



Bible Scripture Focus: Abiding in Christ.

Scripture: John 15:4-5

Teaching Focus: To abide in Christ means to WAIT for God to show you the right choices, ACCEPT God's commandments by obeying them, REMAIN loyal to God and His Word, CONTINUE to daily live close to God, and DWELL in harmony with God's Spirit.

Memory Verse: John 15:5



To Prepare

Materials Needed:

The Secret to Abiding in Christ Part 1

- Whiteboard, dry erase markers, eraser
- Color copies of provided visuals

The Secret to Abiding in Christ Part 2

See Craft Activity



Lesson Outline

The Secret to Abiding in Christ Part 1

Compare the parts of a grape vine to the concept of abiding in Christ. Read Scripture. Teach the meaning of John 15:5 with motions. Explain two ways to abide in Christ. Play WORD WIPE OUT memory verse game.

The Secret to Abiding in Christ Part 2

Review John 15:5. Review previous abiding in Christ lesson. Teach three more ways to abide in Christ. Do craft activity.



Teacher Notes

Pray that as the students hear and learn the story from the Bible, God's Spirit will reveal to them the truth that God knows they each individually need to hear and believe.



Both lessons use body movement throughout the lesson to keep students in engaged.



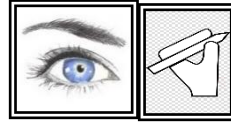
When the lesson calls for Scripture to be read or a verse is given, reading directly from the Bible gives emphasis to the students that the story being taught is from God's Word.



God's Word is powerful.
Helping students memorize
Scripture hides God's Words
within their heart. For younger
students, the memory verse can be a
shortened version of the verse.



The Salvation Invitation gives a
student the opportunity to
decide to believe upon and
follow Jesus Christ as their Savior and
Lord. Give interested students a place
and time to come for counseling.



Lesson 1 uses
visuals and lesson 2 provides a hands-
on craft activity to review the parts of a
grapevine to emphasize the meaning
John 15:5.

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Lesson 1 The Secret to Abiding in Christ Part 1



Teacher notes: Write the verse John 15:5 on the whiteboard.

Bible Lesson

Did you know you can have a relationship with Jesus Christ that is even better than the relationship you might have with a best friend? To have that kind of closeness with Jesus Christ, you must abide in Him.

Jesus used a grape vine to teach His disciples about abiding.

Teacher notes: Show the three pictures provided at the end of this lesson to illustrate the vine (trunk of the plant), the branches that grow out from the vine, and the grapes that are produced and hang from the branches.

The grapevine is like the trunk of a tree. The vine provides the rest of the plant with nutrients, water, and strength.



The branches of the grapevine are connected directly to the vine and therefore the branches abide in the vine. It is important for the branches to abide in the grapevine because the energy and nutrients needed for the branches to grow and produce or bear grapes comes from the vine.



The only way the branches of the grapevine can grow grapes is by using the energy and nutrients from the vine.



What do you think would happen if you cut a branch off the vine? Would that branch be able to grow grapes? (No.)

Why? (The branch would no longer have what it needed to produce the grapes.)

Now that you have learned about grapevines, let us learn how Jesus used a grapevine to teach his disciples about abiding in Him. Listen as I read what Jesus said.

Read John 15:4-5

"Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.

"I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing."

Jesus called Himself the vine. You who have believed in Jesus are the branches, and the fruit represents your character and your service to God.

Listen again to how Jesus compared Himself to the vine and you as the branch.

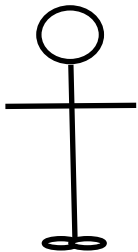
"I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing." John 15:5



Look at the verse on the whiteboard and repeat the verse with me.

Everybody stand up.

Since the grape vine is like the trunk of a tree, stand tall and place your arms by your sides as if you were the strong thick trunk-like vine. As we repeat the verse, take this position as you say, "I am the vine".



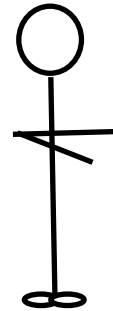
Next, spread your arms out from your body like a branch. Some of you may need to step forward, back, or to one side, but it is okay if arms cross because the branches off grape vines often twirl and cross over one another. When we repeat the verse, take this position as you say, "you are the branches".



