

# SMALL GROUP / STUDY GUIDE

## SCRIPTURE

Read John 15:9–12

## KEY TRUTH

True joy is found by abiding in the love of Jesus.

## OBSERVATION QUESTIONS

*(What does the passage say?)*

How does Jesus describe the way He loves His followers?

What command does Jesus give in verse 9?

According to Jesus, what is the relationship between obedience and abiding?

What specific command does Jesus emphasize in verse 12?

What does Jesus say is the result of abiding in His love?

## INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS

*(What does the passage mean?)*

The message described Jesus' love as "never-stopping, never giving up, unbreaking, always and forever." What does that reveal about His character?

Why do you think people often struggle to believe God truly loves them?

What does it mean to "abide" or "remain" in Jesus' love?

How is obedience connected to abiding without becoming legalism?

What is the difference between happiness and the joy Jesus offers?

Why do you think Jesus connects love, obedience, abiding, and joy together in this passage?

## APPLICATION QUESTIONS

*(What does this mean for us?)*

## 1. Stay in His Love

Do you tend to live more aware of God's love or more aware of your failures?  
What things most often pull your attention and affection away from Jesus?  
What helps you feel most connected to the love of Christ?

## 2. Obedience Keeps Us Close

Are there areas of your life where God may be calling you into deeper obedience?  
Why do you think we sometimes resist God's commands even when they are for our good?  
How can obedience actually deepen joy instead of taking joy away?

## 3. His Joy May Be In You

When you hear the phrase "the joy of Jesus," what comes to mind?  
Where have you been looking for satisfaction apart from God?  
Have you ever experienced deep peace or joy through closeness with Jesus? What was that like?

# PERSONAL REFLECTION

Take a moment and ask:

Am I trying to experience the joy of Jesus while living disconnected from the love of Jesus?  
What things have I been turning to for comfort, satisfaction, or escape?  
Are there places in my life where I've stepped out from under the "flow" of God's love?  
What would it look like for me to truly rest in the love of Christ this week?

# PRACTICE FOR THE WEEK

Spend intentional time resting in the love of Jesus.

Each day this week:

slow down for a few moments  
read a passage about God's love  
sit quietly with Him  
thank Him for His grace  
and ask Him to help you remain close to Him

Pray:

“Jesus, help me abide in Your love today.  
Teach me to receive Your joy and trust Your heart for me.”

As you go through your week, notice moments where:

peace replaces anxiety  
contentment replaces striving  
love replaces irritation  
or joy rises even in difficult circumstances

Pay attention to the life of Jesus flowing through you.

## PRAYER

Jesus,

Thank You for loving us with an everlasting and unchanging love. Teach us to remain in Your love and not drift toward the empty things this world offers. Help us walk in joyful obedience, trust Your heart toward us, and experience the fullness of joy that comes from staying close to You. Let Your love shape our hearts, transform our lives, and overflow through us to others.

Amen.

## SCRIPTURE LIST (from message)

### ***John 3:16 (NKJV)***

*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

### ***Ephesians 2:4-5 (NLT)***

*4 But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, 5 that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!)*

### ***1 John 3:1 (NIV)***

*3 See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.*

### ***Jeremiah 31:3 (NLT)***

*Long ago the Lord said to Israel: “I have loved you, my people, with an everlasting love. With unfailing love I have drawn you to myself.*

**Deuteronomy 7:9 (NLT)**

*Understand, therefore, that the Lord your God is indeed God. He is the faithful God who keeps his covenant for a thousand generations and lavishes his unfailing love on those who love him and obey his commands.*

**Psalm 86:15 (NLT)**

*But you, O Lord, are a God of compassion and mercy, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love and faithfulness.*

**Psalm 5:12 (NLT)**

*For you bless the godly, O Lord; you surround them with your shield of love.*

**Psalm 36:5 (NKJV)**

*Your unfailing love, O Lord, is as vast as the heavens; your faithfulness reaches beyond the clouds.*

**Psalm 36:7 (NLT)**

*How precious is your unfailing love, O God! All humanity finds shelter in the shadow of your wings.*

**Psalm 63:3 (NLT)**

*Your unfailing love is better than life itself; how I praise you!*

**Lamentations 3:22-23 (NLT)**

*22 The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease. 23 Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning.*

**Isaiah 54:10 (NLT)**

*For the mountains may move and the hills disappear, but even then my faithful love for you will remain. My covenant of blessing will never be broken," says the Lord, who has mercy on you.*

**Romans 8:38-39 (NLT)**

*38 And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. 39 No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

**John 15:9 (NKJV)**

*As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.*