

DISCIPLES ABIDE IN THE SON

YEAR: TRANSFORM / FOCUS: LIVING IN PURSUIT / SERIES: DISCIPLE

BIG TRUTH: DISCIPLES ABIDE IN THE SON

1 John 2:24, 28; 2 John 1:9

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

- Jesus is the only source of life.
- Abiding is position and pursuit.
- We bear spiritual fruit as we abide.

BIBLE PASSAGE: JOHN 15:1-11

TRANSFORM - LIVING IN PURSUIT

In High School, the Transform Year is an exploration of what it looks like to have transformed influence as we seek to live for a Kingdom that is greater than our own. First, we recognize that we will never be transformed if we are not Living for Jesus. To do this, we must first know who Jesus is by looking at who He says He is (John 8:58), and then look at what the Bible says about how in Him, we live by faith (James 1:6). Next, we recognize that to have transformed influence means that we must live as disciples in pursuit of Christ and His Kingdom over ourselves and our own kingdoms.

SERIES AIMS



Every student should know that...

- Jesus is the only source of life
- God's Word is authoritative and applicable for all of life
- To follow Jesus is to pursue a life of sacrifice and surrender



Every student should feel...

- Thankful for the triune God who is worthy
- Convicted of how deception has led them to disobedience
- Responsible to use their influence to live for Jesus alone



Every student should strive to...

- Read through the gospel of John
- Memorize the Bible verse each week
- Implement regular rhythms of prayer and fasting throughout the semester



Every student should want to...

- Pursue obedience even when faith is a struggle
- Grow in living in step with the Holy Spirit
- Live their lives to glorify God the Father

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 disciple's source of all life.

"I am the vine; you are the branches."

- All things are created through Jesus and for Him. He was present in the beginning at creation when everything was created. Not only was He present, but He holds all things together and sustains all life now. He is the source of life for all things.
- He is also the source of eternal life. He gives life to His people. He breathes air into their lungs and makes their hearts new when He transforms them from sinners into saints. He is the only source of life for His people and His people know this truth.

Disciples remain connected to Jesus.

"I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him..."

- Abiding means there is a connection to Jesus that is constant. We cannot abide in something if we do not remain connected to the source. Jesus is the vine and the source of our connection. It is from Him that we receive power and life.
- Disciples seek to be connected to Jesus always. They pursue Him and desire to grow in their knowledge of Him. They make it a priority to remain in Him, studying His Word and praying every day. They serve Him and obey His commands as they seek to please Him.

A disciple's connection to Jesus leads to much fruit-bearing.

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

- Because Jesus is the source of all life and it is only through a connection to Him that we can do anything, when a disciple is connected to Him, he or she will bear fruit. The fruit they bear is spiritual fruit that brings God glory and makes His name famous in the world.
- The more a disciple grows in Jesus, the more fruit he or she bears. This growth requires a constant connection, or abiding in Jesus. This means that a disciple who is abiding is bearing much spiritual fruit. He or she is obeying God's Word and serving Him. Through their lives, much is being made of Jesus.

BIG IDEA #1: JESUS IS THE ONLY SOURCE OF LIFE.¹**[THIS]**

A source is a place or person from which something comes. In our world, we have many sources for many things. When we turn on a light in a room, the source for the electricity can be traced all the way to a power grid in our city. In John 15:1, Jesus establishes Himself as the source of power for the believer. Because Jesus is the only way for a person to be redeemed from their sin and reconciled to the Father, He is the only source of life for the believer. Jesus is the only source of physical life as John 1:2-3 tells us. Jesus has always been and in Him all things were created. Life is possible because it was made through Him and by Him. Things exist because He exists and sustains life on earth and in heaven. When Jesus says He is the vine, He means that He is the source, or the place from which life comes. He is the beginning of all things.

[THEREFORE]

Why is it important to know that Jesus is the source of all things?

Knowing that Jesus is the source of all things helps us have a right perspective of who He is. When we have the right perspective, we will seek to abide in Him and not pursue other sources for strength and power. Colossians 1:16 and Psalm 116:2 help us understand the importance of seeking Jesus.

What are some of the ways the world tries to define the source of life?

Many men and women in this world have tried to define the source of life as something other than Jesus. We can be tempted to believe these falsehoods, but we are warned in Hebrews 13:9 not to be drawn away by false teaching. We do this by remembering that Jesus is the beginning of all things and He alone is our source of all things.

[THIS]

John 15:1-2 shows us that Jesus is the only source of spiritual life. This means that eternal life can only be found in Him. All people have a soul that is eternal. Those who repent and believe in Jesus as their Savior will live eternally with Him and those who reject Him will experience eternal death separated from Him. Jesus offers eternal life to those who turn away from their sin. He is the only source or person from which we can gain spiritual life and be made new. When He says that He is the vine and we are the branches, He means that His people abide in Him and receive spiritual life. They are connected to Him and are given power to live for Him. Those who do not know Him are pruned or cast away and lose the only source of life.

[THEREFORE]

How is Jesus the only source of spiritual life? How does He give eternal life?

In John 14:6, Jesus teaches that He is the only way to the Father. No one comes to the Father except through Jesus. Jesus is the only way for a person to be redeemed from their sin and made new. This is the only way for a person to have spiritual life. He gives eternal life because faith in Him brings eternal life to those who follow Him. Matthew 25:46 shows us that for those who have been redeemed, they will experience eternal reward and life with Christ. This is eternal life.

1. 1 John 5:20: Jesus came that we might be redeemed and know Him and have eternal life.

