

**Sermon Discussion Guide:**  
**Abiding Anchors for Discipleship (And our souls) (John 15:7-11)**  
**August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021**

1. **Connect:** What barriers seem to keep us from regular and joyful abiding in Christ and depending on His grace?
  
2. **Remember the Point:** John 15:7-8 and Psalm 37:3-4. These verses sound like we can get whatever we want if we simply ask God for it. In both verses, we must note that there are preceding practices which take place before prayer. John 15:7 says that we first take in Jesus' Word and then pray and Psalm 37 says we first delight in the glorious presence of God and then express our desires. Jesus then says that the result of this prayer will be to glorify God. How does God's Word and God's glory shape our prayers to God?
  
3. **Take it Deeper:** Read John 15:9, Romans 5:1-3, 2 Corinthians 5:14-15. People are motivated to press on through life's ups and downs from various sources. Some people press on because people are watching them, others press on for fear of the shame of giving up and failing, others press on because they know the love and embrace of God. Why is God's love the highest motivation and most lasting motivation of ongoing obedience and perseverance through trial? What is the difference between interpreting love by your circumstances and interpreting your circumstances by God's love?
  
4. **Live it Out:** Read John 15:10-11. Jesus says that as we abide in Christ's love and obey His commands, His joy fills us and our joy becomes full. In one sense, the joy that fills our hearts is the joy of fellowship with Jesus as we live for Him in every area of life. In another sense this joy comes from living a flourishing life according to God's design. What ways have you experienced the joy of obedience in the Christian life? What areas of life do you struggle to find joy in obedience? How might intentional abiding with Jesus help us find joy in those areas we struggle to believe that obedience will result in our joy?
  
5. **Pray it in:** Ask for any prayer requests. Have one person to pray or multiple to pray depending on the group. Pray the Lord will grow us in deep, abiding love with Jesus. Pray that His Word would shape our prayers and that we would become more disciplined in our walk with the Lord. Pray that God would give us joy in obedience and compel us to share this joy with the world.