

# Abide

## Discussion Guide

### Week of February 12 - Being With God (Connectedness)

#### Scripture verse: John 15:6-8

**LOOKING BACK:** Last week, you were challenged to obey by trying to intentionally “Abide in Christ”. How did you abide in God’s Word and prayer this past week? Based on what you committed to last week... how did you do? Celebrate people’s effort who obeyed.

If most people from last week’s group did little or nothing about “Abiding in Christ” then ask the entire group to pair up with another person (3 people maximum) for accountability. Text or call their accountability partners to encourage one another to stay on track with Abiding in Christ.

**LOOKING UP:** Getting to know someone better than at the level of acquaintance requires a greater investment. Our culture tends to accept surface level conversations when getting to know someone. This leads to shallow understanding of people. It’s also a significant contributing factor towards God being misunderstood.

In this session tonight the goal is to learn to be with God. Being with God means to be present with Him. Just like listening to a close friend we must hear what’s being said, absorb what

they're trying to convey, drink in why they're saying it. It also involves removing any distractions that might compete for one's attention.

Ask someone new to pray (someone that has never participated before). Coach them on what you want them to pray. EXAMPLE: "David, will you ask God to teach us the passage we are getting ready to read tonight?"

Read the passage listed below and ask the first question. Be sure to ask this question several times... (WAIT patiently for people to respond). It may take several times of asking your group the 1<sup>st</sup> question to get all the things that stood out to the group. Be patient and not rush to move to the 2<sup>nd</sup> question. Often times, people will answer the 2<sup>nd</sup> question while working on the 1<sup>st</sup> question - That's ok. Continue asking the remaining questions.

**READ PASSAGE:**  
**John 15:6-8**  
Answer the first 2 questions in the center

1. What stood out to you most?
2. What was challenging or hard to understand?
3. What does this teach us about people?
4. What does this teach us about God?

**RE-READ SAME PASSAGE** out of another bible translation then answer the last 2 questions

**LOOKING FORWARD:** Reflect on the content you have just studied. Jesus said, "This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourself to be my disciple."

The Lord knows that you will BEAR much fruit by abiding in Christ. In fact, you reveal that you're His disciple when you spend time inviting the Lord into your day through reading His Word and praying.

Reading God's Word, listening to what he says, obeying anything you hear the Holy Spirit saying to your heart are habits of a healthy disciple who is Abiding in Christ. If you're reading in the Crossroads 1- year Bible Reading Plan from YouVersion—keep reading. If you're not, take the next 5 days and read one chapter per day from the book of James found in the New Testament. Each day **BEFORE YOU READ** any scripture from your bible... pray this prayer first:

"Lord, I invite you into my schedule today. Teach me how to pray and more importantly teach me to ask you, "What matters to you, Lord, so I can make it matter to me?"

**Expect to share** with the group next week how you did.