



Transform Notes

John 15:9-17 Love and Obedience

Reflect: (Spend time with God thinking about these statements or questions)

- ❖ Take some time to read and meditate on John 15:9-17. Try reading the passage in multiple versions, translations, and paraphrases.

Interact: (Discuss the following questions with your group, some friends, or just you and God)

- ❖ Read John 15:9,13 (*John 3:16*); John 17:23, and Deut. 33:12. Discuss the love you think the Father has for Jesus and Jesus has for us. Have you experienced the kind of love these passages describe. What difference should God's love make in your everyday life?
- ❖ In John 15:9-17, Jesus shares *commands*, things we are to obey and do, and he shares *truths*, which are meant to be believed. Read the passage and identify the *truths* and the *commands*. How can you internalize the truths? How can you obey the commands? Give specifics for each.
- ❖ Read John 15:9. If you did not already, what is the command and truth Jesus shares in this one verse? How can you remain/abide in Jesus' love for you? How can His love for you begin to supernaturally and naturally help you to love others?
- ❖ Read John 15:11. Here's the KJV: *These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.* How does *joy* play a role in your life? How does God's love for you, effect your joy being full or complete? What might be some *fruit* from this joy?
- ❖ In verse 12, Jesus gives a command and in verse 13 he describes and even later models the type of love He is asking from His disciples. Describe how you might begin to love others the way Jesus loves.
- ❖ Read John 15:14-15. What do you think the significance of being Jesus' friends and not merely His servants is? What's the difference between serving in God's Kingdom vs. participating in God's Kingdom is?
- ❖ What do you think are some characteristics one would have if they were a friend of Jesus?

- ❖ Read John 15:16-17. Why do think God has chosen us to bear fruit? What is that fruit? Have you been faithful in bearing fruit in your life?
- ❖ Returning to what was shared last week about fruit in one's life is a result of one's abiding with God, have you made any changes in your life since last week? Share why or why not and what the results were. (What and where was the fruit?)
- ❖ How does alignment to God's will and being His friend result in answered prayer? Does being a friend of God effect what one asks for or does it affect God?

Apply: (Look for ways to apply at least one concept to your life)

- ❖ *****This is from last week but if you have not done it yet, try this week.* Abiding takes time and space. Take some time and sit down with your daily calendar or a piece of paper. Reflect on a normal day. Where are there moments to take a minute or more and give them to God? When are there extended times for silent prayer, scripture study, or meditation. Begin to plan your daily schedule with abiding involved.
- ❖ Begin to reflect on all the areas of your life: family, work, friends, neighborhood. Where is God choosing you to bear fruit or reflect His love? How can you begin to participate as God's friend in His work in the world? Start by saying a simple prayer before and during your time in each area of your life; *God what are you doing here and how can I join you?*
- ❖ Since Jesus' final command in this passage is "love each other", reflect on how you can actively love others the way Christ loves you. What changes in your schedule and life do you need to make in order to obey this command?