

Abide

Discussion Guide

Week of February 19 - Being With Others (Growth in Community)

Scripture verse: John 15:9-13

LEADER NOTE: Do the "LOOKING BACK" portion of today's study informally (in a relaxed casual manner) around a table - preferably with food.

LOOKING BACK: Jesus did many teachings and trainings with the disciples informally rather than sitting them down formally and presenting a lecture. While the disciples walked along the road, while rowing in a boat, while getting water from a well, or while waiting for a meal to be eaten at a home are some of the ways Jesus used the opportunity to talk about the kingdom of Heaven. Take only 1/3 of tonight's time and sit around a table to eat. Informally (in a relaxed casual manner) ask **each person** the following question:

"How has your personal relationship with God been this past week? How did you do **abiding in God's Word and prayer this week?**"

Review the notes of each group member that were written down from last week. Reading God's Word, listening to what he says, obeying anything you hear the Holy Spirit saying to your heart are habits of a healthy disciple who is Abiding in Christ.

The challenge was given last week to pray the prayer below **BEFORE** reading your bible each day...

“Lord, I invite you into my schedule today. Teach me how to pray and more importantly teach me to ask, “What matters to you, Lord, so I can make it matter to me?”

What did the Holy Spirit bring to your mind or press upon your heart while you read each day?

LOOKING UP: Ask the group, “How does a child show or demonstrate his/her love to his/her parents?” (By offering gifts, words of affirmation, serving, hugs, saying “I love you” - or something else?)

We often say “I love you” to family & friends. Ask the group, “What does love look like in action? To a parent? To a sibling? To a neighbor? To a stranger? To an unbeliever?”

Read the passage below and ask the first 2 questions

READ PASSAGE:
John 15:9-13
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: After the study... As a group, take the next 3 minutes to encourage each person to pray privately asking the Lord to reveal a person that needs connection with others. After a minute of prayer... use the remaining 2 minutes

to be still and listen to what the Holy Spirit says to your mind or heart.

Plan to reach out to that person the Holy Spirit places on your mind or heart. Even consider doing a random act of love or kindness. (Baked good, favorite snack, note of encouragement, text a prayer, write a sticky note, serve this person in a meaningful way)

Then after the 2 minutes of being quiet ask,

“Who has he led you to share with... a friend? co-worker? or family member?”

WRITE DOWN the answers each person in the group provides. Save it for next week’s group.

BEFORE you reach out to the person God has laid on your heart... pray for the Lord to help them be prepared to receive what you share. If they respond to your act of kindness... tell this person what you’re learning about Abiding in Christ? (See where the conversation goes and report back to the group next week)