who have remained in the faith is intimacy with Jesus. These young adults made statements like the following:
 - "I believe living in relationship with Jesus is the only way to find fulfillment in life."
 - "My relationship with Jesus brings me deep joy and satisfaction."
 - "Following Jesus shapes my whole life: body, mind, heart, and soul."
 - "My relationship with Jesus impacts the way I live my life every day."

Take a moment and reflect on these statements. Are these true of you? Have you experienced intimacy with Jesus?

Intimacy with Jesus: The Barrier.

Genesis 3:8; Isaiah 5:1-2

1. Paul Miller writes, “We don’t feel our separation from God, but we feel its effects—a sense of deadness, of alienation, of profound loneliness, of cosmic emptiness...Without God’s love to satisfy us, we try to fill the hold in our lives with happy vacations, new lovers, work, and children. But with each one we come away empty.” Have you ever felt the effects of this separation? What have you tried to fill your life with to satisfy the void?
2. Have you considered before what it means to say that Jesus is the “true vine?” How is he “true” compared to Israel, God’s vineyard (hint: look at Isaiah 5:1-2)?

Intimacy with Jesus: The Initiator.

John 15:1, 3, 9, 13, 16a

1. Brandon said that to abide in Jesus means to dwell, live, rest, and make your home in him. How does the fact that Jesus wants to dwell with you make you feel?
2. Dallas Willard said, “Grace is not opposed to effort, it is opposed to earning.” What did he mean by this? What impact does this distinction make on how we live?

Intimacy with Jesus: The Fruit (Joyful Obedience, Bold Prayer, Uncommon Love).

John 15:5, 8, 10, 11-12, 14, 17, 13:35

1. Brandon said that fruit doesn’t make you a disciple, it characterizes you as a disciple. What did he mean by this? Why is this important (hint: read John 15:4-5)?

2. Joyful obedience is the result of growth in intimacy, as we come to realize more and more that God's commands are for our good. Can you think of examples from your own life of how you have come to love a command that you once found burdensome?
3. How have you seen God change your desires and priorities to match his as you've grown in intimacy with him?
4. Adam Jones once said to a fellow believer with whom he was arguing, "I'm willing to die for this, but I'm not willing to kill for it." Where have you witnessed examples of uncommon love like this amongst believers? When people look at SRC, do they see a people marked by uncommon love?

Part 4: Summarize the Message

How would you summarize the sermon to someone who has never heard it? What are your two or three key takeaways from the message and your discussion?

How does this sermon change your perspective on God? Your own heart? And/or, how to follow Jesus?