Look at the verse on the whiteboard and repeat the verse with me remembering to do these two actions.

Great job!

Now, everybody hold your arms out like branches again. For the verse words "he who abides in Me," move one arm across your chest horizontally by bending it at the elbow with your thumb pointing to yourself.



For the words "and I in him," take the other arm and make it vertical in front of your chest so that both arms form a cross.

Abiding in Christ would be impossible for anyone if Jesus had not died on the cross and made a way for us to ask God to forgive our sins. Trusting that Jesus is the Son of God who died on the cross to take the punishment for sin and defeated death by rising from the grave allows you to ask God to forgive your sin. The forgiveness of sin is the only way anyone can become a child of God and be like a branch abiding in Christ.



Look at the verse on the whiteboard and repeat the verse with me along with all four actions.



Next, with your arms still forming a cross, spread the fingers on both hands as if each hand was a cluster of grapes. Make this jester when you say the words "he bears much fruit".

Finally, for the last part of the verse, move both arms and outward away from your body as if you were motioning to you had nothing.



hands someone that



Now let us repeat the entire verse with all the actions.

Fantastic! You follow instructions very well!

We are not quite done so continue standing.

Not only was abiding in Jesus important for His disciples, abiding in Jesus is also important for you today.

If you do not abide in Jesus, then your character (the way you act, think, and talk) will fall short of God's best for you and may cause you to miss out on ways God has designed you to serve Him.



Repeat the entire verse again with all the actions.

According to these verses, if you abide in Jesus, God will do incredible things within you and through you. However, if you do not abide in Jesus, you are apart from God and you will not be able to do any of the things God has designed and purposed for you to do.



Let us recite the verse once more with the actions.

Everybody can now sit down.

Your abiding in Jesus determines.

- (1) your spiritual strength for the Lord,
- (2) the opportunities God provides to you, and
- (3) how effectively God uses you to make a difference in the life of others.

For these reasons, you and I need to learn how to abide in Jesus.

Teacher notes: As you explain what actions will be used to represent different words, demonstrate the actions. Also, do the actions with the students when called for within the lesson. The action words are listed in bold text.

ABIDE means to WAIT, CONTINUE, REMAIN, ACCEPT, and DWELL.

Today, we are going to learn about the first two things you and I can do to abide in Jesus - wait and accept.

First, abide means that you **WAIT** for God to show you the right choice when you must make a decision.

Everybody hold your arms in front of you with both palms facing outward as if you are telling someone to stop. This action will represent WAIT. When you hear the word WAIT, do this action then put your arms back down.

Just to practice – Repeat after me:

“Abide means that you **WAIT** for God to show you the right choice.”

Great job everyone!

When you make decisions, ask God to help you rather than assuming you know the right choice.

Take time every day to talk to God. Ask Him questions when you pray. Most likely you will not audibly hear His voice answering you. However, many times He will place the answer inside your thoughts as you are praying or later. God might also place someone or something in your life that will in some way show you His answer.

There is also another very good reason for asking God questions. Every time you ask God a question, you are acknowledging to yourself and admitting to God that you understand He is all-knowing, and you want to do things His way. The Bible says,

Read Isaiah 55:8-9

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," declares the LORD. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts.

Remember, one thing you must do to abide in Christ is **WAIT** for God to show you the right choice. Repeat after me:

"Abide means that you **WAIT** for God to show you the right choice."

A second thing abiding in Christ means is to **ACCEPT** God's commandments by obeying them.

Everybody hold your hands out as if someone is giving you something to hold then bow your head as if signaling that you respectfully accept the gift. This action will represent ACCEPT. When you hear the word ACCEPT, do this action then put your arms back down and look up.

Let us practice. Repeat after me:

"Abide means that you **ACCEPT** God's commandments."

Perfect!

When you are abiding in Jesus, you believe God's commandments to be true and best. You receive His commands willingly and gladly, and you accept your responsibility to follow and obey them.

