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Week 3 Sermon Notes & Small Group Study

Week Three: Prioritizing

John 15:9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you.
Now remain in my love.

Sermon Notes

Generosity Prayer Prompt

Talk to the Lord openly about your spending priorities. Be honest about your financial needs. Be honest about your many wants. Tell Him you want Him to be first in every part of life, including your finances.

Responding to the Message

- **Journal.** Fill in this sentence. If you are so moved, feel free to write more.

"I feel _____ about _____ because _____."

- **Share.** Share one big idea from this week's message with a friend, someone in your small group, or on social media.

- **Table Talk.** At a meal this week, discuss: How can you better prioritize loving God and your neighbor through the means God has given you?

Week Three: Prioritizing - Small Group

Opening Prayer: Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Amen

Opening Question: On a scale of 1-10 (1 - Joyless; 10 - Bursting with Joy), how full of joy are you?

Jot down a few thoughts as to why you chose this number.

If your group is willing, share with each other your numbers and why you chose them.

Scriptures: Read the following Scripture passages. What is one thought or idea from this week's Scripture passages that especially intrigues, provokes, challenges, or encourages you?

1John 4:7-10 [7] Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. [8] Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. [9] In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. [10] In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

John 15:9-17 [9] As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. [10] If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. [11] These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

[12] "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. [13] Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. [14] You are my friends if you do what I command you. [15] No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. [16] You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. [17] These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

Questions:

Who has made you a priority in their life? What did they do?

How has that impacted you?

What are ways that our world says we will find joy?

Jesus says he wants our joy to be complete (John 15:9-11)
How does he say this happens?

When have you pursued the joy Jesus desires for you? What happened?

When have you made a sacrifice for a person or a cause and it filled you with joy?

Jesus wants us to “bear fruit that will remain.” (John 15:16). What is something from the way you are living your earthly life that you hope will last once you have gone home to heaven?

What can you do now that will make sure it lasts when you are gone?

Respond: We want God to be the priority in our lives. But this means letting Him prioritize our lives. Spend a little more time in prayer this week (10-15 minutes). Ask him: Lord, how can I allow you to prioritize my life?

Then listen to Him as you review how you spend your:

- Time and Energy
- Money and other Resources
- Talents, Skills, and Abilities

Write down any changes you hear Him asking you to make.



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