

**“Remaining IN Love”**  
*A Personal or Small Group Experience*

In any kind of love relationship that is intended to have longevity the question “How do we stay IN love?” inevitably arises. This is one of the great fears of marriage—that the two people will not remain IN love but end up falling OUT of love. Our humanness struggles with the demands of staying IN love for the long haul. This weekend my wife and I are celebrating our 28th wedding anniversary—being IN love over the long haul is on my mind. Looking from my perspective I can say that there are some expressions and experiences of loving and being loved that can only be realized with duration—longevity—remaining IN love. Some times we can be dooped into thinking that love’s freshness, spark, fire, and joy is found only in the new and unknown—always looking for a new someone, something, some-something that will satisfy—perhaps we even look for a new God to be in love with!

God is not giving up on the vision for “Remaining IN Love” especially in relationship with Him! And that is where we now turn!

In John 15 Jesus is using the vine and branches metaphor to bring depth to the love relationship He desires with humanity! Love is key to that! He calls us to “Remain in His Love” or “Remain in Love with Him!”

READ **John 15:1-16** rather slowly!

Stop and pray as a group that Jesus’ words would speak to each persons’ heart in a unique way!

Now, another person read **John 15:4-11** again—slowly!

Now, another person read **John 15:9-11** again—slowly!

Spend a few minutes in silence with each person gazing over these verses and considering what God might be saying to them!

Now discuss what we have been saying about these verses on Sundays and what they are saying to you now with special attention to what they are saying about “remaining IN love with Jesus”!

Why is this so important to Jesus?

What are the keys to staying in love with Jesus?

Now I encourage you to take this idea of “remaining in Jesus’s love” and apply it to a familiar parable! Jesus is teaching us about what it looks like to be in the love of God, leave the love, return to the love and maybe He is even teaching us about being all around the love but never falling in love at all!

Enjoy this parable and discuss it from that perspective!

**Luke 15:11-32**

*“I Am....”*  
***The Vine You are the Branches”***

**“Connecting With God” Weekly Guide**

This booklet is a resource to help you “Connect with God” this week. He deeply desires ongoing personal connection with you. You are that important to Him.

**This Page** has some scripture verses for you to meditate on each day this week. Notice the helpful hints section – these are great things to consider when personally engaging with God through His Word.

**The Center Pages contain** the notes and outline for the message given on Sunday. The message is also available as an audio download from [www.pointofgracechurch.org](http://www.pointofgracechurch.org)

**The Back Page** has a study written specifically for a small group of people (or an individual) to drill down deeper into a particular aspect of the week’s theme. Small groups can review memorable points of the week’s message and then work through the study concluding with a time of prayer.

*Scripture & Meditation Guide - May 23-28*

**Helpful Hints:**

- 1) Find a quiet place along with 15-20 minutes!
- 2) Focus on God for a few moments asking His Spirit to speak to your heart!
- 3) Listen to Him by reading a section of scripture then rereading it several times, dwelling on “words and phrases” which grab your heart’s attention.  
Ask God, “What do You want me to hear?” “Why this word at this time?”  
“How are You inviting me to respond?”
- 4) Pray everything that is on your heart and mind as you are ready!  
*Worship Him, Bless Him, Thank Him, Ask Him, Trust Him*

**Monday:** John 15:9-11

**Tuesday:** Luke 15:1-7

**Wednesday:** Luke 15:8-10

**Thursday:** Luke 15:11-32

**Friday:** Ephesians 3:14-19

**Saturday:** 1 John 4:7-12