

Leader Guide:

Abiding In Christ, Pt.1 - What Is Abiding?

Date: August 31, 2020

Files For This Study:

1. Group LEADER Study Notes: [Download Here](#)
 2. Group Member Study Notes: [Download Here](#)
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1. The Heart:

(This section is to help you understand why we are studying this lesson. You can use it for your own preparation or you can share it with the group to kick off your study time, the choice is yours.)

The heart of this lesson is teaching group members the importance of BEING with God and not just DOING things for God.

Come, Rest, Learn, Imitate...

"28 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." - Matthew 11:28-29

The invitation to know Jesus intimately is at the core of the Gospel message. But His intention is not just for us to know about Him. He wants us to know Him personally and to become JUST LIKE HIM as a result of our time with Him. He loves us just the way we are, but when we come to Jesus, we always experience transformation.

This transformation of becoming like Christ reveals itself in our character as well as our works. This is because WHO we are (our character) always dictates what we do (our works). When we become more like Jesus, we will also begin to live and serve like Jesus. This simple truth, that you must BE before you can DO, is why spending time with Jesus is the most important aspect of our relationship with Him. In fact, spending time with someone is the most important aspect of any and every close relationship. Without spending time with someone, we will not be able to know them deeply.

As Christians, we are called to grow to maturity in Christ according to **Ephesians 4:11-13** *"And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,"*. If we are going to experience this growth, we must begin by establishing our lives in daily time spent with Jesus. In **2 Corinthians 3:17-18** Paul says *"17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit."*

It is in this time that our lives are transformed and as a result, our work will be transformed as well. Why is this important? Because God has called us to maturity, but He has also called us to make disciples who are mature.

Discipleship is much more than simply passing on knowledge... it requires imparting oneself to others. *"Pouring yourself out"* so to speak. What this means is that when we disciple others (in this case, via your Calvary Group), we are passing on both what we know as well as who we are as a person. Just like a child picks up on the mannerisms and attitudes of their parents, so those you lead will become more like you!

Therefore, it is important that we as Christians are rooted in Christ and who we are in Him, continually pursuing Him, knowing Him, becoming more like Him, and obeying His will and command to make disciples who make disciples as they too pursue Christ and Spiritual Maturity in Him.

With this in mind, we are starting the Fall 2020 Group season with the topic of Abiding in Christ. This lesson is meant to be digested slowly and intentionally. It's not about covering a lot of scripture. Rather, the focus of these lessons will be on going deeper IN CHRIST and INTIMACY with Him! While the lessons look lighter, this is so that you and your group members can spend time learning and meditating on the profound passage of John 15 and learn how to Abide in Christ at all times. This time with Jesus will transform you more into His image and will greatly impact your effectiveness as both disciples and disciple makers.

My advice is to go slow through this study. Challenge your group to really connect with the Lord each day. To read and meditate on John 15:1-11 every day this week. To seek ways to "abide" in Him even when they are facing the busyness of daily life. When they do, they will *"behold the glory of the Lord"* and the Spirit of God will transform them *"into the same image from one degree of glory to another"*.

2. LEARN:

This section is focused on learning God's Word. When we study the Bible, we should ask ourselves "What is this lesson teaching us?". This will help you stay focused on the main point.

Main Passage: John 15:1-11

Teaching Tip: As you work through this section, take time to read each bible reference. Encourage open dialogue on each question.

Abiding = To remain, to rest, to dwell.

A branch must remain connected to the vine or it will wither and die. The concept of "Abiding" in Christ is foreign to many Christians today. So go slow and allow people to process it as you work through the passages and questions.

Do: *"The Big Picture" and "The Main Focus" Sections of this week's lesson.*

Consider: What does this lesson teach us?

Once you finish this section, move on to "3. Engage" below.

3. ENGAGE:

This section is focused on being equipped by God's Word. In order to engage the word and be equipped by it, we should ask ourselves "What action does this lesson require of us? Or What does it equip us to do? ". This will help you stay focused on the main point and move towards DOING the word and not just learning it.

Consider: What action does this lesson require of us? Or What does it equip us to do?

Discuss: Today's lesson requires us to prioritize and structure our time so that we can spend time with Jesus each day. What would need to change so you could better align your Life with the Truth you studied in this lesson?

Once you finish this section, move on to "4. Apply" below.

4. APPLY:

This section is focused on being doers of God's Word by submitting to it and applying it to our lives. In order to apply the word, we should ask ourselves 2 questions. The two questions are: 1. Are you currently doing what this lesson requires of you? Why or Why not? 2. What can you do to obey and apply this lesson this week? Focusing on these two questions will help us hold one another accountable in doing that which God's word requires of us.

Do: Work through "The Final Word" Section of the lesson.

Once you complete it, return to this sheet and do the rest of this sheet.

Discuss: Go over the questions below and discuss what it means for you to abide in Christ, and what practical steps each of you will take to do so this week.

Consider: Are you currently doing what this lesson requires of you? Why or Why not?

Do you have a daily habit of worship and quiet time with the Lord and staying in the word?

Consider: What can you do to obey and apply this lesson this week?

Find a way to spend at least 20 minutes in the word and prayer each day. Read John 15:1-11 during that time each day.

5. PRAY:

This section is focused on praying through God's Word. It is important to leave sufficient time for prayer. God's Word has been planted in your hearts as a result of your time in the word. Now pray for it to bring forth fruit.

Consider: What is the main thing we should pray about as a result of this lesson?

Pray: Pray for wisdom and courage for your group to reprioritize their time where necessary in order to make time for abiding in Christ daily.

The group time is now completed.

6. CONNECT: Which group members can I spend some time with this week?

This section is focused on Connecting with God's People so you can further disciple them. As a Leader, ask the Lord the question above. If He puts anyone on your heart, then reach out to them and connect with them this week.