

# Destiny

## SMALL GROUP STUDY | Love and obedience

Love for God and obedience to God are both things that God desires from us, and both things that we should be growing in. There is a clear Biblical relationship between loving God and obeying God. Jesus talks about it in John 14 and 15. It's crucial that we understand the relationship and don't mix up 'the root' and 'the fruit'.

Begin this study by discussing what you think is meant by the terms 'root' and 'fruit'.

### READ | What does the Bible say?

Read **John 14:15 - John 15:14**

Make note of any verses that mention love and obedience. When you've found them, take some time to digest what they are saying.

### REFLECT | What does the Bible mean?

- Q1. What do all of these verses have in common?
- Q2.
  - a. If we could describe love and obedience as 'fruit' or 'root', which would be which?
  - b. Why is it important that we get it the right way round?
- Q3.
  - a. What would you expect in the life of someone who is growing in love for God?
  - b. Conversely, what is a hallmark of someone who does not love God (14:24)?

- Q4. What do you think are the commands that Jesus is talking about in these chapters?
- Q5. Genuine love for God will result in obeying His commandments according to these verses, but obedience is the 'fruit' and not the 'root'. Another significant illustration of the 'fruit / root' principle is found in James 2:14-26. What is the lesson here?

### RESPOND | What do I need to do now?

- Q6. If an outsider knew that love for God was measured by obedience to God, and they observed your life, what would they conclude about your love for God? Reflect for a moment on that question.
- Q7.
  - a. With this whole study in mind, what is the best way to obey God better?
  - b. What do you think are the best ways to outwork your answer to the previous question?

### Suggested memory verse(s):

**"If you love me, you will keep my commandments."**

(John 14:15 ESV)