

Activate Group Resource for 23 September – Abide – staying connected (Jn 15:9-17)

Big Idea:

-Jesus says in John 15:12-15 that he calls us his friends when we do what he has commanded us.

Key Scriptures:

John 12:12-15 (The Message)

This is my command: Love one another the way I loved you. This is the very best way to love. Put your life on the line for your friends. You are my friends when you do the things I command you. I'm no longer calling you servants because servants don't understand what their master is thinking and planning. No, I've named you friends because I've let you in on everything I've heard from the Father.

Key Points:

I am a friend of God because Jesus has shared with me the secrets of the family business (the redemption of God's creation). The way that I live out that friendship is to do what Jesus has asked me to do.

Discussion Questions:

How to be a friend of God (John 15:9-17)

1) When we obey God's commandments we remain in his love. What does that look like?

2) Discuss how the 10 commandments are still relevant in our love for God and our love for others.

10 commandments (Exodus 20:1-21)

Vertical – relationship with God

- 1) No other Gods
- 2) No idols
- 3) No bad use of God's name

Horizontal – relationship with others

- 4) Do delight in God, have a day off (Sabbath)
- 5) Do honour your mother and father
- 6) Do not murder
- 7) Do not commit adultery
- 8) Do not steal
- 9) No lies about your neighbour
- 10) No lusting

3) What has Jesus learned from the Father that he has made know to us? (John 15:15)

4) God chose us and appointed us to bear fruit – fruit that will last (John 15:16). What does that fruit look like?

Application:

We can never fulfill the law (10 commandments perfectly) to earn our salvation. Now that Jesus had paid the price for our sin and we have a restored relationship with God and God is wanting to redeem our relationships with others, how might the 10 commandments be fulfilled in a New Testament context? Of the 10 commandments which one is God highlighting for you today?