



**Abide**

Week 1, I've Called You Friend

## GET TO KNOW YOU: [15 min]

1. What makes you laugh the most?
2. What is a favorite Bible verse you regularly go to for strength and encouragement?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: [60 min]

Tonight, we'll read through John 15:1-17 twice. The first time, we'll focus on the truths in the text. The second time, we'll focus on experiencing the Spirit and person of Jesus in the text.

1. **In smaller groups of 3-4 people, read John 15:1-17.** Make a list of repetitive words and themes that are used more than twice.
2. Explain what Jesus meant by each of these themes or ideas, but try to do so by citing the text. For Example, v.4, 5, and 6 all use the word "Remain." What does "remain" mean to Jesus?
3. For each of the themes that you are discussing—e.g., "Remain" – answer the following question:  
*What does God desire, and why?*

In these 17 verses, God the Son explains what relationship with God the Father is like. Reread verses 9, 14, and 15 and notice how important relationship is to God. Based on John 15:11, one of God's central motivations for relationship is for his "joy" to be in you and for his "joy" to be "complete."

4. In your own words, how do you describe a relationship with God? How do you experience the fullness of joy?
5. If you were honest, how would you describe how you relate to God? How has that changed over the years? And, based on Jesus' words, how do you think God wants to develop that?
6. What's the difference between "trying" and "trusting" in God? How do you think they might produce different results?

## MEDITATION TIME: [15 min]

Now, have a different person read John 15:1-17 leaving room for a couple of minutes of silence and meditation. As the text is being read this time, you're not trying to analyze it. Listen to it as if Jesus were in the room speaking directly to you. He's provoking you into deeper relationship with him. What do you sense Jesus revealing about himself; is there a truth that he is sharing with you? That might start in the form of a keyword or phrase that really grabs your attention.

- After a few minutes of silent meditation, take some time to discuss your experience as a group and then close in prayer.