



LIFEGROUPS

Series: *Encounter*

Scripture: *John 15*

Date: June 29 & 30, 2019

Message: *Living a Holy Life*

—[LET'S START]—

This week we celebrate our nation's Independence Day. What do you and your family do to celebrate the Fourth of July? What are some of your favorite holiday traditions? Do you have a favorite Fourth of July memory?

—[LET'S TALK]—

1. **GRATITUDE AND PRAYER:** What happened last week for which you are thankful? What challenges do you see in your life? Your family? The World? As a group, take some time to pray. Thank God for the beautiful ways that He has been at work, and pray about the challenges that those in your group are currently facing.
2. Pastor Dale preached his last message in the *Encounter* series this week. Throughout the series he focused on how the Tabernacle points us to Jesus. How has this series influenced the way that you think about Christ?
3. Read John 15:1-11.
 - What does this passage teach us about God?
 - What does it teach us about people?
4. Pastor Dale said that, "the holy fruit of God's presence is experienced in my life when I learn to abide in Christ." What does it mean to abide in Christ? What has that looked like in your life?
5. Pastor Dale said that when we venture outside of God's truth for our lives and relationships that we end up expending an awful lot of energy. Read Galatians 5:19-21. and discuss how what Pastor Dale said is reflected in these verses.
6. Pastor Dale said that, "The evidence of God's holiness in our life is love." He then described Agape love as being the type of love that looks at others and values them for who they are regardless of whether they ever return love back. Have you experienced that type of love in your life? How did this type impact you? How do you think showing Agape love to those in your life could impact them?
7. What are some biblical examples of Jesus showing love to those who didn't return His love?

—[**LET’S ACT**]—

In his sermon, Dale said that one of the evidences of God’s holy presence in our lives is the ability to love even our enemies. We all have people in our lives who might be considered “extra grace required.” This week, let’s pray for the people in our lives who are most difficult to love. Let’s pray that God would help us to rely on Him to work in us so that we might love other like He loves us. This week, go out of your way to show love to one of your “extra grace required” people. Come back next time prepared to talk about what God did this week.

—[**SERMON REVIEW**]—

- Jesus is the source of my ability to live a holy life.
- The holy fruit of God’s presence is experienced in my life when I learn to abide in Christ.
- We learn to abide in Christ when we learn to rest. Instead of trying to hang on to God, I learn to rest and trust in God to hang on to me.
- Practice giving up control to the Holy Spirit.
- Practice listening to and obeying God’s word.
- Practice releasing the flow of God’s presence in your life.
- True love is the ability to disagree with other viewpoints but still care deeply and sacrifice for the one you love. It takes a power greater than yourself to love people who disagree with you, who may even persecute you for not approving their agenda, than it does to capitulate to demands you give up your convictions and embrace what you don’t believe.

—[**NOTES**]—
