

# ABIDE OR DIE

YEAR: TRANSFORM / FOCUS: I AM IN CHRIST  
SERIES: GOD IS THE VINE - I AM A BRANCH

## BIG TRUTH: ABIDE OR DIE

John 5:24-26; Colossians 1:17; 1 John 2:6; 1 John 2:28

## BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 15:5

*"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

- In Jesus there is life.
- Apart from Jesus there is death.
- Jesus is our everything.

## BIBLE PASSAGE: JOHN 15:1-12

### TRANSFORM - I AM IN CHRIST

The Transform Year is an exploration of what it means to become a "new creation" in Jesus. (2 Corinthians 5:17) In order for this to happen, we must first find our identity in Him. Many of us live in a consistent state of identity crises. We wrestle with questions like who am I, where do I belong, why do I exist? The answer to these questions is found in Jesus. Our prayer for this semester is that like the Apostle Paul we would be able to say, "I have been crucified with Christ, it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me." (Galatians 2:20).

## SERIES AIMS



### Every student should know that...

- God is the vine, and they are a branch.



### Every student should feel...

- Insufficient and inadequate at their inability to meet their own needs, while at the same time thankful and overwhelmed by an all-sufficient Savior who satisfies.



### Every student should strive to...

- Memorize Gal 2:20, read and meditate on John 15:1-15, and pursue an abiding relationship with Jesus together with leaders and others in their church.



### Every student should want to...

- Abide in Jesus and to aim higher in their personal pursuit of Him.

## GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week's Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.



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**BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 15:5**

*"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."*

**Jesus is the source of all life.**

*"I am the vine..."*

- Previously in chapter 15, Jesus identifies Himself as the true vine. When He calls Himself the true vine, He means that He is the only source of life because He is the only way man can be connected to God the Father. All life was created through Jesus as noted in John 1:3. We not only have physical life through the creative power of Christ, but we also have spiritual life through Him.
- The vine gives life the fruit that its branches bear. Without the vine, the branches will not bear fruit. Jesus is the true vine and only source of life. Without Him, man cannot bear fruit or have true life.

**We are dependent upon Jesus for eternal life.**

*"you are the branches."*

- Jesus identified Himself as the true vine in John 15:1. In 15:5, Jesus identifies man as the branches. We are the branches that receive life from Jesus. We are dependent upon Jesus, the true vine, for physical life and for eternal life.
- Jesus is the only way for man to be reconciled to God the Father, who is the vinedresser. It is only through Jesus that we can have everlasting life.
- Just as a branch cannot keep itself alive or bear fruit once it is cut off from the vine, we cannot have true life apart from Jesus. We depend upon Him for eternal life because He is the only way to have eternal life.

**We do not bear eternal fruit apart from Jesus.**

*"Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."*

- A branch will wither and die when it is cut off from the vine. We cannot bear lasting fruit apart from a relationship with Jesus. He is the only way to have everlasting life and to bear eternal fruit.
- When we recognize that we are sinners, repent of our sin, and confess Jesus is Lord, we are made new in Jesus. When we have this relationship with Him, we are connected to the true vine. When we live daily seeking to bring Him glory, we abide in Him and can bear much fruit for Him.

**BIG IDEA #1: IN JESUS THERE IS LIFE.<sup>1</sup>****[ THIS ]**

In John 15:1, Jesus describes Himself as the true vine. He uses the metaphor of a vine and branches to describe that the only way for us to truly live is through Him. He alone is our connection to God the Father. He is the only source of life because He is the only real vine. All other things that we seek to find life in do not bring us everlasting life. We cannot have life in ourselves because we do not create life, nor can we reconcile ourselves to God the Father. Jesus is the only way for anyone to truly live. All things were created through Him. We have physical life because of Him and we can have eternal life through Him as well.

**[ THEREFORE ]****How have you found life in Jesus?**

In Acts 17:24-25, Paul addresses the men of Athens as he proclaims the truth that it is God who gives life to all things and all people. In 2 Corinthians 5:17, Paul teaches his listeners that when we are in Christ, we are new creations. Our old sinful selves are made new. We are given new life in Christ. Lastly, in Ephesians 2:1-10, Paul explains in detail the new life that we receive through Christ as a gift of His mercy to us.

**In what ways have you looked to other things or people as a source of life for you?**

In Ephesians 2:8, Paul says that our salvation is not our own doing, but a gift of God. We cannot give ourselves eternal life. We cannot even give ourselves physical life. In 2 Timothy 3:1-5, Paul warns of a way of life that leads away from God and towards eternal destruction. In Matthew 7:15-20, Jesus teaches on the good fruit that only those abiding in Him can bear, revealing that when we look to other things and people as our source of life, we will only find death.

**[ THIS ]**

Jesus is the source of all life. Even those who do not follow Him receive physical life from Him. He is the only way for a person to be reconciled to God. No one can cross the great chasm that our sin has caused between God and us in his or her own power. Only through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection can man have new life that is everlasting. It is only through a daily abiding, or continual connection to Jesus that we have true life that bears good fruit.

**[ THEREFORE ]****How does abiding in Jesus daily help you glorify God with your life?**

In John 15:7-8, Jesus teaches His followers that a continual abiding in Him results in bringing God glory because we will bear fruit that is pleasing to God. In Matthew 7:17, Jesus teaches that only healthy trees bear good fruit. When we abide in Jesus, we will be healthy. Galatians 5:22-23 teaches us what the fruit of God's Spirit looks like and what our lives should be characterized by.

