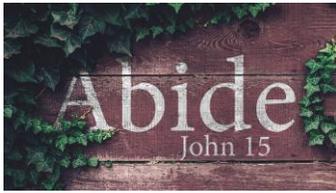


Sermon Discussion Questions: Abide – 2.28.2021



Connect: (5-10 min) What kind of worship have you experienced? What do you prefer?

Daily Devotions: (15-25 min) Look over last week's SOAP. Which day of SOAP Bible reading stood out to you? What did you see was interesting? How did the readings connect with what is happening in your life?

Keep the Conversation Going: (15-20 min) What stuck with you from this week's sermon?

Read John 15:1-8

Spring is almost here! What plants do you most look forward to seeing as Spring returns? Why?

Jesus picks up the extended agricultural metaphor of the vine and branches bearing fruit in this passage. This image is used throughout Scripture, often to describe the people of God, as seen in **Psalm 80:8-19** and **Isaiah 5:1-5**. Jesus takes the image in a slightly different direction here. What does he say the vine, branches, and gardener represent?

One clear theme of this passage is the concept of bearing fruit. Take a moment to notice how often the word 'fruit' appears in this passage. What do you think Jesus means by 'bearing fruit' in this passage?

As a group, read Paul's words in **Galatians 5:22-23**. How does each fruit of the spirit work together to form a full life?

Why do you think Jesus repeated these words so many times in this short passage?

In **verse 4**, Jesus says: "neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me." If bearing fruit is directly tied to 'remaining' – or 'abiding' or 'staying put' – in Jesus, what does Jesus specifically mean by remaining in Him from this passage?

How have you cultivated the life of remaining or abiding in Christ? Are there specific spiritual practices that help you with this?

What is one specific thing that God is speaking to you through this study? How will that shape your life in the coming week?