To some of you, accepting God's commands may sound hard to do. However, if you are truly abiding in Christ, your love for Him will help you accept and obey His commands. While Jesus was teaching his disciples about the abiding, He said, **"If you keep My**

commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.” (John 15:10)

Jesus also said, **“If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.” (John 14:15)**

When you are abiding in Jesus, you obey God’s commands because you love Jesus, not because a parent or teacher says you must obey. When you are abiding in Jesus, it is your love for Jesus that makes you want to obey, not the fear of consequences or punishment.

Repeat after me the two things you must do to abide in Christ:

“WAIT for God to show you the right choice”

“ACCEPT God’s commandments.”

In our next lesson you will learn three more things you can do to abide in Christ.



Stand and we will all say John 15:5 again with the actions before playing a game to help us remember the verse even better.



WORD WIPE OUT

How to Play:

**“I am the vine | you are the branches | he who abides in Me | and I in him
| he bears much fruit | for apart from Me you can do nothing.” | John 15:5**

With the verse written on a whiteboard, erase the first phrase and have students repeat the entire verse while also doing the previously taught actions. Continue by erasing another phrase and have the students repeat the verse. Continue erasing phrase by phrase until the students are saying the verse with all the verse phrases erased.





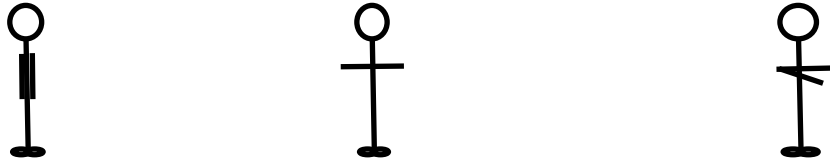


Lesson 2 – The Secret to Abiding in Christ Part 2

In the last lesson we learned that Jesus taught that you and I are to abide in Him.

If you remember what Jesus said in John 15:5, stand and recite the verse with me along with the actions.

"I am the vine | you are the branches | he who abides in Me |



and I in him | he bears much fruit |



for apart from Me you can do nothing." | John 15:5



In our last lesson, you learned that abide means to wait, accept, continue, remain, and dwell. You also learned two ways you can abide in Christ.

Teacher note: Encourage students to stand, listen as you say and do the actions previous learned, then repeat your words and actions.

First, **WAIT** for God to show you the right choice.

Second, **ACCEPT** God's commandments by obeying them.

Excellent !



A third way for you to abide in Christ is to **REMAIN** loyal to God and His Word.

A good soldier never leaves, runs away, or decides to go a different way when his commander gives him orders. A good soldier trusts the commander and remains dedicated to his commanders plan.

Everybody give me a salute as if you are a soldier. When you hear the word REMAIN, give a salute.



Let us practice. Repeat after me.

“ Abide means that you **REMAIN** loyal to God and His Word.”

Nicely done!

There are many people, even teachers and leaders, in our nation and throughout the world that do not believe there is one true God and do not believe the Bible. God's enemy, Satan, has tricked them and blinded them so they do not accept God and what He says. Do not allow what other people say or how they live to cause you to doubt or turn away from what God's Word says is right and what God's Word says is wrong. The Bible says.

Read Colossians 2:8

See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.

Philosophy means human reasoning.

Deception means lies.

Tradition means customs.

Principles of the world means rules made by sinful and imperfect people.

This verse warns you and me not to be distracted or fooled by human reasoning, lies, customs, or sinful laws. Instead, we are to follow God always knowing that He is always right and His ways are always best.

Remember, **REMAIN** loyal to God and His Word!

Before moving to the fourth way to abide in Christ, let us review what we have already learned.

Repeat after me what it means to abide in Jesus.

WAIT for God to show you the right choice.



ACCEPT God's commandments by obeying them.



REMAIN loyal to God and His Word.



To abide in Jesus also means that you **CONTINUE** to daily live close to God.

Everybody move your arms and hands in front of you as if you were directing traffic to keep going. This action will represent **CONTINUE**. When you hear the word **CONTINUE**, do this action.



