



ABIDE

PASTOR BRIAN FLEWELLING

JANUARY 5, 2025

WORSHIP

Begin your group with a time of worship. If someone in your group is able to lead worship, invite them to lead two or three songs. Alternatively, consider using one or more of these songs from our Sunday morning worship time:

- **The Joy** (*The Belonging Co.*)
- **I've Witnessed It** (*Passion*)
- **Reign Above It All** (*Bethel Music*)
- **You Keep Your Promises** (*Charity Gayle*)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- John 15: 15-16
- John 15:1
- John 15:5
- Isaiah 5:1-2
- Psalm 80: 8-15

OPENING PRAYER

Begin your time together by inviting God's presence and asking for His guidance in your discussion.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. God is actively working in our lives, even when it's uncomfortable or challenging.
2. Our focus should be on bearing fruit rather than just achieving results.
3. Jesus invites us into a deep friendship with Him, revealing the Father's love to us.
4. Abiding in Christ involves surrendering to His work in our lives and remaining in His love.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The sermon's theme for the year is "Abide." What does abiding in Christ mean to you personally?
2. Pastor Brian mentioned that "God is working on your behalf, so stay surrendered." Can you share an experience where you felt God working in your life, even if it was uncomfortable?
3. How do you typically respond to God's "pruning" in your life? Do you find it easy or challenging to submit to this process?
4. The sermon highlighted the difference between looking for results and bearing fruit. How might this shift in perspective change the way you approach your spiritual life?
5. Reflect on the statement: "Jesus is making the Father's love known to you." How has your understanding of God's love for you grown or changed over time?
6. Pastor Brian shared the illustration of being "in the yoke next to Jesus." How can this image help us in our daily walk with Christ?

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

1. **Daily Reflection:** Spend a few minutes each day this week meditating on John 15:5. Journal about what it means to "remain" in Christ.
2. **Love Reception Exercise:** Take time to sit quietly and visualize receiving God's love. Notice any resistance or discomfort, and practice surrendering to His love.
3. **Fruit Check:** Evaluate your life for evidence of spiritual fruit (Galatians 5:22-23). Identify one area where you'd like to see growth and pray specifically for that.
4. **Vulnerability Challenge:** Share with a trusted friend or family member an area where you feel God is "pruning" you. Ask for their support and prayer.
5. **Abide Reminders:** Place visual reminders (e.g., post-it notes, phone wallpaper) with the word "Abide" in places you'll see throughout your day.

CLOSING PRAYER

Thank God for His love and invitation to abide in Him. Ask for His help in remaining connected to the True Vine and bearing lasting fruit.