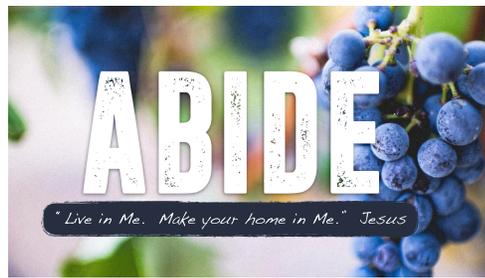


SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia Message...

No Greater Love

With Phil Harwood
May 15, 2022



John 15:9-17 (NLT) "I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. **10** When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father's commandments and remain in his love. **11** I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow! **12** This is my commandment: Love each other in the same way I have loved you. **13** There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends. **14** You are my friends if you do what I command. **15** I no longer call you slaves, because a master doesn't confide in his slaves. Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me. **16** You didn't choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name. **17** This is my command: Love each other."

John 15:9-11 - **Because Jesus loves us, we obey him and receive overflowing joy.**

"Because of the joy awaiting [Jesus], he endured the cross, disregarding its shame" Hebrews 12:2b

John 15:12-13 - **Because Jesus loves us, we can show others self-sacrificing love.**

Romans 5:6-11

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

John 15:14-17 - **When we live in obedience to Jesus, we are his friends and can produce lasting fruit.**

"Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples." John 13:35

- **Self-sacrificing love always points people towards the person of Christ and his loving kingship over our lives**

Big Idea: Loving others in obedience to Christ is possible through the love and sacrifice of Christ.

Action Points:

1) Reflect:

- Reflect on Jesus' love for you.
- Reflect on your love for others.
- How do they compare?

2) Reposition:

- Acknowledge the gaps in prayer to God (confession).
- Ask the Holy Spirit how your actions/words should change (repentance).

3) Respond:

- Ask the Holy Spirit to enable you to live out the changes.
- Share the changes with your Impact Community for support and encouragement.



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
live out our identity as a
Family of Servants on Mission.

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

No Greater Love
#4 of 11 - May 15, 2022

- 1) Last week we looked at remaining at home in Christ by practicing His presence. One way to practice His presence was through **S.T.A.R.** How did it go with your action step? Where have you seen God working?
- 2) Take time to have one person explain and the practice the 3 Circles Gospel Presentation or share their testimony.
- 3) Read John 15:9-17. What is the **Context** for this passage? Where is this taking place in the book as a whole (what comes before or after)? Who is the writer / speaker and who are the recipients? Where does it fit in the Bible? What's the theme of this chapter, or passage? What's the historical and cultural context?
- 4) **Observation:** What "jumps out" in these passages? What interesting details do you observe? What points does Jesus emphasize or repeat? What questions come up about this passage?
- 5) **Meaning:** What was the meaning for the original recipients? What does this passage mean for us? What are the implications for those who want to follow Jesus and live in obedience to Him?
- 6) Read Romans 5:6-11 and 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. What do we learn about what self-sacrificing love looks like from these passages? How does Christ's love towards us impact how we love others? What do we learn about joy and obedience from John 15:9-11 and Hebrews 12:2b?
- 7) **Application:** How is God speaking to you through these verses and through this message? What does it look like for you to "love others in obedience to Christ"?
- 8) Take time this week for the Action Steps outlined in the message and share with your IC what specific changes the Holy Spirit put on your heart to make.
- 9) How do these verses call on you to change the way you live? What step will you take today? What principles do you need to pass on to others this week?



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
live out our identity as a
Family of Servants on Mission.

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

No Greater Love
#4 of 11 - May 15, 2022

- 1) Last week we looked at remaining at home in Christ by practicing His presence. One way to practice His presence was through **S.T.A.R.** How did it go with your action step? Where have you seen God working?
- 2) Take time to have one person explain and the practice the 3 Circles Gospel Presentation or share their testimony.
- 3) Read John 15:9-17. What is the **Context** for this passage? Where is this taking place in the book as a whole (what comes before or after)? Who is the writer / speaker and who are the recipients? Where does it fit in the Bible? What's the theme of this chapter, or passage? What's the historical and cultural context?
- 4) **Observation:** What "jumps out" in these passages? What interesting details do you observe? What points does Jesus emphasize or repeat? What questions come up about this passage?
- 5) **Meaning:** What was the meaning for the original recipients? What does this passage mean for us? What are the implications for those who want to follow Jesus and live in obedience to Him?
- 6) Read Romans 5:6-11 and 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. What do we learn about what self-sacrificing love looks like from these passages? How does Christ's love towards us impact how we love others? What do we learn about joy and obedience from John 15:9-11 and Hebrews 12:2b?
- 7) **Application:** How is God speaking to you through these verses and through this message? What does it look like for you to "love others in obedience to Christ"?
- 8) Take time this week for the Action Steps outlined in the message and share with your IC what specific changes the Holy Spirit put on your heart to make.
- 9) How do these verses call on you to change the way you live? What step will you take today? What principles do you need to pass on to others this week?