

disciple

THE
CALL
TO FOLLOW

LOVE LIKE JESUS
WEEK OF FEB 9

READING ASSIGNMENT

This week we are reading pages 164-175 in *Life Without Lack* by Dallas Willard. The PDF of this chapter is available on our website at rockypeak.org/disciple. If you prefer a hard copy, you can pick one up at Starting Point on the patio of the Worship Center during weekend services. You can also access the reading by scanning the QR code here.



GETTING STARTED

This weekend, we learned that loving like Jesus is an **essential** part of being His disciple. We are transformed as we experience Jesus' love for us and are unleashed to share that love with others. Read and reflect on the following passage:

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!

1 John 3:1

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Being loved well is a powerful thing. Take a moment and reflect on your own life. How have you been loved well? How have you experienced being loved by God?
2. This weekend, Dre highlighted several passages from the Gospel of John that give us a better understanding of Jesus' love.
 - a. Read John 13:1-17. As you slowly study this passage, what jumps out to you?
 - b. How is what Jesus does an example of how loved we are by Him? What is something about Jesus in this passage that you admire, want to learn from, and model your life after?
 - c. Read John 13:34-35. Why do you think Jesus calls this a "new" command?

- d. Read John 15:1-17. Here, Jesus teaches us about the priority He places on love. What stands out to you about this passage?
- e. What are one or two ways that Jesus' command can be lived out in your life (e.g., remain in Him, take steps to reconcile with someone, be generous without expectation in return)?
3. When it comes to being a disciple of Jesus, Dre focused on three essential words in these two stories: Lord, Command, and Love. Which word resonates with you the most and why?
4. One of the foundational truths Dre shared is that *A Disciple Of Jesus Is Loved*. Before we can be transformed by God's love, we need to receive it. Meditate on the following passages and allow yourself to receive the truth that you are deeply loved by God.

- 1 John 3:1
- Mark 3:13
- Romans 8:37-39
- 1 Peter 5:7
- John 15:9

- a. What lies and false thinking fall away in your spirit as you meditate on these passages? What truths remain?
- b. Life Group exercise: Read each verse aloud with your Life Group and share anything that the Holy Spirit highlights for you.
5. In this week's reading assignment, *Life Without Lack*, on page 166, Dallas Willard says:

Our aim under love is not to be loving to this or that person, or in this or that kind of situation, but to be a person possessed by love as an overall character of life. Our responses to the specific occasions when we are to act flow out of our overall character. I do not come to my enemies and then try to love them; I come to them as a loving person. The good tree bearing good fruit.

- a. Our goal as disciples is not simply to "try" to love, it's to "be a loving person." What do you think the distinction is between the two? What does it look like to be a loving person? What kind of fruit does a loving person bear?
- b. Take a moment and reflect on your life... Would you describe yourself as a loving person? Would others describe you as loving? Explain.
6. In his message, Dre gave us some practical prayer steps, such as sitting in prayer and experiencing God's love for you or sitting in prayer and allowing God to speak to you about how to love other people well. What next steps do you sense God leading you to take?
7. This weekend, Dre closed the service with an excerpt from A.W. Tozer's book, *The Knowledge of the Holy*. Spend some time privately with the Lord and pray this prayer again:

If nothing in us can win Thy love, nothing in the universe can prevent Thee from loving us. ...Help us to believe the intensity, the eternity of the love that has found us. Then love will cast out fear; and our troubled hearts will be at peace, trusting not in what we are but in what Thou has declared Thyself to be. Amen.

(A.W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy*)