

Introduction: Life's biggest questions

1. What's the most important thing I can do with my life?

- **Answer:** _____ God, _____ people!

Jesus – Matthew 22:37-38

2. Why is love the most important?

- **Answer:** Love _____ fails; love lasts _____!

The Apostle Paul – 1 Corinthians 13

3. How does Jesus define love?

- **Love is “unwavering trust”** in God's timing, purpose, and plans, even when they're different from ours. John 11
- **Love is “unbridled devotion”** resulting in extravagant gifts of money, reputation, and sacrifice. John 12
- **Love is “uncommon servanthood”** that considers others more important than ourselves. John 13
- **Love is “uncompromising obedience”** to His Word, regardless of the consequences. John 14

Question: How can we possibly love like Jesus did?

Answer: John 15

The Context:

The Last Supper is finished. Jesus has washed the disciples' feet, predicted Judas' betrayal, Peter's denial, and informed them of His temporary departure. He comforted them with the assurance He is going to the Father to prepare a place for them and then challenged them to finish the mission He started by obeying His commands. The looming question is, "How?"

The Promise: If anyone has _____ in Me, he will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater works. John 14:12

The Process: The metaphor of fruit-bearing for God –

1. Jesus is the _____ vine; we are the branches. John 15:1
2. The Father positions and _____ us for fruitfulness. John 15:2-3
3. Our sole responsibility is to _____. John 15:4-6
4. The consequences of abiding are fourfold. John 15:7-11
 - _____: vivid answers to prayer. John 15:7
 - _____: an extraordinary life with extraordinary impact. John 15:8
 - _____: resulting in heartfelt obedience. John 15:9-10
 - _____: resulting in supernatural joy. John 15:11

The price and privilege of following Jesus:

John 15:12-27

1. The impossible command -

John 15:12-14 & 27

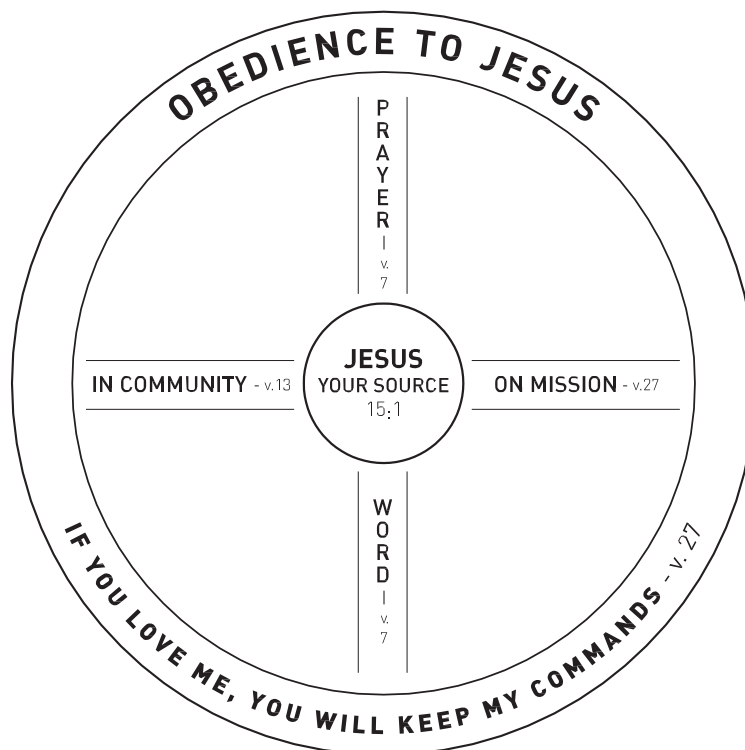
2. The unimaginable reward -

John 15:15-17 & 26

3. The high cost of loyalty -

John 15:18-27

A practical picture for a lifestyle of abiding with Jesus:



A Tool to “Sync” with Jesus Daily

Step 1: Select a regular, consistent time each day

Step 2: Ask God to speak to you through His Word.

Step 3: Read the next portion in the scripture you’ve chosen.
(Old Testament, New Testament, or both)

Step 4: In a spiral notebook, write the date and then the word “YESTERDAY.” Then write no more than one page about your thoughts, reflections, and feelings about yesterday’s event and journey with Jesus. After that, write any thoughts about your reading today.

Step 5: **Adoration** – Praise God for who He is, His character, His power, attributes, and especially anything you read about Him earlier. Sing a chorus or hymn of praise.

Confession – Ask God to reveal anything that does not honor or glorify Him in your life. Sit quietly and allow Him to bring specific things to mind. Confess specifics NOT generalities.

Thanksgiving – Verbalize your thankfulness for specific things, events, people, blessings, and answers to prayer God has granted in your life.

Supplication – Ask God specific requests for yourself and others that you know are His will or that you simply desire.

Step 6: Listen – Be absolutely quiet before God and ask Him to show you...

- What is the “next step” in your relationship with Him?
- What is the “next step” in developing your character?
- What is the “next step” in developing your relationships?
- What is the “next step” in serving others?