Repeat after me:

"Abide means that you **CONTINUE** to daily live close to God."

Great!

You **CONTINUE** to daily live close to God by confessing and turning away from sin so your sin will not come between you and God.

To *confess* means to *admit your sin to God*.

When you first choose to trust the truth of who Jesus is then ask God to forgive your sin because of what Jesus did for you on the cross, God forgives your sinful heart and He promises to always be with you.

However, trusting upon Jesus does not mean you will be perfect and never sin again.

Even though your sinful heart is forgiven by God, there will be times you will still wrongly choose to sin. Sinning after you have put your trust upon Jesus does not separate you entirely from God, but your sin will cause there to be distance between you and God. This is why it is so important when you realize you have sinned that you admit your sin to God, ask His forgiveness, and ask His help to not repeat the sin. The Bible says,

Read 1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

God wants you to **CONTINUE** to be close to Him. Do not let sin move you away from God.

Can you remember the first four ways to abide in Jesus?

Repeat after me:

WAIT for God to show you the right choice.



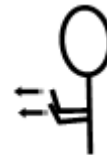
ACCEPT God's commandments by obeying them.



REMAIN loyal to God and His Word.



CONTINUE to daily live close to God.



There is one more way to abide in Christ I want to share with you. To abide in Christ also means to **DWELL** in harmony with God's Spirit.

The word DWELL means to live, stay, or continue permanently.

Here on the earth, you may physically dwell with your family, a relative, a friend, or someone else. You dwell with those who share your living space.



Everybody raise your arms over your head, bend them at the elbow and form a tent over your head. This action will represent DWELL. When you hear the word DWELL, do this action.

Repeat after me:

“Abide means that you **DWELL** in harmony with God’s Spirit. ”

The Bible says,

Read Psalm 91:1

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

To dwell in harmony with God’s Spirit means you purposefully work to keep your thoughts and desires pleasing and in agreement with God. When you dwell in harmony with God’s Spirit, you will know God’s love, power, and presence in your life. Do not resist or resent God’s control of things.

Can you remember a time when you and your family or you and a group of friends were together and everybody was getting along well and having fun? If so, then at that time you probably felt a sense of joy, love, and peace. When the group you are in all care about each other and are helping each other, you may feel a special strength or courage because everybody is working together.

When you dwell in harmony with God’s Spirit, your thoughts and desires agree with God. You trust God and enjoy being amazed at what He does. If you are abiding in Jesus, even when you do not understand or like the things happening around you, you know God is with you and that He knows best. Also, because you are trusting God, you can have His peace, love, and joy inside of you.

Jesus wanted His disciples to know the importance of abiding in Him. He told them, **“I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit..” (John 15:5)**

Everybody stand and together let us recite John 15:5 again with the actions.

"I am the vine | you are the branches | he who abides in Me |



and I in him | he bears much fruit |



for apart from Me you can do nothing." | John 15:5

Do you want to abide in Jesus? If so, remember the five things you can do. Recite these five ways with me.

WAIT for God to show you the right choice.



ACCEPT God's commandments by obeying them.



REMAIN loyal to God and His Word.



CONTINUE to daily live close to God.



DWELL in harmony with God's Spirit.





Craft Activity

Provide a copy of one grape picture for each student. Two master copies can be found on the following two pages. For smaller craft, use the two pictures per sheet copy, cut the pictures apart and give one picture to each student. For larger craft, use one picture per sheet copy and provide one picture to each student.

Provide students with the following craft supplies, glue, purple, green, or red craft pom poms, green chenille wire, brown and green markers or crayons, scissors, and purple cardstock. Have students glue one pom pom on each grape, a curled chenille wire over each branch, color the vine (trunk) brown, and color the leaves green. Cut completed picture out around dotted line then glue to 1/2 sheet of purple cardstock for small craft or 1 full sheet of purple cardstock for larger craft.

Have older students or teacher assistants punch a hole at the top of each completed craft then thread yarn or ribbon through the hole and tie a knot making a loop enabling the picture to hang.

Encourage students to hang their craft somewhere for it to remind them to abide in Christ.

