

## Small Group Discussion Questions - Fall Semester // Week Six

*Remember, these questions are just tools for discussion. You don't need to 'get through them all'. Use the questions that are helpful, skip the questions that are not. And let the conversation flow naturally.*

### Optional Ice Breaker(s)

- a) Do you have a favourite photograph? What is one of your favourite personal photos (family photo, a photo you've taken, etc.)? Do you have a favourite famous/historical photo?
- b) What are a few worship songs that you have been listening to a lot these days? As a group, share a few worship songs (from church or otherwise) that have been encouraging to you in this season?

### Passage and Discussion

#### **Read 1 John 2:24-27**

- a) What stands out to you upon first reading of this passage? What is a theme, verse, or word that you find encouraging? What do you find challenging in this passage?
- b) On Sunday, Cam began his message by discussing the theme of "remaining" in our passage. What does the word "remain" mean to you? What do you think it means for "that which we have heard from the beginning" to "remain in us"?
- c) **Read John 15:1-10.** Our passage in 1 John is intentionally connected to Christ's teaching in John 15. What are the connections that you see between these two passages? Why would this connection have been meaningful to the Johannine community?
- d) In your personal relationship with God, what does it mean to "remain in Christ"? What are a few practical examples of ways that we can remain in Him in our everyday lives? How can we be accountable to each other in this area?
- e) On Sunday, Cam referred to the tendency that we have to try and be our own "gardeners" - to try and grow spiritually on our own strength. Have you ever experienced this in your own life? Have you ever tried to become "a better person" on your own strength? What happens when we try and do this?
- f) One characteristic of remaining in Christ is believing in Him. Do you remember where you were when you first believed that Christ is Lord; that He is the vine? How do we stay connected to this truth in our own lives?

- g) Another characteristic of remaining in Christ is cherishing the Word of God. Would you say that the word “cherish” defines your attitude towards God’s Word today? What does it mean to you to “cherish” God’s Word?
- h) According to J.C. Ryle, “to abide in Christ means to keep up a habit of constant close communion with Him”. If you were honest with yourself, are you keeping up a habit of constant close communion with Him? If not, what changes can you make to your life to begin or continue this important habit?
- i) One characteristic of those who remain in Christ, is that they put their hope in Him. What are a few examples of other things that people (ourselves included) put our hope in today? How do we move away from these things, and towards putting hope in Christ? How does putting our hope in Christ, help us remain in Him?
- j) An unpopular characteristic of remaining in Christ is allowing yourself to be refined by Him. Can you think of a season in your life where you were especially aware that you were being “pruned” by Christ? How is He refining you in your relationship with Him today?
- k) According to John 15:8, remaining in Christ results in God receiving glory. Discuss how this happens? How does someone, in their daily lives, adjust their perspective to seek God’s glory, as opposed to their own?
- l) The final characteristic we talked about on Sunday was that those who remain are empowered by Christ. What does it look like, in real life, to be powered by Christ, rather than powered by ourselves? What difference does it make, when we depend on Christ, instead of our own strength?
- m) Was there anything else in the message on Sunday that stood out to you as impactful or challenging?

**Take it Home (Optional Ideas for Response this Week)**

- a) This week, take a few minutes to pray that God would help you to remain in Him during all seasons of your life. If there are any parts of your life that have wandered away from remaining in Christ, ask Him to help you re-submit yourself fully to Him.
- b) This week, take a few minutes each day to read Scripture. Rather than simply reading God’s Word for information, remind yourself (and ask God to remind you) that you are called to “cherish” God’s Word as you read it.

## **Optional Ideas for Prayer Time**

- a) In this season, it is important for us to be intentionally praying for each other. This also means that we must each choose to be honest and vulnerable with our prayer requests. Take time to 'check-in' about how each person is doing, and pray for them.
  
- b) As a group, spend a few minutes praying for this series that we are walking through as a church. Pray that God would use it to help each of us become more like Him, and to help our church become more like the community He wants us to be.