

TAKING WORSHIP INTO YOUR WEEK



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“**Disciplethrive**” is a word we’ve invented to describe our new worship series. The word reveals our topic – discipleship – and our desire: to thrive as disciples of Jesus. Throughout May we will grow and thrive as disciples, using the image of a tree with a strong, deep system of roots which keeps grounded and strong where our God has planted us. This week, we’ll begin to grow by remembering the great command our Lord gave us, as His disciples: To love one another. Let’s resolve to grow, deeply rooted in the love of Christ, so that our love for others might thrive.

1. Read John 15:9-17 and then, to understand the context, read the section just before it, 15:1-8. How does Jesus picture himself? How does he picture us? What “fruit” might he be desiring us to produce? (see Gal. 5:22-23).

2. Why, in vs. 9 and following, is “love” the first “fruit” to be mentioned? (See 1 Cor. 13:13).

3. Is the “love” Jesus speaks of simply an emotion, or positive regard, or is it something deeper? Jesus’ brother James was inspired to speak to that question; see James 2:14-17.

4. What “commands” of Jesus do you most need to focus upon in order to remain in his love more completely? What’s your plan to begin to excel in keeping his commands?

5. Read vs. 16 one more time and think about what amazes you the most about the revelation that you have been chosen by God, and appointed you to bear fruit? Feel free to thank him right now about the fact that you can be amazed.

We pray: Lord God, because our Savior has given us the great command to love one another, open our hearts today to the love you have for us, that we might keep that command with joy, for you live and reign as One God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; amen.