

Abide

Discussion Guide

Week of February 5 - Remain Connected to the Vine

Scripture verse: John 15:1-5

LEADER NOTE: Ask a group member to pray (someone who does not regularly participate). Coach him/her on what you would like him/her to pray. **Example:** "Kristin, would you please ask the Lord to open our hearts and allow the Holy Spirit to guide our understanding of His word today."

OPENING QUESTION: Go around the group... share a moment in your childhood where you learned an important lesson that has equipped you for adulthood.

If time permits, go a 2nd time around and share what you hope to gain from this 4-week study of our theme **Abide**... Being connected to the vine, being with God, being with others, and being sent?

LEADER TIP: When leading the discussion... Ask the quiet and more reserved people to answer first. The talkers will not have any problem giving an answer to the questions, but the reserved person will feel less compelled to talk if their response has already been mentioned.

LOOKING UP: Life is full of hectic schedules, pressures, storms, and unexpected surprises. Jesus said life would be like that. As he was teaching the disciples how to be one -a disciple—he gave them a metaphor they could visualize, ponder, and compare. Before you do a deeper dive ask the group to **define the term "Abide"**. Collect all their answers and construct a working definition. 3 weeks later in the month, compare it with your answer from today.

Reflect on your past week. As a group, briefly discuss the things that take up your time. Mention things you do after work or school that fill up your time... (hobby, social media, gaming, connecting with friends, hunting, homework, shopping, etc.). Time will be a key factor in growing because it plays a significant role in Abiding in Christ.

Read the passage listed below and ask the first question. Be sure to ask this question several times... (WAIT patiently for people to respond). It may take several times of asking your group the 1st question to catch all the things that stood out to the group. Be patient and not rush to move to the 2nd question. Often times, people will answer the 2nd question while working on the 1st question - That's ok. Continue asking the remaining 3 questions.

READ PASSAGE:
John 15:1-5
Answer the first 2 questions in the center

1. What stood out to you most?
2. What was challenging or hard to understand?
3. What does this teach us about people?
4. What does this teach us about God?

RE-READ SAME PASSAGE out of another bible translation then answer the last 2 questions

LOOKING FORWARD: Why did Jesus speak important truths in this manner (in directly, figuratively, parable)? What obstacles or roadblocks stand in your way of abiding in Christ?

Abiding in Christ requires you to spend time listening to Jesus. One significant way to listen to Jesus is reading his word daily and asking him—which is praying—to reveal ways you need to live and love like Jesus tomorrow. Take 2 minutes in silence waiting to see if the Holy Spirit speaks to your heart or leaves an impression. To keep Jesus in your hectic schedule you need to remain in him.

Pray audibly out loud for the Holy Spirit to show each person how to answer the question below. After you pray out loud, give each person the opportunity for silent prayer. (2 minutes.)

How will you obey this passage?

After the 2 minutes of silent prayer, ask each person and write down each person's answer to the 2 questions:

How will you be obedient to the Holy Spirit?

How will you abide in God's Word and prayer this week?

Be prepared to share how you obeyed during next week's meeting.