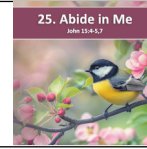


Abiding in Christ — Day 1



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#26) — KJV

John 15:4–5, 7 "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing... If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you."

💖 Apply the Promise!

To grow beautiful fruit in our lives, we must always stay closely connected to Jesus. We cannot force ourselves to be good; we just have to rest in His love every single day!

📖 Bible Story (John 15)

The night before Jesus was arrested, He walked with His disciples through the quiet streets of Jerusalem. As they passed by the city walls, they likely saw large grapevines growing in the gardens.

The heavy branches were filled with sweet fruit hanging beneath the moonlight. Jesus stopped to use these twisting plants as a beautiful picture of what it means to follow Him.

He looked at His friends and said, "I am the vine, ye are the branches." In a vineyard, the thick vine is deeply rooted in the ground, pulling up all the water and nutrients needed for life. The smaller branches cannot survive on their own. If a branch is broken off or separated from the main vine, it quickly dries up, turns brown, and dies. It becomes useless and can never grow sweet, delicious grapes.

Jesus gently explained that the exact same thing is true for our hearts. He is the strong vine that provides all our spiritual life, strength, and joy. We are simply the branches. A branch doesn't have to stress or struggle to make grapes; it just has to stay tightly attached to the vine!

Jesus told His disciples to "abide" in Him, which means to stay close to Him every day through prayer and trusting His love. We cannot force ourselves to be good by just trying harder. But He promised that if we stay connected to Him, we will naturally produce beautiful fruit—like kindness, patience, peace, and love! Jesus made it clear that without Him we can do nothing, but when we abide in His love, He gives us the exact power we need to grow!

☀️ True Story

In the 1640s in France, a humble man named Herman wanted to give his life to serving God. He joined a monastery and became known as Brother Lawrence.

Because he had no special education, he was not given a quiet job like reading in the library or writing books. Instead, he was assigned to work in the busy monastery kitchen.

He was expected to cook large meals and scrub heavy pots for many hungry men every single day. At first, Brother Lawrence found the kitchen chores very frustrating.

The constant noise and endless work made it difficult to concentrate on God. He worried that he was too busy to be a good Christian. But then, Brother Lawrence learned that he did not have to be in a church or a quiet room to stay close to Jesus. He could turn his heart to God right in the middle of his ordinary work.

Brother Lawrence decided to invite Jesus into every single moment of his busy day. While he chopped vegetables, he thanked God for His goodness. While he scrubbed the floors, he quietly prayed for the men who would eat the meals.

Because he stayed so closely connected to Jesus, his heart was filled with a deep, steady peace. Over time, others noticed the peace and joy in his life. His simple kitchen work became a way to walk with Jesus.

His story shows us that abiding in Christ means staying connected to Him wherever we are. We can pray while we work, trust Him when we feel irritated, and let even ordinary chores become acts of love.

💬 Discussion Questions:

- What happens to a little branch if it gets separated or broken off from the main vine?
- What was Brother Lawrence doing in the kitchen when he stayed connected to God?
- John 15:5 says "without me ye can do nothing." Does this mean we can't move our bodies, or does it mean we can't do anything truly good without God's help?

🎨 Activity:

Go outside and find two small, leafy branches. Leave one safely attached to the tree. Have the children break the second one off and bring it inside. Place it on the counter without water. Over the next few days, observe how the broken branch dries up and dies, while the attached one stays beautifully green! Explain that we are just like branches; our hearts quickly wither if we don't stay connected to Jesus!

Abiding in Christ — Day 2



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#27) — KJV

Galatians 5:22–25 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."

💖 Apply the Promise!

When we stay close to Jesus, His Spirit grows beautiful things inside our hearts! Instead of being selfish or angry, we will naturally show wonderful love, joy, peace, patience, and kindness to everyone around us.

📖 Bible Story (Gen. 5 & Heb. 11)

Long before the Flood, the world was becoming a dark and wicked place. Many people forgot God, ignored His ways, and chose selfishness and sin. It would have been easy for Enoch to follow the world around him.

But Enoch chose a different way. The Bible says, "Enoch walked with God."

