

BIG TRUTH: THE CHURCH IS AN ABIDING PEOPLE

Matthew 12:1-8; Hebrews 4:1-11; 1 John 2:24-25; 4:13; John 8:31

BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 15:4-5

“Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.”

BIG IDEAS

- To abide means to rest in Jesus confidently and dependently.
- To abide means to diligently labor to know and serve Jesus.
- Abiding in Jesus is continual growth in both position and pursuit.

BIBLE PASSAGE: JOHN 15:1-11

UNITE: LIVING IN COMMUNITY

The Unite year is an exploration of what it means to be united in Christ as the family of God (Romans 12:5). When we are saved, we are brought into the family of God- seen throughout the Old Testament as “God’s People” and in the New Testament and today as the church (Exodus 6:7; Colossians 1:18). We are set free from our sin to walk in freedom in Christ (Galatians 5:1) and use our influence to call others to do the same.

SERIES AIMS



Every student should know...

- God has always been making and keeping a people for Himself
- In this age, the church is God’s people
- Being a part of God’s people should inform every aspect of our lives



Every student should feel...

- Love for God and the people of God
- Accountable to God and to the church to pursue holiness
- Responsible to use their influence to make much of God alone



Every student should strive to...

- Study the connections between God’s people in the Old Testament
- and the church in the New Testament
- Memorize the Bible verse each week
- Invite others into God’s people, the church



Every student should want...

- Be marked by their faith
- Talk about God every day, in every setting and circle of influence
- Live as a faithful member of their local church

STUDENT WORKOUT:

This week we will ponder the truth that the church is an abiding people. We will pray for a heart that seeks to abide in Jesus as we practice abiding with fellow believers.

**Read John 15:1-11 this week and answer these questions in your journal:**

- How many times is the word “vine” used in these verses? What does “vine” refer to in these verses?
- Who are the branches in these verses?
- Define the word “abide.” In these verses, what does it mean to abide in Jesus?
- How does someone bear much fruit according to these verses? What happens to those branches who do not bear fruit?
- How is a person’s joy full according to these verses?

Read and meditate on John 15:1-11 this week. Use these questions to guide your meditation:

- Ponder the truth that God’s people abide in Him. How can you practice abiding in Jesus daily?
- What is the connection between Sabbath rest in the Old Testament, and abiding in Christ as it is discussed in the New Testament? How is our ability to rest fulfilled in Christ?
- Consider what it looks like to continually seek Jesus each day. Does your life reveal that you do this? How can you establish the discipline of continually seeking Jesus daily?
- Ponder what it looks like to pursue Jesus alongside fellow believers. How can you join with other believers to pursue Jesus?

**Pray with your parents this week.**

- Ask God to help you grow in your daily pursuit of Jesus and in your corporate pursuit of Him.
- Spend some time alone in prayer this week asking God to help you seek out opportunities to grow with others in your pursuit of Jesus.

**Memorize John 15:4-5 this week.**

- Ask someone to memorize the verses with you.
- Examine your daily pursuit of Jesus. Discuss with your parents and close friends if your life reveals that you pursue Him daily. Discuss with them ways you can join with other believers to abide in Jesus. Make a list of at least three ways you can pursue Jesus with others.
- Meet with your small group leader to share with them the list of ways you’ve made to pursue Jesus. Discuss ways you can live this pursuit out in your local body of believers.