

Jesus said, "If you love me, keep my commands... Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me." **John 14:15, 21**

St Augustine said, "Christ is not valued at all unless He is valued above all."

Jesus said, "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money." **Matthew 6:24**

Damars says, "The most joyful people I've ever met are those who chose to value Jesus above all else."

ALL FOR JESUS – week 5 – **Devotion.**

From the hymn by Frances Ridley Havergal written on 4th Feb 1874:

Take my will and make it Thine, it shall be no longer mine.

Take my heart it is Thine own, it shall be Thy royal throne.

SONGS OF WORSHIP – Songs like *This is my desire to honour you* (Reuben Morgan) or *Build my life* (Housefires) will fit with the theme.

BIBLE PASSAGES referred to in the video:

1 John 4:7-16 (or to verse 21) and **John 14:15-21**



THEMES EXPLORED this week:

The video begins with the foundational truth that God (first of all) models sacrificial love to us. He gave His Son! We love because He first loved us.

- (i) Damars opens up the theme of *receiving God's love*. We're encouraged to keep making time and room for the One who loves us.
- (ii) She then develops the theme of *responding to God's love*. That response includes *obedience, self-denial* and *reordering our priorities*.

HEADLINES FROM THE VIDEO

Damars says, "While love is often connected to the human experience of feelings and emotions, devotion is more about action — about dedication, commitment, it's about giving your whole self to something or someone - it's sacrificial."

She asks, "In my finances, my relationships, my thoughts, and even when no one is watching, am I going to live according to the Word of God, or according to my own will, selfish desires, or the cultural norms that may contradict the values of the Kingdom?"

USE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TO CLARIFY AND DRAW OUT THE THEME(S):

1 John 4:7-16 (or to verse 21) and John 14:15-21

“Love comes from God” (1 John 4:7)

- What has been your *most profound* experience of God’s love?
- In what ways have you *seen, known or been aware of* God’s love in recent times?
- Is God’s love in the background or in the foreground for you in this season?

Digging into the passage

- Which part of this passage speaks most clearly to you? Which single word stands out?
- What does it mean for you to “*know and rely on the love God has for us*”?
- What have been the most helpful *regular habits* which (for you) enable you to know and receive God’s love in a deep way?

Love and obedience

- Both passages speak about the practical outworking of love. Can you give examples where you’ve done things (for God or others) out of a sense of *duty or obligation*? Is that OK?
- Can you give any different examples of where you’ve acted out of *love, joy or gratitude*?
- How do you *honestly* respond to the word “obedience”?
- How can we *motivate or encourage* others (or one another) towards such a posture?
- Have there been people we’ve known who’ve inspired us with their lives of *loving service*?

Alignment

- This course has been called ALL FOR JESUS. Have there been any *pinch points* for you?
- Has there been an area where you’ve felt challenged to *change something*? How’s it going?
- What challenged you in this week’s video – *what will you do* and who will you tell?

MAKE IT PERSONAL – some suggestions





Take the words of this 5th verse and rewrite them as a **poem or a hymn** for yourself, in your own words. Could you share them with someone you trust? Put it somewhere you’ll see it regularly 😊

Take time to notice all the things which bring you real joy this week... try to journal one thing each day. Then notice was it in giving or receiving that the joy came. Talk to God about how you feel.

GROWING IN OUR DISCIPLESHIP - heart, head, hands and feet

The questions below help us to reflect on what we're taking away by way of *learning and encouragement...* and *challenge!*

It would be helpful to give group members a copy of this page 😊

Area of our discipleship	In words...	Key thought explored in this study	A question to consider
	Loving Jesus	Scripture shows us that love and devotion are completely intertwined and deeply interconnected. While love is often connected to the human experience of feelings and emotions, devotion is more about action — about dedication, commitment.	Receiving God's love- Damares asks, <i>"what does it look like for you to make space in your day today to be captivated by the love of God?"</i>
	Learning from Jesus		
	Imitating Jesus	Jesus gave everything in the manner expressed in the 5 th verse of the hymn.	Responding to God's love- <i>Do I trust Jesus enough to let go of things or do I hold on tightly? How could I be freed up to let go?</i>
	Sharing Jesus		