Enoch did not walk with God by hiding from all responsibility. He had a family to care for, work to do, and people around him who needed to hear about the Lord. He lived in a sinful world, but he did not let the world pull his heart away from God.

Enoch learned to stay close to God through the ordinary parts of life. As he worked, he lifted his thoughts to heaven. As he cared for his family, he asked God for wisdom and love. When he saw the wickedness around him, he did not try to be strong by himself. He kept turning his heart back to God.

Sometimes Enoch also went away to quiet places where he could pray and listen to God without distraction. Then he returned to his work with a heart refreshed by being with Him.

Enoch's life shows us what it means to abide in Christ. We do not become good by trying to make fruit grow in our own hearts. We stay close to Jesus, trust His love, pray through the day, and let Him live in us.

When we keep coming to Him, He gives us the strength, peace, love, and obedience we cannot make for ourselves. Abiding in Christ means walking with Jesus every day, wherever He places us.

☀️ True Story

In the late 1800s, Andrew Murray was a pastor in South Africa who loved God very much. He even wrote a famous book called *Abide in Christ*, teaching others to rest in Jesus.

But as the years went by, he became very busy. He ran from town to town, preaching and working from sunrise to sunset to produce good fruit.

Soon, he became exhausted. One day, Andrew's throat became very sick, and he lost his voice! For two whole years, he could not speak loud enough to preach.

He had to sit in quiet silence. At first, Andrew felt discouraged, thinking he was useless if he could not work hard for God. But in that quiet time, he realized he needed to practice the beautiful secret he had written about! He had been acting like a little branch trying to force its own grapes to grow.

Jesus did not just want Andrew's busy work; Jesus wanted his heart. Andrew remembered that a branch just has to rest in the vine, and the fruit will naturally grow.

For those two years, Andrew stopped striving. He spent his days quietly praying, reading, and resting in God's love. He truly learned what it meant to abide.

God later restored Andrew's voice, and he continued preaching and writing. But his message became even deeper: do not try to live the Christian life in your own strength. Stay close to Jesus. Let Him live in you. He proved that God does not need our stressful striving; He just wants us to stay closely connected!

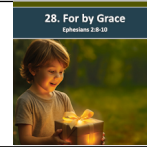
💬 Discussion Questions:

- Why did the apostles give Jesus the special nickname "Barnabas"?
- Why was it so difficult for Pastor Andrew Murray to remain completely silent for two years?
- Galatians 5:22 lists the fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, longsuffering, etc.). Which one of these beautiful fruits do you want God to grow in your heart today?

🎨 Activity:

Prepare small pieces of a very sweet fruit (like strawberries) and something very sour (like a raw lemon slice). Have the children close their eyes and taste one of each! Discuss how our faces pucker up when we taste something sour. Explain that bad attitudes are like sour lemons to the people around us. But when we abide in Jesus, He fills us with the sweet, refreshing fruit of the Spirit!

Abiding in Christ — Day 3



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#28) — KJV

Ephesians 2:8–10 "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."

💖 Apply the Promise!

We cannot earn God's love by doing lots of busy chores. Salvation is a completely free gift! When we spend time with Jesus first, He changes our hearts so we naturally do good works.

📖 Bible Story (Luke 7)

Jesus was invited to eat at the home of Simon, a religious leader. Simon knew many rules and thought of himself as a good man, but his heart was proud. He did not show Jesus the common kindness usually given to a guest. He gave Him no water to wash His dusty feet.

While Jesus was at the table, a woman came quietly into the room. She had made many sinful choices, and people knew it. She had nothing good to boast about. She could not earn God's love or wash away her own sins.

But she believed Jesus was merciful. She came close to Him, knelt at His feet, and began to weep. Her tears fell on His feet, and she wiped them with her hair. Then she poured sweet-smelling perfume on Him.

Simon judged her in his heart. He thought Jesus should push her away. But Jesus understood what Simon did not. This woman was not trying to buy forgiveness with her gift. Her love was flowing from a heart that had received grace.

Jesus told Simon a story about two people who owed money and could not pay. When both were forgiven, the one forgiven most loved most. Then Jesus said of the woman, "Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much." Jesus then said to her, "Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace."

