

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

AUGUST 16

"NO GREATER LOVE:
LOVE THAT MOVES"

Scripture References

- John 15:9-17

Quick Re-Cap

What do you think of when you hear the word "love"? Maybe Valentine's Day, or your friends, or your parents? What is the **feeling** you think of when you think of love? The love that Jesus tells us to have is something a little different than those feelings we usually think of. To love someone is a choice we make, even when it's hard! Jesus says that "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends." Jesus shows us what ultimate real love is by the sacrifice he made on the cross for us.

Illustration

Have you ever had a fight with your brother or sister? Maybe a friend? How did that make you feel toward them? Probably not those feelings of love we talked about earlier! But did that make you stop loving them? Nope! The choice to love, and the ability to love others enough to not get your own way all the time, comes only from God. Without his help, there's no way to truly love other people the way he loves us.

Application

There are some ways to tell what real love is, and to practice that love this week. First, love has to have a source. The Bible says that Jesus is the vine, and we are the branches. A branch by itself will be dry and dead, but when attached to a vine it creates fruit. **We have to stay with Jesus all the time to make sure we have what we need to love others!**

Secondly, love can be seen. If we love others through the love Jesus gives us, good things always come from it! Love is choosing to fight for the highest good of other people, to the glory of God. Love isn't what you feel when you see someone, it's what you do for someone, to the glory of God. Lastly, love is a commandment from God. You can't command a feeling, but you CAN command a choice. This week, choose one person that you want to work on loving. Then, do one thing for them that you don't tell them about. And most importantly, practice staying with Jesus through prayer and reading his word so that you'll be able to have the ability to love them.

Convo Starters

- Who are you choosing to love this week?
- How are you going to make sure you're staying with Jesus this week (prayer, reading the Bible, etc.)?