

# “Abide. John 15”

Week #3

## INTRODUCTION

As we spend time abiding in Jesus, our lives begin to reflect more of Him. And even though following Him can be tough, He gives us the power to do so. On its surface, Jesus’ call to us to “Love one another” may not appear difficult for us to do, but when we pause and reflect on what it looks like to love others in the way Jesus calls us to love, we realize that it is only by allowing Him to change us and live through us that we can truly love one another.

### **Ice Breaker (Optional):**

Is there someone you know who “everybody just loves”?

## Study Questions (45 MIN)

### **Everything begins with Abiding**

#### **Q1. Read John 15:4**

In John 15:4 Jesus tells us we can do nothing apart from him. But sometimes we find ourselves abiding in other things or people. Your life will flow from where (or with whom) you spend time. Who do you spend the most time with, and who is speaking into your life? If we fail to set aside sufficient time to abide in Jesus, we can find ourselves operating from a “dry well.” One indication of this is how you respond under pressure. What is one stressful situation you have faced recently, and how would you gauge your response: did it reflect an attitude cultivated by abiding in Jesus, or were you drawing from a pretty dry well? Can you identify one way to increase the time you spend abiding with Jesus?

### **LOVE One Another**

#### **Q2. Read John 15:12-15**

Jesus calls us to love<sup>1</sup> others as He loves. But you will never understand how to love others if you don’t embrace God’s love for you. How is this greatest level of love described in John 15:13? In what ways do you see this reflected by Jesus on your behalf? In what ways have you seen such self-sacrificial love reflected in others?

<sup>1</sup> *agapaō* – love, expresses the essential nature of God and the attitude of God toward His Son

### **What love looks like**

#### **Q3. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7**

In his letter to the church at Corinth Paul describes what “agape” love looks like. Which of the items listed do you find easiest to reflect? Which do find most difficult? Is there someone in your group who reflects this kind of love? If so, encourage them that you recognize God at work in them.

### **Love expressed**

#### **Q4. Read Luke 8:43-45, 47-48; Luke 18:35-43**

Expressing true compassion is seldom easy and clean. In Jesus’ ministry individuals who were outcasts of society confronted him, but He didn’t hesitate to be “interrupted” in order to minister to their needs. In the two scenarios in Luke above, who was Jesus stopping to minister to? You may not be stopped by a blind beggar, but by aging parents, grandkids, neighbors or others who are in need of God’s love expressed to them. Does anyone come to mind that God might be prompting you to create some space for in your life? What is one way you an “invite them to the table” to experience God’s love?

## Wrap-Up

When we abide in Jesus, His love will be a natural overflow from our encounter. It is only after we have embraced the love God has for us that we can share that love with others. This love we are called to share is a godly (agape) love. It is a costly, self-sacrificing love, and it can be messy, but when we are motivated by God’s love, and moving in His power, we can love one another like Jesus calls us to.

## Memory Verse

*“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”*  
John 15:12-15 ESV

## Prayer (20 MIN)

*Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life:*

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**Challenge:** Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 and replace the word “love” with your own name as you read this passage. This is what Jesus calls us to, and empowers us to do when we abide in Him. Ask God to change you to reflect this kind of love.