Her story reminds us that we are saved by grace, not by our own works. But when we come to Jesus, receive His forgiveness, and abide in His love, our hearts begin to change. Love, gratitude, and willing service grow like fruit from a branch connected to the vine.

☀️ True Story

In the early 1700s, Susanna Wesley lived in a busy home in England. She was the mother of nineteen children, and her days were filled with constant noise, running feet, crying babies, and endless chores!

Susanna loved God deeply and knew she desperately needed to "abide" in Him to have peace. But with her husband often away and a house full from morning until night, she did not have an easy, quiet life. If Susanna had waited for a perfectly peaceful moment to connect with the Vine, her branch would have dried up completely.

So, she came up with a brilliant and practical idea. When she needed time with God, Susanna would sit down right in the middle of her busy home and pull her long cloth apron up over her head! She taught her children a strict rule: When Mother's apron is over her head, she is inside her special tent talking to Jesus, and she must not be disturbed.

Underneath that apron, Susanna didn't try to be a faithful mother in her own strength. She brought Jesus her weariness and her worries, resting tightly connected to the Vine. Because she abided, God gave her incredible patience. Her children saw that she depended on God, and two of her sons, John and Charles, later became famous preachers and hymn writers!

Susanna's story reminds us that abiding in Christ does not require a perfect place or a perfectly quiet day. You can stay connected to Jesus wherever you are, just by closing your eyes and turning your heart to your Best Friend!

💬 Discussion Questions:

- Why did Simon the Pharisee think he was good enough to earn God's love?
- How many children did Susanna Wesley have to care for every day?
- Ephesians 2:8-10 says we are saved by grace, not by works. Why is it important to spend time abiding with Jesus first, instead of just trying to do lots of good things on our own?

🎬 Activity:

Susanna Wesley found a way to abide with Jesus even in a busy house! Give your child a light towel or an apron. Have them sit in a chair and drape it over their head to create a tiny, quiet "prayer tent." Have them spend one full minute quietly sitting under the tent, talking to Jesus. Talk about how we can always find a way to sit at His feet!



Today's Promise (#29) — KJV

Colossians 2:6–7 "As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving."

💖 Apply the Promise!

Just like a strong tree needs deep invisible roots to stay upright in a storm, your heart needs to be deeply rooted in Jesus! When you abide with Him daily, your faith grows strong.



Bible Story (Acts 1)

After Jesus rose from the grave, He spent forty days teaching His disciples. They were happy to know He was alive, but soon the time came for Him to return to heaven.

Before Jesus left, He gave His followers an important command. They were not to rush away and try to preach to the whole world in their own strength. First, they were to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit.

The disciples obeyed. Peter, John, Mary, and many other believers gathered together in an upstairs room. They prayed, remembered Jesus' words, confessed their need of Him, and waited for the help He had promised.

They were learning to keep walking with Jesus even though they could no longer see Him. They had received Him as their Savior, and now they needed to stay rooted in Him. Like a plant putting its roots deep into good soil, their hearts needed to grow deeper in trust, prayer, and surrender.

They did not become strong by making themselves brave. They became strong by staying close to Jesus and depending on His Spirit.

When the day of Pentecost came, God sent the Holy Spirit with the sound of a rushing mighty wind. The disciples were filled with courage, love, and power to speak for Jesus.

Their story reminds us that we cannot live the Christian life by our own effort. As we have received Jesus, we must keep walking with Him. When we pray, trust His promises, surrender our hearts, and stay rooted in His love, He builds us up and gives us strength to do His work.



True Story

In the 1930s, a missionary named Frank Laubach traveled to the Philippines to help others. He was a hard worker who spent his days teaching and serving the people.

But one day, Frank realized something important was missing. He felt like his heart was not truly staying close to God all day long.

He would pray in the morning, but then he would get busy with his daily chores. He often forgot to talk to Jesus again until it was time for bed!

Frank wanted to change this, so he decided to play a special game. He called it "The Game with Minutes." His goal was to see if he could remember to think about God at least one time during every single minute of the day.

It was hard at first. His mind would wander, or he would get distracted by his work. But Frank gently kept practicing.

Whenever he walked down the street, he silently prayed for the people he passed. When he was washing his face or eating a meal, he whispered a quick thank you to God.

