

# Abiding Study

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## “My Disciples”

What does Jesus say it means to be His disciple? There are 6 times in the New Testament when Jesus uses the phrase “my disciples”. Read the following verses and note what disciples of Jesus should do.

John 8:31-32 - *abide*

John 13:31-35 - *love*

John 15:8 - *bear fruit*

Luke 14:25-35 (mentioned 3x) - *total surrender to his word, will, and ways*

Below is a study focusing on the importance of abiding and an overview of what it means to abide.

## Abiding Study

Read John 15: 1-11. *Make this chart and answer these questions from these verses.*

What happens when we abide?	What happens when we do <b>not</b> abide?
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As you go through the parts of abiding, draw the symbols in the heart (see example below).

### **Cooperate with God’s Pruning**

John 15.2 While every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.

God, the divine garden prunes removes all things in life that would hinder fruit-bearing. These can be people, pressures and / or the problems we face. The symbol for God’s pruning activity in a pair of scissors

### **Know God's Word**

John 15:7 - From this verse we can see that we need Jesus' words to be in us. How do we have His word in us? By listening to it, reading it, meditating upon it, memorizing it. If Jesus' Word is in us, then we can ask whatever we wish and it will be done for us. The symbol for God’s Word is the bible.

### **Prayer**

John 15:7 - If we will know God's word, we will be in a much better position to pray according to His will. When we pray according to His will and not our own, God honors that. We cannot force God to act, but we can trust His promise that He wants to move

according to His word. Notice that the symbol for prayer is an up and down arrow. Prayer is both spending time talking to God (up arrow) and listening to God (down arrow). The symbol for prayer is the two arrows.

### **Rest in His Love**

John 15:9 - We must remain in the Father's love. It is by faith in Jesus and what He did on the cross that we are saved. We do **not** need to earn His love. We need to trust what God has done for us. Jesus tells us that just as the Father has loved Him, He has loved us. The symbol for resting in His love is the small heart.

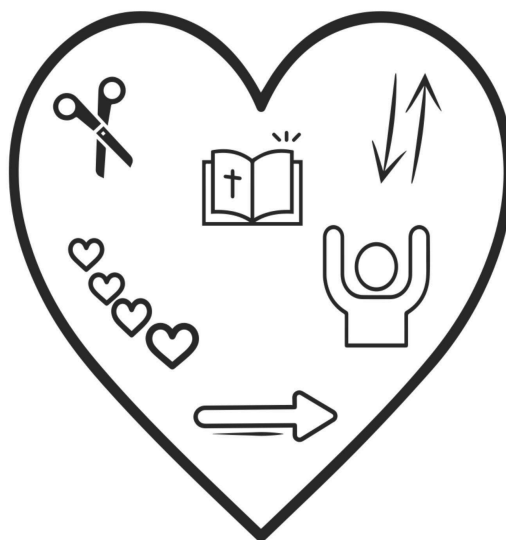
### **Obey His Commands**

John 15:10- We also abide in Jesus' love by keeping His commands. To obey Jesus from our hearts we must **first** believe in His love and then we obey his commands. Our obedience does not earn favor with God, but what Jesus did for us earns favor with God. By faith in Him we are given the Holy Spirit and are adopted into His family. When we rest in His love, our hearts are transformed and we desire to obey His commandments. The symbol for obeying His commands is the arrow coming from the heart.

### **Go**

John 15:16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last.

The purpose of Christ's choosing people is not merely that their sins be forgiven and they have eternal life but that their lives be fruitful and productive fulfilling God purpose. Jesus' choosing motives mission. And one others observes "it becomes clear that these closing allusions to the vine imagery ensure that, however comprehensive the nature of the fruit that Christians bear, the focus on evangelism and mission is truly central" The symbol for Going is an arrow moving out.



***Practice:***

- Practice sharing the 6 parts of abiding; Pruning, Knowing His Word, Prayer, Resting in His Love, Obeying His Commands, and Going. Practice explaining the drawing for abiding. You can also use hand motions to help remember the parts of abiding.
- Make a plan for abiding on a daily basis, practicing these 6 parts of abiding.

## **Gospel Fluency : Applying the Good News to Our Lives**

This abiding framework is a good reminder of how we should abide.

### **Pruning:**

Read Hebrews 12.10-11 "God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it."

Where might God be pruning you? In what areas of your life does he want to produce Christ-like character? Are there people, pressures and/or problems in your life right now that you might need to re-frame to see as God's pruning activity?

**Word:** Am I spending a minimum of 15 minutes a day in the Word and Prayer?

Do I have a good Study Bible?

Do I read and memorize Bible verses that apply to my life.

**Prayer:** How is my prayer life?

Use P.R.A.Y. (Praise, Repent, Ask, Yield) to structure your prayer time.

Use LOVE MUCH – LEARN THE WORD – LIVE WELL – LIGHT WORLD from Philippians 1.9-11 as a way to pray specifically for people

**Rest in His Love:**

Are you resting in your identity in Christ, in his love for you?

Are you obeying Jesus command to love others as He has loved me?

**Obey His Commands:** What commands do I need to obey?

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says<sup>11</sup>  
James 1.22

Our Obedience does NOT earn the friendship of Jesus but friendship with Jesus transforms his people, with the result that they obey

**Go:** Who do I need to share the gospel with this week?

Part of abiding is obey Jesus to Go and Bear Fruit and fruit that would last?

When was the last time you shared the gospel with someone?

As you look at your life, is God using you to produce fruit (new disciples)? Are there people you have discipled that are still walking with God 5, 10 or 20 years later?