John 15:12

(1)
Think about John 15:12.

(Jesus said to his students) *"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."*

- There are many commandments in the Bible. What are some of them?
  Consider Luke 18:18-20. *A ruler asked him (Jesus), "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" And Jesus said to him, ... "You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother."*

- What one commandment did Jesus give to his students that is superior to all others? (See John 15:12 quoted above.)

- Why does Jesus say this commandment belongs to him? (See John 15:12 quoted above.)

- For what reason would Jesus's students keep this command of his?
  Consider 1John 4:10-11. *In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.*

  > The meaning of this word "*propitiation*" is: the atoning sacrifice that is the satisfying offering for sin.

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(2)
Think about John 15:13.

(Jesus said) *"Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends."*

- What did Jesus say is the greatest act of love that a human can do for another?

- How did the apostle Paul describe the greatness of Christ's love for those who believe Jesus?
  Consider Ephesians 3:17-19. *… that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith - that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*

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(3)
Think about John 15:14, 17.

(Jesus said) *"You are My friends if you do what I command you. ... This I command you, that you love one another."*

- What evidence proves one is a friend of Jesus?

  Also consider John 13:35. (Jesus said to his students) "*By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.*"

- What did Jesus command his followers to do? (See John 15:14, 17, quoted above.)

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(4)
Think about John 15:15.

(Jesus said to his students) *"No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you."*

- Why did Jesus stop calling these students, servants?

- Why did Jesus call these students, friends?

- What did Jesus say is the difference between how servants are treated and how dear friends are treated?

  Also consider Matthew 8:8-9. *The centurion replied, "Lord, ... I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."*

- What had Jesus heard from his Father and made known to his friends?

  Consider John 17:6-8. (Jesus prayed to his Father) *"I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me ... and they have kept your word. ... I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me."*

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(5)
Think about John 15:16.

(Jesus said to his students) "*You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit--fruit that will last--and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.*"

- Did Jesus's students choose Jesus?

- Did Jesus choose his students?

- Why does Jesus choose his students?

- How can one whom Jesus chooses bear lasting fruit for God?

  Consider John 15:5. *"I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."*