

# Paradigm Discipleship

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*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.