

SMALL GROUP / STUDY GUIDE

SCRIPTURE

Read John 15:4–5

KEY TRUTH

Abiding is not about spiritually strong people holding onto Jesus.
It is weak people learning to trust Jesus to hold onto them.

OBSERVATION QUESTIONS

(What does the passage say?)

- What commands does Jesus give in this passage?
- What does Jesus compare Himself to?
- According to Jesus, what can a branch do apart from the vine?
- What does Jesus say happens when a person abides in Him?

INTERPRETATION QUESTIONS

(What does the passage mean?)

- The message described abiding as “dependence.” What do you think that means practically?
- Why do you think people often assume abiding is only for “super-spiritual” Christians?
- What does it reveal about Jesus that He says, “Abide in Me”?
- How does this passage challenge the idea that the Christian life depends mostly on our own strength?
- What does it mean that Jesus is better at keeping us than we are at keeping ourselves?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

(What does this mean for us?)

1. Abiding Is for Weak People

Where do you most often feel spiritually weak or inconsistent?
What situations most quickly remind you of your need for Jesus?
Is there an area where you've been relying more on yourself than on Christ?

2. Jesus Is Better at Keeping You Than You Are

Do you tend to view your relationship with God more through striving or resting?
When you fail spiritually, what thoughts usually go through your mind?
What would it look like to trust Jesus more deeply this week?

3. Jesus Took Hold of You for This

What keeps you from slowing down and remaining connected to Jesus?
Where have you been trying to "manufacture fruit" instead of abiding?
What helps you feel most connected to Jesus in everyday life?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Take a moment and ask:

Am I living connected to Jesus, or mostly trying to hold myself together?
Where in my life do I feel spiritually exhausted or disconnected?
What would it look like to live from dependence instead of performance?
Do I truly believe Jesus wants closeness with me?

PRACTICE FOR THE WEEK

Practice dependence.

At least once each day this week, pause and intentionally pray:

"Jesus, I can't do this without You.
Help me stay connected to You today."

Then spend a few quiet moments:

reading Scripture
listening
praying
or simply sitting in His presence without rushing

PRAYER

Jesus,

Thank You that abiding is not about our strength, but Yours.

Teach us to stop striving to earn closeness with You and instead learn to rest in Your grace and faithfulness. Help us remain connected to You in every part of life. Strengthen us in our weakness, keep us near to You, and let Your life flow through us so that we would bear fruit that glorifies You.

Amen.