



5 DAY DEVOTIONAL

Day 1: Chosen and Called

Reading: John 15:1-8, Ephesians 1:3-6

Before the world began, God chose you. This isn't about your accomplishments or worthiness—it's about His grace. Like branches connected to a vine, you didn't choose the vine; the vine chose you. Jesus handpicked His disciples, calling them from their ordinary lives to bear extraordinary fruit. Today, rest in this truth: your relationship with Christ isn't something you earned through religious performance. God called you to Himself, adopted you into His family, and now sustains you by His power. Stop striving to prove yourself worthy and simply abide. Let this reality transform how you approach your day—not as someone trying to earn God's favor, but as someone already secured in His love.

Day 2: The Joy of Abiding

Reading: John 15:9-11, James 1:2-4

Jesus wants His joy to be complete in you. Not happiness dependent on circumstances, but supernatural joy rooted in relationship. This joy often comes through unexpected means—through pruning, trials, and suffering. Like a skilled surgeon removing diseased tissue, God allows difficulties to mature us. The storms you face aren't signs of God's absence but tools of His loving transformation. When trials come, they're removing the superficial so the scalpel of God's Word can do deeper work. Consider it pure joy when facing trials, not because suffering is pleasant, but because you trust the Gardener's purpose. Calm seas never trained skilled mariners. Your struggles are developing spiritual maturity you couldn't gain any other way.

Day 3: Love That Lays Down

Reading: John 15:12-13, 1 John 3:16-18

Jesus didn't die to show you how much He loved you—He died because it was necessary. You were drowning in sin, dead at the bottom of the ocean, and He dove in to rescue you. His sacrifice wasn't needless sentiment but necessary salvation. Now, because you've received this love, you're called to love

others sacrificially. This isn't just warm feelings or nice words—it's love in deed and truth. When you see a brother or sister in need and close your heart, God's love isn't abiding in you. The world will know you're Jesus' disciples by how you love one another. Let Christ's love flow through you today. Meet needs. Serve sacrificially. Love because He first loved you.

Day 4: Obedience as Evidence

Reading: John 15:10, 14, 1 John 2:3-6

Obedience isn't the path to relationship with Jesus—it's the proof of it. You can tell someone you love them, but if you consistently ignore their desires, your actions reveal the truth. When the Holy Spirit transforms your heart, you begin to hate sin and hunger for holiness. This isn't perfect obedience but persistent striving. Cultural Christianity likes the idea of Jesus without the commitment to follow Him. But true abiding produces obedience. Not the drudgery of religious duty, but the joyful response of a transformed heart. You keep His commandments because you've been changed from the inside out. The old you is buried and gone. Stop trying to nail apples to a dead tree and rest in the life-giving vine that produces genuine fruit.

Day 5: Provision Through Connection

Reading: John 15:7, 16-17, Matthew 7:7-11

When you're connected to the vine, you have access to the Father's provision. Ask and it will be given. Seek and you will find. This isn't about treating God like a genie who grants wishes—it's about trusting your Heavenly Father to provide what you need. If earthly fathers know how to give good gifts, how much more will your Father in heaven give to those who ask? Keep a record of prayers and God's answers. You'll be amazed at His faithfulness. Apart from Christ, you have no source of life and no guarantee of provision. But abiding in Him, you can confidently ask the Gardener for whatever you need to bear fruit. You were appointed to go and bear lasting fruit—fruit that abides. And as you go, making disciples and loving others, trust that your Father will provide everything necessary for the journey.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Abiding in Christ (John 15:9-17)

1. How does understanding abiding as 'remaining' or 'dwelling' rather than 'doing' change your approach to your relationship with Christ?
2. In what ways have you experienced God's pruning in your life, and how did those difficult seasons ultimately produce spiritual fruit?
3. What does it practically look like in your daily life to rest in Christ's work rather than striving to earn your sanctification through your own efforts?
4. How can we distinguish between cultural Christianity that tolerates Jesus and genuine abiding that produces obedience and joy?
5. Why do you think Jesus connects keeping His commandments so closely with abiding in His love rather than presenting them as separate concepts?
6. How does the reality that Christ chose you before the foundation of the world impact your sense of identity and purpose today?
7. What storms or trials are you currently facing that might be God's way of maturing you and producing perseverance in your faith?
8. In what specific ways can you demonstrate sacrificial love for your brothers and sisters in Christ this week, reflecting the love Jesus has shown you?
9. How does viewing yourself as a friend of Christ rather than merely a servant change your understanding of prayer and asking the Father for provision?
10. Can your life be explained without the mighty hand of God, or is there clear evidence of supernatural fruit that only comes from abiding in the vine?



SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Abiding in Christ (John 15:9-17)

Key Takeaways:

1. Believers who abide in Christ rest in His love and will bear lasting fruit.
2. Understanding "Abide" - The Greek word "meno" means to dwell, stay, or remain. Abiding is less about action and more about position—staying connected to Jesus like branches to a vine.
3. Two Essential Components: Abiding involves both:
 - a. Resting in Christ's love
 - b. Obeying His commands (these work in tandem)
4. Five Fruits of Abiding:
 - a. Obedience
 - b. Joy (especially through trials)
 - c. Sacrificial love for others
 - d. Friendship with Christ
 - e. Provision from God

Discussion Questions:

1. Pastor Nick emphasized that "abiding is less about action and more about position." What does this mean? How does this challenge or encourage you?
2. Jesus says, "Apart from me you can do nothing" (v. 5). How does this truth humble us? How does it actually free us?
3. Pastor Nick mentioned that we often remember we're "justified by grace" and will be "glorified by grace," but forget we're also "sanctified by grace." Why do you think we struggle to rest in God's grace for our daily Christian life?
4. Look at verses 9-10. How are love and obedience connected? Why can't we have one without the other?
5. Jesus says His joy may be in us and our joy may be "full" or "complete" (v. 11). How is Christian joy different from happiness? Can you share a time when you experienced joy even in difficult circumstances?
6. Verse 13 says, "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends." How does understanding Christ's sacrificial love for us change how we love others?
7. Jesus says, "You did not choose me, but I chose you" (v. 16). How does knowing you were chosen by God affect your sense of identity and purpose?

8. On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your current "abiding" in Christ? What evidence of fruit do you see (or not see) in your life right now?
9. The sermon mentioned that "it takes a lot of work to rest." What distracts you from abiding in Christ? What practical steps could you take to create space for remaining in Him?

Further Study:

1. Read 1 John 3:16-24 and 1 John 4:19-21 for additional insight from the same author
2. Consider reading: Abide in Christ by Andrew Murray
3. Reflect on the Apostle Paul's words in Philippians 1:6 about God completing His work in you