Frank trained his mind to invite Jesus into his normal, everyday thoughts. After a few months, he did not have to try so hard anymore. It became a beautiful, natural habit.

He felt a deep peace because he was talking to Jesus like a best friend all day long. Frank Laubach's story reminds us that abiding in Christ means turning our hearts to Him again and again. When we forget, we can come back. When we are busy, we can still pray. Jesus wants to live with us through the whole day, giving us His peace, strength, and love.



Discussion Questions:

- What did Jesus tell His disciples to do in Jerusalem before they rushed out to preach?
- Why was Frank Laubach frustrated with his prayer life before he started his special game?
- How can you practice thinking about Jesus when you are doing your everyday chores today?



Activity:

Set a timer on your phone for one minute while the children are playing or doing a simple chore. When the timer beeps, everyone must freeze exactly where they are! Have them whisper a quick, three-second prayer out loud (like, "Thank you, Jesus, for my toys!" or "I love you, God!"). Start the timer again and repeat this three or four times. Explain that this is exactly how Frank Laubach learned to abide!

Abiding in Christ — Day 5



🎵 Listen to
Scripture Song:



Today's Promise (#30) — KJV

Revelation 3:20–21 "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in His throne"

💖 Apply the Promise!

*Jesus is always standing right outside the door of your heart, gently knocking!
If you choose to open up and invite Him inside every single day, He promises
to come in and stay with you.*

📖 Bible Story (Luke 24)

On the very same day Jesus rose from the dead, two of His friends were walking down a long, dusty road toward a town called Emmaus.

They were feeling deeply sad and lonely because they thought Jesus was gone forever. As they walked and talked about their broken hearts, a stranger stepped onto the road and began walking right beside them.

They did not realize that the stranger was actually Jesus! He asked them why they were so sad. He listened to their tears, and then He began to explain the Scriptures to them.

He helped them understand why the Savior had to suffer and die. As the stranger spoke, the two friends felt their hearts burning with a sweet, wonderful hope.

When they finally reached their house in Emmaus, it was getting dark. Jesus said goodbye and kept walking down the road. He would have kept right on walking and left them there if they had not spoken up! He never forces His way inside.

But the two disciples could not bear to let Him go! They ran after Him and urgently invited Him inside. They begged, "Abide with us: for it is toward evening."

Because they opened the door and asked Him to stay, Jesus came inside. As He broke the bread at the dinner table, their eyes were opened, and they finally recognized their Savior!

Jesus wants to abide with us, too. But just like that evening in Emmaus, He will keep walking unless we willingly open the door and invite Him into our hearts.

☀️ True Story

In the 1850s, a famous English artist named William Holman Hunt decided to paint a very special picture of Jesus. He wanted to paint the beautiful promise found in Revelation 3:20.

William worked carefully on the canvas, calling it The Light of the World. It showed Jesus standing outside a heavy wooden door that was covered in tall weeds. Jesus was holding a warm lantern and gently knocking.

When William finally finished the painting, he invited his friends to come and look at it. One of his friends looked closely at the door and said, "William, you made a mistake! You forgot to paint a handle on the door."

The friend thought that without a handle, Jesus would be stuck outside. But William smiled and explained that it was not a mistake at all. He painted it that way on purpose!

William explained that the door in the painting represented the door to the human heart. Jesus is a perfect gentleman. He never forces His way inside or breaks down the door.

That is why there is no handle on the outside! The only handle is on the inside. Jesus gently knocks and waits, but we must choose to open our hearts and invite Him in.

William's beautiful painting became famous all over the world. It reminds us that abiding in Christ begins by welcoming Jesus in. Each day, we can open the heart's door again and say, "Lord Jesus, come in. Stay with me. Teach me to walk with You."

💬 Discussion Questions:

- Why were the two disciples so sad as they walked on the road to Emmaus?
- What did the disciples do when the stranger acted like He was going to keep walking?
- When Jesus knocks on the door of our heart, why doesn't He just force His way inside?

🎬 Activity:

Jesus says He stands at the door and knocks! Go around your house and practice gently knocking on closed doors. When someone inside opens it, give them a huge hug! Talk about how our hearts are just like those doors. Jesus will never kick the door down. We have to choose to gladly open up and invite Him inside every single day to abide with us!