

Joy of Living in Love

By Barry Beeler



Materials:

- Axe
- Bible

Time: 10 minutes

Preparation: Get someone to Read John 15:10-12 at the beginning.

We're going to talk about these words in a bit so listen as _____ reads to us.

“If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remained in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.”

Introduction Question:

Who has helped cut firewood for your family or your friend’s family?

Illustration:

Last week during Spring Break my brother and I stayed in our aunt and uncle’s cabin on Mudge Island, near Nanaimo. One day my brother, Mark, and I split some firewood for our Aunt and Uncle. I told my brother there was a lot of wood and that I didn’t think we’d be able to split all of it. Mark reassured me that he and his friend used to cut this much wood in a couple hours. So, we went to work.

(Use axe while demonstrating.) One of us would put a round on the chopping block while the other guy would swing the ax. The guy without the ax would clear the chopping block and set up the next round. After a while we would trade jobs. In less than three hours we finished the pile we were working on.

Why were we able to cut so much firewood?

- We worked together.
- We cooperated
- We were focused on the same goal.

Application:

My brother is faster and more experienced in splitting firewood than I am. He could have got angry with me for not working as hard and fast as him. Mark didn't even have to help me. Any one of us could have got frustrated and quit, but the person left would not have been able to cut as much wood as we did. We were able to **share** the appreciation of a job well done because we finished it together.

Jesus gave us his commands so that His **joy** would be in us and that our joy would be complete. One of his commands is to, "Love each other as [he] has loved [us]". We experience the joy Jesus promised when we love each other even while we don't feel like it. This is a gift from God!