

Abide In Me – Week 1

Stay Where You Belong

Abiding means staying connected to Jesus as the source of life.

1. Stay Where You Belong

Most people don't lose faith — they lose connection.

“I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn't produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me.”

— John 15:1–4 (NLT)

Belonging isn't about where you feel comfortable — it's about where life flows from.

2. Change What You Live From

What holds your attention shapes your direction.

“Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty. This I declare about the Lord: He alone is my refuge, my place of safety; he is my God, and I trust him.”

— Psalm 91:1–2 (NLT)

“If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God's love be in that person?”

— 1 John 3:17 (NLT)

Everyone lives from something. Our attention reveals our true source.

3. Learn to Breathe His Words

God's Word isn't fuel — it's oxygen.

“But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted!”

— John 15:7 (NLT)

“So you must remain faithful to what you have been taught from the beginning. If you do, you will remain in fellowship with the Son and with the Father.”

— 1 John 2:24 (NLT)

God’s Word stabilizes your inner world and reminds you who you are when everything feels loud.

4. Live Like You’ve Been With Him

Relationship always comes before function.

“When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father. I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!”

— John 15:8, 11 (NLT)

Fruit and joy grow naturally from closeness, not striving.

5. Remain for the Long Run

Jesus trains us in abiding before crisis, not during it.

“And now, dear children, remain in fellowship with Christ so that when he returns, you will be full of courage and not shrink back from him in shame.”

— 1 John 2:28 (NLT)

“You didn’t choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name.”

— John 15:16 (NLT)

Faithfulness in everyday life prepares us for difficult times.

This Week

Don’t just text someone — call them.

Don’t just pray for someone — pray with them.

Don't just say you care — show up and be present.

Talk It Over

What is one place you've been drawing life from that isn't Jesus?
What would it look like to intentionally practice abiding this week?

WEEK 1 STUDY GUIDE

Series: *Abide In Me*

Week 1: *Stay Where You Belong*

Key Truth: Abiding means staying connected to Jesus as the source of life.

Primary Scripture: John 15:1-4 (NLT)

5-DAY DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN

Opening Paragraph (Read Before Day 1)

Abiding isn't about adding more spiritual activity to your life – it's about returning to the right source. This week invites you to slow down, notice what you're living from, and intentionally remain connected to Jesus. Each day is designed to help you practice abiding in simple, real ways.

Day 1 – Remain in the Source

Scripture: John 15:1-4 (NLT)

Reflection:

Jesus doesn't invite us to work harder for fruit – He invites us to stay connected. Disconnection is subtle. Most people don't stop believing; they stop abiding.

Application:

Where have you drifted from intentional connection with Jesus? What would "remaining" look like in your real, everyday rhythm?

Day 2 – Where Life Flows From

Scripture: Psalm 91:1-2 (NLT)

Reflection:

Scripture describes God as a shelter, refuge, and place of rest. What we live from becomes what steadies us – or unsettles us.

Application:

When life gets heavy, where do you instinctively turn first? What might need to change so God becomes your default place of rest?

Day 3 – What Holds Your Attention

Scripture: 1 John 3:17 (NLT)

Reflection:

Our attention shapes our direction. What we live from eventually shapes how we love, respond, and show compassion.

Application:

What currently holds most of your attention? Is it forming you toward love and presence – or distraction and distance?

Day 4 – Let the Word Shape You

Scripture: John 15:7 (NLT)

Reflection:

God's Word doesn't just inform us – it stabilizes us. It recalibrates our reactions and reminds us who we are when life gets loud.

Application:

What small, daily rhythm could help Scripture become a consistent voice shaping your inner world?

Day 5 – Abide for the Long Run

Scripture: John 15:16; 1 John 2:28 (NLT)

Reflection:

Abiding isn't a phase or a series – it's a lifelong posture. Jesus trains us in abiding before crisis, not during it.

Application:

What practice can help you remain connected to Jesus consistently – not just when life feels unstable?

PERSONAL REFLECTION (INDIVIDUAL)

Use these questions for journaling or quiet prayer.

1. What does “abiding” look like in your current season of life?
2. Where have you been living from something other than Jesus?
3. What distractions most often pull your attention away from connection?
4. What is one simple habit you could change this week to remain more present with God?
5. How might your relationships change if you lived more intentionally connected to Christ?

GROUP STUDY GUIDE (CHAT ROOM / SMALL GROUP)

Opening Icebreaker

Share about a place, activity, or relationship that helps you feel grounded or restored. Why does it have that effect on you?

Discussion Questions

1. Read John 15:1-4. What stands out to you about Jesus’ invitation to remain rather than produce?
2. The message said, *“Most people don’t lose faith – they lose connection.”* Where have you seen this play out in your own life or others?
3. Read Psalm 91:1-2. What does it mean to “live in the shelter” of God in everyday life?
4. How does what holds our attention shape the direction of our lives? (1 John 3:17)
5. What practical step can help you abide more intentionally this week?

Prayer Focus

Pray for clarity about what each person is living from. Ask God to help your group remain connected to Jesus as the true source of life, peace, and growth.