

## Fruitful Summer Devotional

### Week 2

---

#### Day 1: Abide in the Vine

**Scripture:** John 15:1–11

*“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love.” (v.9)*

**Reflection:**

Jesus doesn’t tell us to produce fruit by effort, but to remain in Him. Love grows not from trying harder, but from staying connected to the Source. Apart from Him, we can do nothing—not even love. The fruit of love is cultivated when we daily return to Christ, resting in His Word, praying honestly, and receiving His love deeply.

**Application Questions:**

1. What practices are helping me stay connected to Jesus throughout the day?
  2. In what areas of life do I feel “cut off” and need to intentionally return to abiding?
- 

#### Day 2: Receive Before You Give

**Scripture:** 1 John 4:7–12, 19

*“We love because he first loved us.” (v.19)*

**Reflection:**

The Christian life is a response. We don’t initiate love—we reflect it. Until we receive God’s love personally and deeply, we cannot sustain love for others. The more we grasp the gospel—that God pursued us while we were still sinners—the more our hearts will be moved to extend love even when it’s costly or undeserved.

**Application Questions:**

1. Am I more focused on trying to love others or receiving God’s love for me?
  2. What part of God’s love do I need to reflect on until it softens my heart?
- 

#### Day 3: Love Through the Spirit

**Scripture:** Romans 5:1–5

*“...God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.” (v.5)*

**Reflection:**

The love we are called to express is not natural. It is supernatural. It is the Spirit who pours God’s love into our hearts, forming in us a patient, durable, other-centered kind of love that mirrors Christ. We cannot manufacture this love by effort—it is birthed through surrender to the Spirit and sustained by hope in Christ.

**Application Questions:**

1. Where am I trying to love others in my own strength instead of relying on the Spirit?
  2. How can I create space in prayer to ask the Spirit to fill me with God's love?
- 

**Day 4: The Stillness That Forms Love**

**Scripture:** Psalm 46:10; Isaiah 30:15

*"In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength."*  
(Isaiah 30:15)

**Reflection:**

Stillness isn't a luxury; it's a necessity for love to grow. Without regular rest in God's presence, our hearts become reactive, anxious, and self-focused. But when we slow down—especially in prayer and Scripture—we remember who we are and whose we are. Stillness doesn't make us passive; it makes us rooted and secure.

**Application Questions:**

1. When was the last time I was truly still before God, not productive, just present?
  2. What might I need to say "no" to in order to practice stillness and abide more deeply?
- 

**Day 5: The Cross: Love's Definition and Power**

**Scripture:** Philippians 2:1–11

*"...have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus..."* (v.5)

**Reflection:**

The cross is the ultimate revelation of love—not just as emotion, but as sacrificial action. Jesus humbled Himself not just to save us but to model what love looks like. The more we meditate on the downward movement of Jesus—who emptied Himself for us—the more we are shaped into people who can do the same. Gospel love always moves toward others in humility.

**Application Questions:**

1. In what relationship is Jesus calling me to take the lower place?
  2. How does reflecting on the cross give me the strength to love someone difficult?
- 

**Day 6: Love That Labors Quietly**

**Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 13:1–7

*"Love is patient and kind... it is not self-seeking..."* (vv.4–5)

**Reflection:**

This kind of love cannot be faked or forced. It is forged over time by abiding in Jesus. Notice that Paul doesn't define love by feelings but by actions—small, daily, sacrificial actions. Love doesn't insist. It doesn't give up. This is not the love of the world, but of the crucified

King. And it must be cultivated in obscurity—in the kitchen, in the office, in the hard conversation.

**Application Questions:**

1. Where do I need to choose patient, kind love when no one is watching?
  2. What expectation or entitlement do I need to surrender to love someone more fully?
- 

**Day 7: Love That Looks Like Jesus**

**Scripture:** John 13:1–17

*“Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.” (v.1)*

**Reflection:**

Jesus doesn’t just love from a distance—He kneels, He serves, He gets His hands dirty. The foot-washing isn’t just a symbolic act; it’s a lived parable of the gospel. He, the highest, became the lowest. To abide in Him is to let this kind of love shape us—not theoretical love, but practical, humble, embodied love that meets people where they are.

**Application Questions:**

1. Whose “feet” is God calling me to wash this week—what act of service is He prompting?
2. How does seeing Jesus serve me help me become more free to serve others?