

Discussion Guide - Abiding

8/23/26 Pastor Stewart Farley

Scriptures for Today

2 Corinthians 3:17–18/1 John 3:1–3/1 John 3:6–10/1 John 3:14–17/1 John 3:11–12

1. Abiding vs. Visiting God

Pastor Stewart said many believers *visit* God but do not *abide* with Him. **What does abiding look like in your daily life compared to visiting?**

2. God's Goal: Transformation, Not Information

2 Corinthians 3:17–18 — We are changed “from glory to glory.” **Where have you seen God actively transforming you rather than just teaching you?**

3. Knowing Who You Are — Children of God

1 John 3:1–2 — We are God's children *now*, not someday. **How does knowing you are already His child change the way you approach spiritual growth?**

4. Expectations Shape Behavior

Pastor said: “*Expectations inform movements.*” **What expectation about your spiritual life needs to change so your behavior can follow?**

5. Hope as Unreleased Expectation

Biblical hope = expecting what has not yet been realized. **What are you expecting God to form in you — and how is that expectation shaping your choices?**

6. The Seed of God Within You

1 John 3:9 — God's nature is in us in **seed form**, not fully grown. **What part of God's nature do you sense is still in “seed form” and needs nurturing?**

7. The Environment Determines Growth

Seeds need the right environment — sunlight, water, time. **What environment helps your spiritual seed grow, and what environment hinders it?**

8. Stop Scrubbing — Start Abiding

Pastor's illustration: crusty dishes loosen when they *soak*, not when they're scrubbed. **Where have you been "scrubbing" in your spiritual life instead of soaking in God's presence?**

9. Abiding + Loving Siblings = Transformation

Vertical abiding alone is not enough — transformation requires horizontal love. **How is God inviting you to love your spiritual siblings more intentionally?**

10. God's Logo Is Love

Pastor said: *"This is how you know they are my disciples — love for one another."* **Where can you demonstrate love this week in a way that reflects God's character?**

Closing Call to Action

This week, intentionally practice ABIDING. Choose one daily rhythm — morning, commute, lunch break, evening — and consciously "hang out" with God there. Let His presence soak into your thoughts, emotions, and decisions. Then intentionally show His love to one sibling in Christ through a simple act of kindness, encouragement, or support.