



#homedevos 13.2

A WAY OF LIFE

Authentic Gospel-Centered Kingdom Community

In preparation: Have pens and paper ready.

Introduction:

We learned that when one looks at a community, where we stay and live life between and with many other different people, it should be easy to see who belong to Jesus and follow Him whole-heartedly. What we do and how we live are like our school uniform, totally different and distinct from all others.

We are going to learn a very important thing about it today. Are you ready?



Activity:

Each one must write down their "To Do" list for the next day, while playing praise music or "This little light of mine" you watched with #homedevo13.1.

(For the little ones: help them by asking them questions and drawing a simple picture of the action for them, e.g. What do you have to do first when you get up in the morning? And then?)

Share your lists with one another. Have your "Ooh's" and "Ah's", connecting with one another.



Questions:

- Which of the things on your list do you love to do? Why?
- Which of the things on your list do you not like to do? Why?
- What did you do today that you loved? Why?

Let us read what the early church did together again. Acts 2:42-47

(It is always good to read and repeat the Word. An idea: let everyone follow in their Bibles and each one read a verse around in a circle until the passage is finished. Participation is always good.)

(42) And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

(43) And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.

(44) And all who believed were together and had all things in common.

(45) And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.

(46) And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts,

(47) praising God and having favour with all people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved."

When we look at the things the early church did, we realize it was not a "To Do" list. It was a way of life.

They did not tick off: we've been to the apostles for teaching and we had breaking of bread, it's done. Uh, we still need to fellowship and pray together. No, it was their way of living.

It is like with our "To Do" lists, there are things we do that are not even on our lists, because it is the way we do things and part of our lives, e.g. brushing teeth, getting dressed for the day, combing your hair, greeting one another, etc. It just comes so naturally.



Questions:

- When do you think something moves from a "To Do" list to become part of you, a natural flow?
- When is it the easiest for you to do something on your list? (When you love it.)
- When is it the easiest do to something for someone else? (When you love him/her.)

Ask more questions to help them to come to the desired answers.

meaning of #devoicons



do an
action



do an
activity



pray
together



memory
verse



ask a
question

When you do something because you love - love is the motivation in your heart - the "To Do's" become part of who you are and what you do and it has a total different flavour. We saw that in the early church - because they loved Jesus they were committed to meet together, listen and learn from the apostles, break bread and pray together regularly. Because they loved others as themselves, they willingly and sacrificially helped those in need and fellowshiped, praising God together.

On our "To Do" lists are things we just must do whether we like it or not. (Use an example from something from the "To Do" lists discussed.)

It is like that with us in our love walk with Jesus and one another.

Jesus tells us things to do that are not easy. Can you think of some?

One is to forgive others "up to seventy times seven" (Matthew 18:22). That's a lot! Here again, when love steps in, things change, it doesn't necessarily become easier, but we do it because we love.

Let us zoom in on the love:

- The love of God for me:

When I know that Jesus loves me, with such a big love that He died on the cross for me, I know He has my best interest at heart. So when He tells me to do things (e.g. to forgive), it is for the best of me and others around me.

We see this also in the heart of God when He gave the Israelites all the laws to live by. It was not a lot of rules to burden them, but to help them to have full and blessed lives if they obey and do it. Deuteronomy 6:3: "Therefore hear, Israel, and be careful to observe (do) it, that it may be well with you, and that you may multiply greatly as the Lord God of your fathers has promised you - 'a land of milk and honey'." And you know what, He loves us so much that He gave us the Holy Spirit to be alongside us and help us.

- My love for God:

Love desires to bring joy and to please. Isn't it so in our lives?

Think of your teachers at school. The teacher you love most is the teacher you obey with a happy heart and you do your best. The one you do not like that much and not really love, is the one you obey, but grudgingly and you don't do your best ... just enough that she won't moan at you.

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Jesus is our perfect example. We read in John 8:29 (ESV): “And He (the Father) who sent Me is with Me. He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him.”

Paul prays for the church in Colossians 1:9-10 (NIV): “... We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of His will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please Him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God.”



Prayer:

- Ask God that He will give you an understanding/revelation of His love for you.
- Ask Him to help you to love Him whole-heartedly, more and more, that we move from doing the right things as on a “To Do” list to doing them because we love Him.
- Ask Him who is there in your neighborhood who is in desperate need and what you should do to help.

(Suggestion: For this prayer request, encourage each one to ask God softly in their hearts and then to be quiet and listen. He will drop a name and an idea in their minds. When everybody is ready, ask each one “What did God say to you?” ... This is a step of faith but dare to risk trusting the Holy Spirit. He is ready, waiting to lead you and your family.)



Action:

- Write down the names and what you should do.
- Plan and take action. Just do it in obedience to our Lord.
- Enjoy being an instrument through whom Jesus bless your neighbor in need and make a difference in their lives.
- Give all the glory to our loving Father.

Ah, and don't forget to daily memorize the verse of the week.

Be blessed!

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