



REVEILLE'S GPS WEEKLY SCRIPTURE GUIDE

Explore scriptures and daily devotionals that reflect on this Sunday's sermon message. Sign up to receive the daily devotional email at www.bit.ly/devotional-rumc.

April 29 – May 5, 2024

Sermon Title (8:30am and The Point):

Grape Growing 101: Part 2 - "Loving Like Jesus" by Rev. Dr. Pete Moon

Use the space below to reflect on the questions in this week's devotionals, make class and sermon notes, and write down prayers and concerns.

Questions for Small Groups and Individuals (After Sermon):

1. This week's sermon is an extension of last week. Take a moment and recall the lessons of John 15:1-8. What does it mean to be pruned? What does it mean to "abide" in Jesus? How do we do that?
2. Jesus says that the premier example of love is laying down one's life for one's friends. The cross is of course the primary example. How do we follow this example today?
3. An additional piece of fruit that Jesus speaks of is joy. Describe what this joy looks like. How is this joy different from happiness?

Monday, April 29: Read John 15:9-17

This Sunday, we may want to consider going to worship twice, attending either the 8:30 or 9:30 services to hear the conclusion of Pete's "Grape Growing 101" two-part sermon, then again at 11:00 am for the Children's Sunday service focused on the Exodus story. Our GPS this week will focus on continuing our study in John, where last week we concentrated on John 15:1-8 and how we can produce fruit through pruning and abiding in Jesus. In today's reading, we continue in Jesus's teaching in which he grounds it all in one ultimate concept: *love*. Yet notice he doesn't stop there. Jesus immediately ties the concept of obedience to love (verse 10). What's the relationship here? Pete's sermon on Sunday will challenge us to find that relationship, recognizing that through obedience, we find Jesus's power and presence, enabling us to love one another, find his joy, and multiply the fruit on the vine.

- **Relationship Opportunity:** *Discuss with your small group or family your beliefs on the relationship between love and obedience. Does love of Jesus require obedience to Jesus?*

Tuesday, April 30: Read Matthew 11:25-28

We pause for a moment today to unpack a different angle on “abiding” in Jesus – one of being “yoked” with Jesus, a term everyone would have easily understood, as oxen were yoked to one another in order to ease the burden of carrying a load. In these words from Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew, we are reminded that when we are yoked with Jesus, we are able to lay down our burdens. We are given a clear path to follow, seeing where Jesus walked, witness his priorities, and take note of who he spends time with and what he does and doesn’t do. What freedom is there in this?

- **Relationship and Discipleship Opportunity:** *Discuss with others where you can more intentionally “yoke” yourself to Jesus and what freedom this might offer you. What burdens could you lay down this way?*

Wednesday, May 1: Read 1 John 5:1-6

Too often, we rely on our own definition of “love” and use worldly examples as our benchmark. Today’s scripture brings us back to the necessity of abiding in Jesus as our example of love and doubles down on the connection between love and obedience. “Everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments.” (verses 1b-2). Where might we be setting our sights too short in our definition of love? What role models have we used in the past that ultimately let us down? How can loving Jesus better enable us to love one another and bear fruit in abundance?

- **Study Opportunity:** *Return to John 15 and re-read verses 1-17. Summarize the style of love we are supposed to embrace. How is this kind of love different from the predictable cultural understanding of love around us?*

Thursday, May 2: Read Acts 10:44-48

We have mentioned the Father and the Son; today’s reading from Acts brings us to the Holy Spirit. Jesus’s followers were given the power of the Holy Spirit to enable them to perform astounding, inhuman acts of love and obedience. Everyone is invited to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ and accept this power. Today’s reading reminds us that we are never, ever alone in our journey to love more fully and more perfectly. When we are yoked with Jesus, abiding in the vine, we are surrounded by the power of our all-powerful Triune God who will guide our path, remove our earthly burdens, and produce unimaginable fruit that will yield eternal rewards.

- **Study and Relationship Opportunity:** *Returning again to our readings in John 15, find verse 16 when Jesus says we have been placed here to bear fruit that will last. Talk about potential fruit varieties that you might offer in the days to come that will endure.*

Friday, May 3: Read Psalm 98

Psalm 98, which we will hear read on Sunday, praises the “steadfast love and faithfulness” of God to us. We, in turn, are called to a response of steadfast love and faithfulness to God. We love because he first loved us. While we will continually fall short, we make a communal commitment to yoke ourselves to Jesus, praising God with joy at the freedom such attachment and continual abode provides.

- **Study and Discipleship Opportunity:** *Rewrite Psalm 98 in your own words, giving voice to the specific ways God has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to you.*

Saturday, May 4: SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: John 15:9

“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love.”

Sunday, May 5: Let us prepare our hearts and minds by praying our Prayer of Common

Confession: *Almighty God, have mercy upon us. You have given us everything we need to love like you, and we have turned away. The needs of those we love, and those we struggle to love, knock on our door, and we do not answer. Forgive our distraction, draw us back under your yoke, and lead us this day and beyond into the way everlasting. Give us fruit that will last, for we ask it in the name of Jesus. Amen.*