

Group Discussion Guide

Week of August 29, 2021

Life Abundantly – Abiding in Christ

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

- Who is the person that you spend the most time with?
- Why do you spend so much time with them?
- Who is the person you most enjoy spending time with?
- Why do you enjoy hanging out with them?
- Have you ever regretted losing contact with an old friend?
- What do you miss about spending time with them?

QUICK REVIEW

Looking over your notes from this past teaching... was there anything you heard for the first time, caught your attention, challenged you, or confused you?

MAIN POINT

Jesus desires to give us life abundantly which often comes through abiding in Him... staying connected to Jesus.

DIGGING INTO THE WORD

Read – John 15:1-4

- What do you think Jesus meant by “abide in Me”?

Read – Galatians 5:22

- How does the “fruit” of the Spirit relate to living life abundantly?
- In John 15, what did Jesus say was the WAY we bear fruit?
- Why is not possible for a branch to bear fruit unless it is attached to the vine?
- How does this relate to us wanting to desire the “fruit” of the Spirit in our lives?

Nobody has ever heard a fruit tree grunting, trying to force fruit to come out. Likewise, we don't force ourselves to bear fruit in our lives.

- In the past, how have you made the mistake of trying to FORCE yourself to bear fruit?
- Considering the intro questions... how is abiding in Christ, similar to hanging out with people in our lives?

In John 15:2 Jesus spoke about "taking away" the branch that does not bear fruit. Pastor Nate explained this is actually speaking of "lifting up" the branch that does not bear fruit so that it can get more sunlight, so that it can bear fruit.

- How have you experienced this reality in your life...
 - You were not living a fruitful, abundant life
 - Then Jesus lifted you up.
 - And you began to bear fruit and experience life abundantly.

Read – Mark 12:30

- What does this verse teach us regarding abiding in Christ?

Read – Matthew 6:33

- What does this verse teach us regarding abiding in Christ?
- What part do we play to make sure we abide in Christ?

Read – Philippians 1:6

- What does this verse teach us regarding abiding in Christ?
- What part does God play to make sure we abide in Christ?
- Have you ever stopped abiding in Christ? What happened? What was your life like in those days? What made you want to start abiding in Christ again?

TAKING IT HOME

- What practical things can you do this week to help you abide in Christ?

PRAISE & PRAYER REQUESTS