

Deep Practice Discipleship Guide

John 15:1–17 — Abide: Living Connected to Christ

1. Opening Exercise — Share

- Begin by asking each participant to share how they did with their **deep practice commitment** from the previous week.
 - Encourage honesty: this is about *practice* not perfection.
 - Leaders, remind the group:
 - Growth comes through repeated effort, not flawless execution.
 - Celebrate steps forward and reflect on what was learned, even if it felt like a failure.
 - Shepherd the group in reflection, not just instruction.
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2. Sermon Notes — Learn

Abide: Living Connected to Christ

What We Abide In

- We all abide in something: busyness, approval, or comfort.
 - Whatever we abide in shapes us.
 - Jesus invites us: “Abide in me” (John 15).
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The Purposes of Abiding

I. Abide to Bear Fruit (John 15:4–8)

- Abide to bear fruit (vv. 4–5).
- Abide to pray effectively (v. 7).
- Abide to glorify God and show discipleship (v. 8).
- Warning: Abide or face judgment (v. 6).

II. Abide to Be Formed by Love (John 15:9–13, 17)

- Abide to be shaped by Christ's love (vv. 9–10).
- Abide to know fullness of joy (v. 11).
- Abide to love one another (vv. 12–13, 17).
 - 🙌 Authentic Christ-like love takes supernatural power.
 - True love = steadfast + holy desire + sacrificial.
 - Human feelings can be manipulated and mustered.
 - A freedom rooted only in self-expression costs us little.

III. Abide to Fulfill Your Calling (John 15:14–16)

- Abide to enjoy chosen friendship with Jesus (vv. 14–15).
- Abide to live out your appointed calling (v. 16).

Illustration: The Plug and the Socket

- A plug loosely connected flickers and fails.
- Only when fully inserted does it draw full, reliable power.
- In the same way, we must be fully connected to Christ for His life to flow in us.

Practical Challenge

- This week, choose one deliberate way to deepen your connection with Jesus:
 - Each morning, read John 15:1–11 prayerfully, asking:
“Lord, how can I abide in you today?”
 - Identify one area where you've been loosely connected — and take a step to fully plug in.

3. Bloom's Taxonomy Discussion Questions — Reflect & Discuss

Remembering

- What images or words from John 15:1–17 stand out most clearly?
- What does Jesus say happens if we do not abide in Him?

Understanding

- In your own words, what does it mean to “abide” in Christ?
- How is bearing fruit connected to prayer, love, and glorifying God?

Applying

- Where in your life do you feel like a “loose plug” right now?
- How can abiding in Christ practically change the way you approach work, family, or relationships this week?

Analyzing

- Compare “abiding in Christ” with “abiding in busyness, approval, or comfort.” What are the outcomes of each?
- How does Christ’s definition of love differ from cultural definitions of love?

Evaluating

- Why is it significant that Jesus calls His disciples *friends* instead of servants?
- How does this change your understanding of what discipleship means?

Creating

- If you were to design a daily rhythm of abiding, what practices would you include?
- How could you creatively help others around you abide in Christ more deeply?

4. Storying Exercise — Tell

Passage: Luke 10:38–42 — *Mary and Martha*

- Read the story aloud twice (once by a volunteer, once by another reader).
- Have one person retell the story in their own words as best they can.

Discussion Questions:

1. What did Martha “abide in” and what did Mary “abide in”?
 2. How does this story illustrate the importance of connection to Jesus over busyness?
 3. What does this teach us about how to prioritize our lives if we want to bear fruit?
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5. Deep Practice Commitment — Live

- Give participants time to write down **one specific way they will abide in Christ more fully this week.**
 - Encourage them to share aloud with the group.
 - Remind them: it can be related to the lesson, or it can be another area of discipleship God is prompting them in.
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6. Closing Prayer Prompt — Pray

- Invite group members to pray short, simple prayers around the circle using prompts like:
 - “Lord, help me stay connected to You when I feel ____.”
 - “Jesus, I want to abide in You by ____ this week.”
 - “Father, may my life bear fruit in ____.”
- End with a leader’s prayer, asking God to keep the group rooted in Christ and fruitful in love.