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1. John 5:24-26: Jesus is the only way to have eternal life. When we believe in Jesus, we do not enter into judgment.

**BIG IDEA #2: APART FROM JESUS THERE IS DEATH.<sup>2</sup>****[ THIS ]**

We are the branches that receive life from Jesus. A branch does not give itself life. It must receive life from the vine. Jesus is the true vine and anyone who is not connected to Him is not connected to life. When we are separated from Jesus, we are headed toward death and destruction. We cannot fully live apart from Jesus. When we abide in Jesus, we are drawing our life from Him. We are able to bear fruit because of Him and the work His Spirit does inside of us. When a branch is cut off from the vine, it withers and dies. When we are cut off from Jesus, we wither and die. We are held captive in our sin and are dead in our trespasses.

**[ THEREFORE ]****What does it mean to be dead in our sins?**

In Galatians 5:19-21, Paul lists the works of the flesh, or our sinful trespasses. When we do these things we are dead in our sin. We are not abiding in Christ. 1 Thessalonians 4:1-4 teaches us that we should control our bodies which leads to our living holy lives. When we are enslaved to our sin, we are dead and not connected to the true vine. Proverbs 14:12 reminds us that we may think we know the right way, but it leads to death. Without Christ, we are dead as Proverbs 21:16 reminds us.

**How has failing to abide in Jesus led you to sin or dishonor God?**

In Ephesians 6:1, children are given the command to obey their parents. When we fail to abide in Jesus, we will fail to obey God's commands. 2 Timothy 3:2 reminds us of this when it lists disobedience to parents as a sign of a sinful person. In John 14:21, Jesus teaches His listeners that those who love Him will keep His commands. In John 13:35 shows us that we are known by the way we love others. When we fail to do these things, we fail to honor God and bring Him glory.

**[ THIS ]**

When we do not abide in Jesus, we risk our very lives. When we are cut off from Jesus, we cannot fully live for Him because we will not do the will of the Father. We will not bring God glory with our lives, but instead, we will gratify the desires of our flesh. In order to truly live, we must be connected to Jesus, our true vine. It is only through Him that we have everlasting life. Without Him, we have death as we live in our sinful ways on earth and death in eternity as we are forever separated from God.

**[ THEREFORE ]****In what ways have you seen your understanding of God grow as you've abided in Jesus?**

In John 15:5, Jesus teaches His followers that apart from Him, we can do nothing, but when we abide in Him we will bear much fruit. Paul also speaks to this growing up in Christ in Ephesians 3:17-19. In Colossians 2:6-7, we see that as we walk with Christ, we will grow in our knowledge and understanding of God. Lastly, in Colossians 3:16, Paul exhorts believers to let the Word of God dwell in them richly. In John 1:1, we learn that Jesus is the Word of God. We cannot abide in Jesus without abiding in His Word.

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2. 2. John 5:24-26: Those who have believed Jesus will have life, and those who have not will have death.

**BIG IDEA #3: JESUS IS OUR EVERYTHING.<sup>3</sup>****[ THIS ]**

In the first chapter of the Gospel of John, we are shown that Jesus is the beginning of everything. He has always been and everything that was created was made through Him and for Him. All things exist for His glory. All life comes from Him and eternal life is made available through Him to all who believe. We cannot give ourselves physical life and we cannot save ourselves as Paul teaches in Ephesians 2:8. Colossians 1:17 teaches us that all things are held together by Christ. Our very lives depend upon Christ.

**[ THEREFORE ]**

**In what ways have you seen that your life is dependent upon Jesus?**

In Philippians 4:19, Paul reminds us that God supplies all that we need. God is a faithful God who keeps His promises. In Luke 12:24, Jesus teaches His listeners of the great care that God gives to mankind. In James 1:17, James tells us that every good and perfect gift is from God. Proverbs 19:21 reminds us that it is God's plan that prevails. His will is always done. Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 4:7 that all we have, we have because we received it.

**[ THIS ]**

Not only are we dependent upon Jesus for our physical life, but we are dependent upon Him for our eternal life. In John 15:1-12, Jesus teaches that apart from Him man can do nothing. We cannot produce good fruit, live lives that glorify God, or receive eternal life separated from Jesus. Because Jesus lived the perfect life on earth and died in our place, it is only through Him that we can have eternal life. When we repent and believe in Jesus, we are given new life in Him. Jesus is our everything.

**[ THEREFORE ]**

**How can Jesus' life bring us eternal life?**

God's plan for man's salvation is displayed in John 3:16. In Ephesians 2:8-10, Paul reminds us that it is a gift of God and not anything that we do that brings us eternal life. 1 John 5:13-14 shows us that we receive eternal life through the perfect life of Jesus. Lastly, in Romans 3:25-26, 2 Corinthians 5:21, and Galatians 3:13, we see that the perfect life of Jesus offered in place of our lives brought eternal life to mankind.

**What keeps you from daily depending upon Jesus?**

In Ephesians 4:14, Paul admonishes his hearers to grow up in the Word of God so that they would no longer be deceived by false teaching. James 1:6 shows us that doubt can lead us away from abiding in Jesus daily. Matthew 6:33 teaches us to seek the Kingdom of God first. When we seek the Kingdom of God first, we will not seek the things of the world.

3. Colossians 1:17: Jesus has always been and will always be. Everything holds together through Him.