



together
Life is better **connected.**
with friends
in circles
around a table
laughing

Digging Deeper

Love One Another As I Have Loved You

Week of June 3, 2018

These Digging Deeper questions can be used the week following the Sunday message. You can use these questions for personal growth and development, or as a guide for your family or Connect Group discussions.

Message Recap:

Read **John 15:9-12**

As Jesus spoke to his disciples the night before his crucifixion, he made it clear that we are to remain in him. He goes on to say we are to remain in his love and to keep his commands.

The reference to the commandments may have been disconcerting to his disciples. They may have been following him as he seemed to be challenging the commandments of the day.

We too are to keep his commands so his joy can be in us and our joy can be complete. This is how Jesus explained his command, "My command is this; Love each other as I have loved you." (John 15:12 NIV) His goal was to stop people from judging others and to love like he loves.

Pray

Dear Jesus, we are grateful for how you love us and how you show your love for us. Your command to us carries a magnitude of implications. By following it we are able to remain in you and it brings your joy into our hearts and minds allowing our joy to be complete. Thank you Jesus for this available blessing. Guide us to love others as you have loved us. Amen!

Getting Started

- Introvert or extrovert - which one are you and how do you know for sure?
- To follow the rules or to not follow the rules? Tell about a time you broke a rule and had to face the consequences.

Digging Deeper

1. How do we get the joy of Jesus and how does our joy become complete? Is this a simple or challenging task? Explain.
2. Does knowing we have a commandment to follow create stress for you? Why or why not?
3. Why does having multiple unspoken rules strain relationships?
4. What happens when we become the judge of those we are trying to engage with in relationship?
5. When looking back to the Garden of Eden, what three reasons can you cite that resulted in the pursuit of the fruit from the Tree of Knowledge? Imagine you are Adam or Eve, would you have decided to try the forbidden fruit? Why or why not?
6. What reading is recommend to learn to love like Jesus? What is significant about reading the suggested books?
7. When we spend time with others looking to build relationship, what should be on our agenda and why?

Living Jesus

God's desire is to be with us. He sent his son Jesus, or Emmanuel which means God with us, as an earthly example. Jesus' love is extravagant. His intent is for us to have his joy when we remain in him. Our response in loving like Jesus? Slow down, do not judge, give no advice, leave our concerns to the Spirit, and just be with!! Just like Jesus wants to be with us we are to just be with others. Make a deliberate effort in simply being with Jesus and others this week.

Your Story

What has been your experience with just being with Jesus and with just being with others? What outcomes have you experienced?

Share your personal story with us at severnrun.com/stories.