

loving Jesus and loving my friends...
THE ESSENTIALS

Abiding

becoming deeply connected to Jesus

*We need Jesus more than anyone else.
What does it mean to “abide in Jesus?”
How do we do it?*

Abiding

Scripture Verses

“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.

Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.

These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and your joy may be made full.”

John 15: 4-6, 8-11 (NASB)

“Then Jesus said to his disciples, ‘If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it.’”

Matthew 16:24-25 (NIV)

“And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.”

Colossians 2:6-7 (NLT)

Short Thoughts

Abiding is one of those mysterious “church words.” The dictionary says “to abide” means:

1. To remain in a place.
2. To continue to be sure or firm; endure.
3. To dwell in or to live in.

So what does “abide” mean when we place Jesus into this definition?

1. To remain in Jesus.
2. To hang in there with Jesus.
3. To dwell in Jesus.
4. To make our home in Jesus.

In the last section, we talked about our need to depend on Jesus every day, in every thing. This is abiding in Jesus.

Notice, Jesus doesn’t tell us to be near Him or next to Him. **He tells us to be IN Him.** Being connected doesn’t just mean that Jesus is merely an addition to our lives, it means that we are literally soaked in Him!

It’s like the difference between caring about someone and being IN LOVE with them. **It’s not just something you do, it’s who you are.** It encompasses all of you.

Also, an important thing to note is that **Jesus’ command is plural.** Jesus is saying, “Y’all abide in Me.” **We are to abide in Him together.** With our teams and in community.

Abiding in Jesus means loving Jesus, obeying Jesus, dying to our own will and wanting what Jesus wants. It means being in Him as He is in us. **Abiding in the love of Jesus transforms us.**

Abiding

Solo Exercise... *this solo exercise is an opportunity for you to work through some questions about abiding, on your own, with Jesus.*

Read and answer the questions about abiding below:

- Which parts of your life are you keeping separate from Jesus?
- In your opinion, which parts of your life are IN Jesus? In ways do you see Jesus making a difference in your life?
- Jesus tells us to abide in Him as He abides in us. How does Jesus abide in us?
- The importance of **remaining IN Jesus** is obvious when we look at our brokenness and need for Him. How would your life and friendships be different **if you depended on Jesus EVERY day, in EVERY single thing**?
- What are some tangible ways you can connect to Jesus and be IN Him on a daily basis? How can you be deeply connected to Jesus? (*Lots of people write down things like: read my Bible more, pray more, go to church. While those are all true and good answers, think beyond that*). Think beyond a “to do” list. **Truly being IN Jesus is MUCH more than that.** It's doing EVERYDAY LIFE with Jesus! How can you stay connected to Him throughout your day? While doing the things you love? Things you dislike? At school? At home? Outside?

SOLO CHALLENGE:

It's easy to write things down on paper, but it's harder to live them out. Now's your chance. Go and be IN Jesus as you go. Stay connected to Him!

Abiding

Team Exercise... *this team exercise is an opportunity for you and your community or campus ministry team to work through some questions and practice abiding in Jesus together.*

Like we said earlier, Jesus tells us to abide TOGETHER. Your team is the perfect place to do just that! Complete the questions and exercises below as a community.

- How well does our team abide together? In what ways are we all abiding IN Jesus, together, as a community?
- How can you be IN Jesus more as team? Pray about it together and write down your ideas below.
- Below is an exercise called a “**Gospel Sharing Group.**” This is one way for your team to practice being in Jesus as a community. (This is a great resource you can use to dig into Scripture together during your meeting times...just pick a different Jesus-story from the Gospels each time. Another version of this kind of this kind of group meeting is also listed as a **CORE Group** on page 38 of this workbook.) Try doing this together...

GOSEPL SHARING GROUP (together...listening – sharing – praying – discovering)

Passage: Mark 2:1-12

PRAY...

- Ask 1-2 people to pray to open. Thank the Lord for what He is about to do.

LISTEN...

- Have one person read slowly through the passage once while everyone listens.
- Ask everyone to share a word or phrase that stuck out to them in the passage.
- Now have someone read the passage again from a different translation of the Bible.

PRAY...

- After, have everyone spend 5 minutes alone, in silence. Talk to the Lord, think about the parts of the passage that stuck out to you, write down what you are thinking, draw a picture, etc.

SHARE...

- When time is up, have each person share what God showed them about the passage and what stuck out to them.
- No long sermons, just simple thoughts you have heard from Jesus and His Word.

DISCOVER...

- Let the sharing time lead you into discussion about the passage.
- Let God lead the conversation wherever He wants.
- What does the passage have to say about your lives? Your campus? Loving others? How can you each live out these things in the next week?

PRAY...

- Close by praying for each other and for the things God has shown the group through the passage.

Team Challenge...

Staying connected to each other IS abiding in Jesus. How can you stay connected to each other this week and stay connected to Jesus together as a community??