

KEY SCRIPTURE

1 John 2:28 (NLT)

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.

John 15:1-11 (NLT)

1 "I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 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.

5 "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.

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

8 When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father. 9 "I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love.

10 When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father's commandments and remain in his love.

11 I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!

START TALKING

Pastor Dave said that 1 John 2:28 has been his life verse since he was 17. **Do you have a life verse or favorite verse? Why is it special to you?**

START DISCUSSING

Read 1 John 2:28

THE "Now" AND END OF MY LIFE

1 John 2:28 speaks to the present moment of our life with the word "now." It then refers to the end of our life and meeting the Lord.

What are we to do now? Do your best to describe what that means. What are two possible endings of our life in this verse? Discuss how remaining is not a "once and for all" event. Every moment is the time to remain.

REMAINING IN THE SEASONS OF LIFE

Pastor Dave mentioned various season of life and how we need to remain during these times.

What advice do you have for how and why the person in each season can keep remaining?

When life is Passive, I may not feel the need to remain.

When life is Active, I can be too busy to remain.

When life is Joyful my focus can be drawn away from remaining

When I am Suffering remaining can seem to not be worth it.

When life is Peaceful, I can feel the urgency to remain

When life is filled with conflict, I can see remaining as something that hasn't worked in the past

When I am Weary, I can think what is the use

When I am over worked, I can feel that remaining is just too much.

When I am Worried/Afraid, I am not sure I can trust remaining.

When I am Doubting, I may not see remaining as a solution.

REMAIN, "Now"

Are you remaining now?

If you are not remaining, what changes can you make to start? How can you keep focused on remaining?

How can we as a lifegroup help each other remain in Christ?