

## WEEK TWO: ABIDE AND RESPOND

How do we follow Jesus together in our daily lives? It is through reliance on the Holy Spirit and includes abiding with Jesus where we live, work, learn, and play – not just at church. To abide includes surrendering, trusting, enjoying, and glorifying. Jesus called the disciples to be with Him before He sent them out to reach the world. It is impossible to live the Christian life in our own strength. Jesus is faithful and He is good. God will guide your words, actions, attitudes, motives, and decisions. Choosing nearness to Jesus will always produce much fruit.

### ● OPENING QUESTION

**How did you put last week's lesson into action and who was the recipient of the surprise gift and expression of God's grace that you shared?**

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### ● READ

John 15:1-17

Jesus is explaining the essence of the spiritual life and the fulfilling life of following Him together in this passage. Faith is much more than merely completing religious rituals and gaining theological and biblical information. Everything we do flows out of a close and trusting relationship with Jesus. We need supernatural love and power to be faithful to God. Jesus is the source of every good thing in your life. Give Him your attention, affection, and dedication daily because of how much He already loves you. Jesus knew His followers would be tested to the core, but would prevail and not be defeated because of His presence and promises. You will not have to fake or manufacture fruit or play the game of a double life when you are walking with Jesus. Your Good Shepherd will guide you and provide for you because He has chosen you and works through you. You are an instrument of His healing and grace in this weary world.

### ● REFLECT

John 15:1-17

**WHO IS GOD?**

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**WHAT HAS GOD DONE?**

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**WHO ARE WE?**

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**HOW DO WE LIVE?**

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### ● REPENT

Ask God for forgiveness if you have been trying to live the Christian life in your own strength. Reject any traps of self-reliance, self-sufficiency, and self-glorification. Drop all pride so you can abide. Jesus draws near to those who are humble and contrite of heart. God is pursuing you now and will never reject a contrite heart. Confess quickly, sincerely and fully. Confession is healing and the turning point toward depth with God. We love God through reliance and obedience.

### ● RESPOND

**MIND: What does it mean and look like to keep in step with the Spirit? (Galatians 5:16-26)**

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**HEART: What is a specific area of your life where you need to trust God now? (Psalm 62:5-8)**

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**HANDS: Choose some verses from John 15, write them down, and place them where you can see them throughout the week as a reminder to abide.**

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### ● PRAYER

Ask God to teach you how to abide with Him in new ways and places throughout the entire week. (Acts 1:1-11)