

Paradigm Discipleship

CC @ UNM FOUNDATIONAL RESOURCE SERIES

The purpose of this resource is to provide some guidance for you as you encourage your disciple to develop a strong devotional relationship with God.

The following resource is a guide that provides some basic structure to developing a study on abiding in the Word.

We encourage you to do your own study, using this resource as a guide, to develop a learning experience for you and your disciple that will help you both move deeper in your understanding and experience of seeking to abide with God through and in His Word.

Abiding in the Word

Opening question: When you hear the word “abide”, what does that bring to mind?

*Very open-ended question – your disciple may talk about an image or two, or simply a definition.

*There are several definitions of abide – explore all the definitions you can think of with your disciple.

*The aim of this study is to help your disciple truly **BE With** Jesus through His Word. That, to us, is the essence of the word “abide” – to “BE WITH”.

Follow up question: Read John 15:1-11 together out loud. What do **YOU** think Jesus means by abide (some translations say “remain”) in these verses?

*Follow up each “meaning” with the possible implications for us as His followers.

*He uses it several times, be sure to examine each one

*Possible good responses or views that you should bring up:

1. Staying connected to.

*In the sense of the vine and branches, that is where the life giving sap is coming from – how important then is it for us to remain connected to Jesus, the TRUE vine?

2. Obeying or allowing Jesus & His commands to have ruling authority.

*What kind of authority do we give Jesus in our lives? (You could look up Luke 6:46 here for emphasis.)

3. Living inside

*We see this especially in the call to remain or abide in “My love” (v. 9ff) Think in terms of protective covering like a house and/or family relationships.

****IMPORTANT NOTE**** This is a call to a relationship. To be with Jesus, in intimacy & submission, is the goal of our lives.

Study Question: Go back through this passage and note the important role Jesus’ commands or words play in this abiding life.

1. Ask your disciple what Jesus means by “clean” in v. 3.

*Compare this verse to John 17:17.

*The Word cleanses us from sin (salvation).

*The Word sanctifies us (sets us apart) for His purpose.

2. Ask your disciple what kind of fruit Jesus is referring to in v. 8

*If the Word is alive and has authority in our lives, we pray in power according to the will of God.

*That results in fruitful ministry that is a demonstration of God’s power in our lives.

*This is the answer to the above question. I don’t think Jesus is referring here to things like the fruit of the Spirit, but the resulting fruit of service in the kingdom; the results like disciples walking with Jesus or people we have led to trust Jesus, etc.

*That accomplishes two amazing things:

*God is glorified in our lives.

*We are proven to be His.

3. How important is it to Jesus that we abide by His Word?

*Compare verses 9-10 with John 14:15, 20-21

**Possible addition to this study, but not necessarily a key part: Look at verse 11 as the resulting benefit of this kind of life. Can you imagine what is meant by having our joy be full?*

Final Point: If Jesus is “The Word of God,” (John 1:1) how should we treat our Bibles? How much attention should be given to knowing scripture?

Close with the “Hand” Illustration

*This illustrates six primary ways we put ourselves into a position to abide in Jesus and have the Word abide in us (see attachment):

-Hear

-Read

-Study

-Memorize

-Meditate

-Obey

*This is where you should spend the next several weeks – unpacking each of these skills.

IMPORTANT NOTE The purpose and goal of these disciplines is to know and be in love with Jesus. These disciplines are not an end in themselves, but only a conduit to allow us to connect with Christ.