



GOSPEL OF JOHN – PART 6 // ABIDE // SERIES SUMMARY

Jesus is now only hours away from being arrested and He knows that His cross, His suffering, and His death will all take place before this time tomorrow. These are some of the last words that He will speak to His disciples before He lays His life down for the sake of His friends. Jesus wants them to know how much He loves them, how dependent they are on Him, and how true joy and flourishing can be found. Fullness of life and fullness of joy are found as we ABIDE in Christ, His Word, and His love! As we remain in the love of Jesus, staying connected to Him day by day, we grow in knowing Him and loving Him, which produces fruit in the lives of His disciples. We also come to understand that apart from Him we can do nothing.

Over the next 6 weeks we will be looking at what it means to ABIDE in Jesus as the only source of true and everlasting life, love and joy. Along with discovering what it takes to “bear much fruit and so prove to be His disciples.” That is definitely what every one of His followers' desires deep down, but we often live our lives in a way that is disconnected from Jesus, lacking the joy and the peace that is only found IN HIM. In the pursuit of achieving our goals and trying to flourish in our own strength, we often trade the offer to ABIDE in Jesus, for a life of fruitless busyness. These 6 weeks are an invitation from Jesus; to slow down, to consider living life a different way, to find true rest for our souls, and to enjoy Jesus for who He is and for what He has done for us. So, please take Him up on His offer and learn how to live a fruitful life connected to Jesus. Join us as we slow down and learn how to better ABIDE in Jesus. His love and His joy are offered freely and He is giving us a clear path forward in how to find true satisfaction IN HIM.

DATE	WEEK	PASSAGE	TITLE
2/18/24	1	John 15:1-17 (v 1-7 & 16)	A: Asking...or... Achieving / ABIDING In Prayer
2/25/24	2	John 15:1-17 (v 3-8)	B: Bearing Fruit...or...Busyness / ABIDING In God's Word
3/3/24	3	John 15:1-17 (v 8-12)	I: In His Love...or...In Love with the World / ABIDING In Christ's Love
3/10/24	4	John 15:1-17 (v 1-6)	D: Dependent...or...Disconnected / ABIDING In Christ's Strength
3/17/24	5	John 15:1-17 (v 9-15)	E: Enjoyment...or...Empty / ABIDING In Christ's Friendship & Full Joy
3/24/24	6	John 15:18 – 16:4	The Holy Spirit ABIDING IN US: ABIDING In Christ, When Trouble Comes & Persecution Rises

GOSPEL COMMUNITY QUESTIONS

WEEK 1: John 15:1-17 (v 1-7 & 16)

ABIDING in Prayer: Asking or Achieving?

1. What are the 2 things that Jesus says are to be present, before ASKING for what we wish, from God? How do those two things shape the way we pray?
2. How does knowing that, “apart from Jesus you can do nothing”, encourage you to grow in prayer?
3. In what ways have you not been abiding in Jesus and have tried to live life out of your own strength this week? What have the results been?
4. What does your prayer life look like today? How does it reflect your daily abiding in Jesus and His words abiding in you?
5. **Pray for one another.** Everyone gather around and pray for the person on your right, asking the Father to help that person **to bear much fruit in prayer**, for God’s Glory and their joy!

WEEK 2: John 15:1-17 (v 3-8)

ABIDING in God’s Word: Bearing Fruit or Busyness?

1. What does Jesus tell us will be the fruit of His Word abiding in us?
2. How does knowing that, “apart from Jesus you can do nothing”, encourage you to spend more time in God’s Word?
3. What are the excuses that you tell yourself or others, for not enjoying time with Jesus in His Word? If busyness is one of those excuses, what can be cut from your daily schedule so that you can have time to ABIDE with Jesus in His Word?
4. How can we as a Gospel Community better encourage one another to enjoy Jesus by spending time with Him in His Word?
5. **Pray for one another.** Everyone gather around and pray for the person on your right, asking the Father to help that person **abide in and enjoy God in His Word**, so that they might bear much fruit for God’s Glory and their joy!

WEEK 3: John 15:1-17 (v 8-12)

ABIDING in Christ’s Love: In His Love or In Love with the World?

1. What does Jesus tell us about His love for us in this passage?
2. What are some of the ways that God the Father loves Jesus His Son? (Eternally, Perfectly, etc.)
3. What are some of the things in this world that we love and pursue more than we love and pursue Jesus?
4. How has God’s love for you produced much fruit in your life and in the way that you love others?
5. **Pray for one another.** Everyone gather around and pray for the person on your right, asking the Father to help that person **abide in and enjoy the love of Jesus...above all else**. So that they might bear much fruit for God’s Glory and their joy!

WEEK 4: John 15:1-17 (v 1-6)

ABIDING in Christ's Strength: Dependent or Disconnected?

1. What does this passage say that we are capable of doing apart from Jesus?
2. Where in your life is there evidence that you depend on God's strength above your own? What are some signs that you are abiding in Jesus and bearing fruit in this area? (ie, evidence of joy and love growing in you)
3. Where in your life is there evidence that you are doing things in your own strength? (ie, exhaustion, a lack of joy, a lack of love for the church, etc.)
4. "Pruning" is the sanctifying work of the Father to make us more like Jesus, "The Vine". What are some areas in your life that are still in need of pruning so that you can be more fruitful? How have those areas that need pruning revealed themselves over the last week?
5. **Pray for one another.** Everyone gather around and pray for the person on your right, asking the Father to help that person **abide in and enjoy God by trusting in His strength above their own.** So that they might bear much fruit for God's Glory and their Joy!

WEEK 5: John 15:1-17 (v 9-15)

ABIDING in Christ's Friendship (A Life Full of Joy): Enjoyment or Empty?

1. What does Jesus tell us about His love for His friends in this passage?
2. What are some ways that you enjoy friendship with Jesus? What are some of your favorite ways to spend time with Jesus, so that you can know Him more?
3. There are many things that can steal abiding joy that is offered to us in Christ. What circumstances, suffering, or sin tends to take you away from truly enjoying a joyful relationship with Jesus?
4. What are some ways that we as a Gospel Community can better encourage one another to abide in Jesus and enjoy our friendship with Him?
5. **Pray for one another.** Everyone gather around and pray for the person on your right, asking the Father to help that person **abide in and enjoy Jesus as their Friend.** So that they might bear much fruit for God's Glory and have fullness of Joy!

WEEK 6: John 15:18 – 16:4

The Holy Spirit Abiding In Us: ABIDING In Christ, When Trouble Comes and Persecution Rises

1. What does Jesus say the Holy Spirit will do, when He is sent by Him, from the Father? (V.26)
2. Jesus is speaking to His 11 disciples, who were all hated and persecuted, on account of Jesus name. Share together the times you have been "hated" or mistreated because of your love for Jesus and for following Him.
3. How does abiding in Jesus, His Word and His Love (What we have learned over the last 5 weeks) help prepare you for present or future persecution?
4. Jesus says His disciples "will bear witness" about Him, they will share the Gospel by the power of the Holy Spirit. Is their evidence of this fruit in your life?
5. **Pray for one another.** Everyone gather around and pray for the person on your right, asking the Father to help that person **abide in Jesus, that they would be courageous in times of trouble, by the power of the Holy Spirit.**