

**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

**FAMILY WORKOUT:**

This week we will ponder how to discuss with our son or daughter that God’s people are an abiding people. We will pray for them to pursue Jesus as we lead them to practice pursuing Him with fellow believers.



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

- Define the words “abide,” “vine,” and “branches” from these verses.
- From these verses, how can a believer live out the command to abide in Jesus? Why is this command important to a believer’s life?
- How does abiding as a believer impact the body of Christ?
- What is the result of abiding in Christ? How does this affect the local body of believers?
- How is joy a result of abiding in Christ?

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

- Consider the relationship between Sabbath rest in the Old Testament and abiding in Christ in the New Testament. How is the Jesus follower’s capacity to rest fulfilled in Jesus?
- Consider how you can help your son or daughter abide in Christ daily. How can you help them establish a daily time in the Word and in prayer?
- Ponder how you can help your son or daughter continually pursue serving others. How can you help your son or daughter serve others in the body of Christ?
- Consider how you can lead your son or daughter to grow in their knowledge of Jesus. How can you help your son or daughter grow with others in the body?



**Pray with your son or daughter this week.**

- Ask God to help them have a desire to abide in Jesus daily.
- Pray for your student this week. Ask God to help them desire to grow with other believers.



**Memorize John 15:4-5 as a family this week.**

- Write the verses on an index card and review them to help them learn them.
- Discuss with your son or daughter ways that he or she can abide in Jesus with others in the local church. Help them make a list of three to four ways like practicing church attendance, serving in the church, studying the Bible together, etc., that they can pursue Christ together.
- Meet with your student to discuss ways that he or she can grow in pursuing Christ with fellow believers. Give them a list of ways that they can participate with others in the local body and abide together.