

# “Abide. John 15”

Week #2

## INTRODUCTION

In week two of our series from John 15 we are going to consider how the patterns of our behavior shape us. While it is good to abide in Jesus, it can be very damaging to abide in the wrong things. We will look to scripture to seek God’s direction in setting up patterns that keep us abiding in Him.

### **Ice Breaker (Optional):**

What is the first thing you do when you wake up each morning?

## Study Questions (45 MIN)

### **Move from desire to transformation**

#### **Q1. Read Hebrews 13:8; John 8:11**

Jesus by His very nature is unchanging, and gives us an example of what abiding looks like. (Hebrews 13:8) But how do we harness the power of abiding that he demonstrates? When Jesus was confronted with the woman caught in adultery, how did he instruct her? He offered her a new beginning, but it required her to create a new pattern of behavior. What are some specific steps she might have to take in order not to return to adultery? Are there any negative patterns of behavior that you have successfully changed in your life? If so describe the journey that brought success.

### **A New Pattern**

#### **Q2. Read John 15:1-6; John 8:31; Hebrews 4:12; 1 John 4:13; Romans 6:15-18**

In John chapter 15 Jesus gives us a pattern: Abide, Produce Fruit, Be Pruned. One of the ways we abide in Jesus is through the Word. How does Jesus refer to those who abide in his word in John 8:31? Hebrews 4:12 tells us God’s Word is alive. How has God used His Word to give you insight and revelation in your life?

John says that we know that we abide in God because He has given us His Spirit. (1 John 4:13) As we spend time abiding in God’s Spirit, allowing Him to direct our activities, we might find some of our regular patterns being adjusted. What are some of the spiritual practices or disciplines you expect to see develop as you allow God’s Spirit to guide you through your day?

The patterns we choose to practice should be a reflection of our abiding in God’s ways. God’s ways are not a list of restrictions, as some perceive them to be. How does Paul describe our freedom from “the law” in Romans 6:15-18?

### **Produce Fruit**

#### **Q3. Read Galatians 5:22-23; Philippians 1:9-11**

One of the reasons we must abide in Jesus is our inability to produce fruit apart from Him. When we abide in and are shaped by God’s Word, His Spirit and His love, what fruit do we expect to see? If we are producing righteous fruit, what will we expect as a result? (Philippians 1:11)

### **Be Pruned**

#### **Q4. Read Romans 12:2**

As we attempt to abide in Jesus, there will be obstacles in our path. What patterns are competing for our attention (Romans 12:2)? There is no easy fix to break damaging patterns; we must work at it. The first step to breaking a destructive pattern is to identify it. Has God shown you a pattern that you need to let Him “prune away” in order to gain something greater? Pray for one another in your group to see old patterns changed so that God can produce greater fruit in you.

## Wrap-Up

Jesus is our example of the power of abiding. But if we are going to be transformed to be more like Jesus, it will involve creating new patterns in our lives. We must chose to abide in God’s Word, and in His Spirit through our actions, including spiritual practices like worship, study, prayer and serving others. We must set aside the ways of the world and practice God’s ways, seeking His best for us in all we do. And when God prunes us and calls us to lay aside our damaging patterns, we know He is preparing us to produce even greater fruit for His glory.

## Memory Verse

*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.*

*- John 15:5 ESV*

## Prayer (20 MIN)

*Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life:*

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**Challenge:** As you read God’s Word look for times where you find Jesus’s example to us of abiding through his life, death and resurrection.

**Q1**

Hebrews 13:8 ESV - 8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

John 8:1-11 ESV - 1 but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. 2 Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and taught them. 3 The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst 4 they said to him, "Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. 5 Now in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?" 6 This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. 7 And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her." 8 And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. 9 But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. 10 Jesus stood up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" 11 She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more."]]

**Q2**

John 15:1-6 ESV - 1 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. 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. 6 If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

John 8:31 ESV - 31 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples,

Hebrews 4:12 NLT - 12 For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.

1 John 4:13 ESV - 13 By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

Romans 6:15-18 ESV - 15 What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! 16 Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? 17 But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, 18 and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.

**Q3**

Galatians 5:22-23 ESV - 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Philippians 1:9-11 ESV - 9 And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, 10 so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, 11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

**Q4**

Romans 12:2 ESV - 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

**Prayer Notes cont.**

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