BIG IDEA #2: ABIDING IS POSITION AND PURSUIT.²**[THIS]**

To abide is to be connected to something, or to remain in something for an extended period of time. When disciples abide in Jesus, they are remaining in Him. The first step in abiding in Jesus is being connected to Him. In John 15:1-11, He says repeatedly that He is the vine and we are the branches. In order for us to be connected to Him, we must be redeemed. It is God who draws us to Him through His Spirit. We are redeemed through Jesus and connected to Him by the Spirit. Because we are forgiven, we enjoy a position of forgiveness and a freedom to have a relationship with Jesus. Our sin has been washed clean and we are no longer separated from God. This new position is the very first step in our abiding in Jesus. Without Jesus' work on the cross, we couldn't abide in Him. We wouldn't even be able to stay connected to Him. As He says in John 15:2, the branches that do not bear fruit are taken away. These branches are people who do not know Him as their Savior and cannot abide in Him.

[THEREFORE]**What does it mean that abiding is our position?**

When we experience saving faith, we are no longer separated from God. This enables us to have a relationship with Christ. This also opens our eyes to truth and makes it possible for us to abide in Him. 1 Peter 3:18 and John 3:16-17 teach us that this is only possible through Jesus.

[THIS]

In John 15:4, Jesus teaches that unless a person abides in Him, he or she cannot bear fruit. This teaches us that abiding is more than being redeemed. Once we're redeemed, it requires a pursuit of Jesus. The good news is that when we are redeemed, we will want to pursue Jesus. There will be times when this desire may fade or we become distracted by other things, but the Holy Spirit inside of us will lead us to pursue Jesus. The more we submit to this leading, the more we will abide and the more fruit we will bear. Pursuing Jesus means seeking Him daily. We cannot seek Him sporadically and think that we will abide in Him in a way that produces much fruit. Pursuing Him means we are studying the Bible and praying daily. We are living aware of His presence and seeking to be like Him every day. This type of pursuit produces much fruit.

[THEREFORE]**How does the Holy Spirit help you pursue Jesus and thus bear much fruit?**

The Holy Spirit is our helper. He guides us and leads us to know God and obey His Word. John 14:26 and Isaiah 11:2 help us understand the importance of the help of the Spirit in abiding in Jesus. The Spirit helps us pursue Jesus and produces the fruit of the Spirit in us as Galatians 5:22-23.

What does it look like for you to pursue Jesus daily?

To pursue Jesus daily, we must put off the old self. We must seek to put on the new self and live for Jesus every day. Matthew 22:37 shows us that this begins with loving God above all others with all of our being. Matthew 6:33 shows us that it is seeking His kingdom first and not seeking the things of this world and Romans 12:2 reminds us that it is living not conformed to this world, but renewed.

2. John 15:4: Abiding in Jesus means being connected to Him and pursuing Him.

BIG IDEA #3: WE BEAR SPIRITUAL FRUIT AS WE ABIDE.³**[THIS]**

There are many outcomes of abiding in Jesus. We grow closer to Him, we grow in our knowledge of Him, and we walk in obedience to God's Word. Another outcome is that we bear spiritual fruit. Every believer can bear spiritual fruit because every believer has the Holy Spirit inside of them. In John 15:5, Jesus says that whoever is abiding in Him will bear fruit. Apart from Jesus, we cannot bear fruit. We receive power and the ability to bear this spiritual fruit because we are connected to and abiding in Jesus. The Spirit draws us to grow in our knowledge of who Jesus is. We study the Word and grow in understanding. As we go about our daily lives, we live out God's truth and become more and more like Christ. As we die to our flesh nature and put on our new nature, we exhibit the fruit of the Spirit and abide even more in Jesus. This is the reciprocal nature of abiding in Christ. The more we abide; the more we bear fruit. The more we bear fruit; the more we abide.

[THEREFORE]**How has growing in your knowledge of Jesus helped you to bear spiritual fruit?**

Growing in the knowledge of Jesus helps us bear spiritual fruit because it teaches us what it looks like to be like Christ. 1 Corinthians 15:58 and 2 Peter 3:18 teach us that growing in knowledge results in bearing fruit and being like Jesus. We glorify God when we do this.

[THIS]

God is glorified in us when we bear spiritual fruit. Part of our abiding in Jesus is that we fulfill our created purpose which is to bring God glory. We seek to know Jesus that we may be like Him that we might bring glory to the Father. Jesus did this as an example to us and we can follow His example. We can pursue Jesus and abide in Him that we might do the good works that have been prepared for us beforehand. John 15:8-11 shows us that bearing much fruit brings the Father glory and shows others that we are disciples of Jesus. When we bear spiritual fruit, we prove to the world around us that the Holy Spirit lives inside of us and is at work in our hearts. When we practice patience, love others, and seek to be like Jesus, we show the world around us that we have been redeemed and that we are abiding in Jesus.

[THEREFORE]**How could a failure to bear fruit keep people from knowing that we are disciples of Jesus?**

John 13:35 tells us that the world knows us by the way we love others. Love is a fruit of abiding in Christ. When we love others as God has commanded us, the world can see that we are a disciple of Jesus. God's love is different from the world's. It calls us to love sacrificially and unselfishly. This shows people that we belong to Jesus.

Read John 15:1-11. Do you seek to abide in Jesus that you might glorify the Father? How is it possible for our motives to get twisted?

It can be tempting to just grow in knowledge without really seeking to live out our faith, but we know from these verses that Jesus prunes those who abide in Him so that they do bear fruit. Our motive for abiding in Jesus should be to bring glory to the Father. Our motive should not be to look good to others or just gain knowledge.

3. John 15:8: Those who abide in Jesus bear much spiritual fruit and glorify God.