



● When we love Jesus, we **obey** Him.

21 Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. John 14:21

3 Loving God means obeying his commands. And God's commands are not too hard for us. 1 John 5:3

● Love and loyalty to Jesus must be reflected in **how we live**, not only in what we say.

9 "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 10 If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. John 15:9-10

16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last... John 15:16

● Every disciple of Jesus must **display fruit**.

8 This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. John 15:8

17 A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit. 18 A good tree can't produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can't produce good fruit... 20 Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions. Matthew 7:17-18, 20

Fruit = attitudes, character, and actions that get displayed in our lives.

15 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. 5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. John 15:1-8

● Remain means to **continue**.

Keys to an abundant life:

● The abundant life is about your **connection with Jesus**.

4 Remain in me, as I also remain in you... John 15:4

...apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. John 15:5a-6

Action Step:

Begin every morning with **prayer and Scripture**.

● The abundant life requires God's **pruning**.

2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. John 15:2

For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness. Hebrews 12:11

Action Step:

Ask God to show you an area in your life that's **preventing Jesus** from being displayed in you.

● The abundant life displays attributes that **look like Jesus**.

22 But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. Galatians 5:22-23

20 Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions. Matthew 7:20

Action Step:

Evaluate areas in your life that **don't reflect Jesus**, and ask God to prune them away.

● The abundant life is sustained through **obedience**.

10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love. John 15:10

"By this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments." 1 John 2:3

Action Step:

Identify one command of Jesus you've been **ignoring**.

● The abundant life is expressed through **sacrificial love**.

12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends... 17 This is my command: Love each other. John 15:12-13;17

"By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers."

1 John 3:16

Action Step:

Look for ways to show **sacrificial love** to someone in this room.



TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

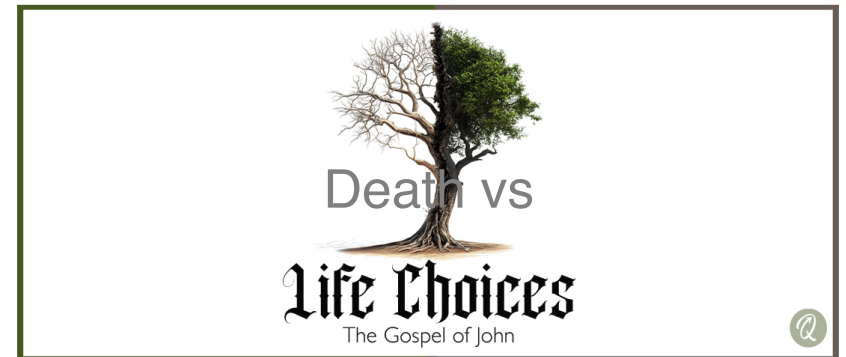
- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain.
- Jesus taught that loving Him means obeying Him. How do you see the connection between love for Jesus and obedience to His commands in your own life?
- Love and loyalty to Jesus must be reflected in how we live, not only in what we say. In what ways can someone claim to love Jesus but fail to show it in their lifestyle? What does genuine loyalty to Jesus look like?
- Jesus says every disciple will bear fruit. What kinds of attitudes, character traits, or actions in a person's life show that Jesus is transforming them?
- The word *remain* means to continue or stay connected. What are some things that strengthen or weaken our connection with Jesus in everyday life?
- God sometimes removes things from our lives so we can grow spiritually. Have you ever experienced a time when God "pruned" something from your life? What did you learn from that season?
- The abundant life is sustained through obedience. Why do you think obedience is essential for spiritual growth and experiencing the life Jesus promises?

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Today's Talk..



Keys to the Abundant Life

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