Abiding in Jesus

Scope & Sequence

Abiding in Jesus challenges youth to live in daily dependence on Jesus. The 28-week study begins with the Gospel presented clearly and a discussion about what a new identity in Christ looks like. Students then focus on what it means to abide in Jesus through different situations such as sorrow or success, and trust Him for provisions of grace, guidance, or the future. Joy is found in His presence when Christians are at peace with God through Jesus.

Students will learn that when they are at peace with God through Jesus, they will find joy in His presence while living in daily dependence on Him. When a believer lives in daily dependence on Jesus, looking to the cross for forgiveness and grace, his life overflows in the true fruit of righteous living and genuine good works.

In the *Abiding in Jesus* study, lessons alternate between large-group teaching times and small group discussions. Personal application is stressed through small group application and the student journal. A Fellowship Time also gives students the opportunity to encourage one another in groups of two or three to trust Jesus and abide in Him daily.

Lesson 1: Ashamed in the Presence of God — Various Passages

Sin causes us to be ashamed in the presence of an all-knowing God.

- Because God is everywhere and nothing is hidden from Him, sin causes people to be ashamed in the presence of God and hide from Him. This forms a barrier between God and man, breaking their relationship. Everyone struggles with sin and all must give an account to God for their sin.

Key Verse: Hebrews 4:13

Lesson 2: Peace with God Through Jesus — Peace with God Through Faith (Romans 5)

By grace through faith in Christ, man has peace with God and becomes a new creation.

- Peace with God comes by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. Those reconciled to God through Christ become new creations and are given the ministry of reconciliation. God, in His mercy, does not count their sin against them and saves them from His wrath.

Key Verse: Romans 5:1

Lesson 3: Daily Fellowship with Jesus — Mary and Martha (Luke 10)

Even Christians who find joy in the presence of Jesus are easily distracted and must develop a daily habit of consciously being aware of His presence.

- Psalms shares that Christians who are at peace with God through Jesus can find joy in His presence. Unfortunately, the tendencies of Mary and Martha show how easy it is to get distracted from living in the presence of Jesus. Believers must develop the habit of being aware of Jesus' presence in their daily lives.

Key Verse: Psalm 16:11

Lesson 4: A New Identity in Christ: God's Treasured Possession — Various Passages

Those chosen by God to receive Jesus as Savior become the children of God.

- God's chosen people who have received a new identity in Christ receive many blessings as they become His treasured possession. Those who have been chosen by God and receive Jesus undergo a radical change in identity and are given the right to become the children of God. Someday, Christians will see Jesus as He is and become like Him.

Key Verse: Deuteronomy 7:6

Lesson 5: A New Identity in Christ: Heir — Spiritual Blessings in Christ (Ephesians 1)

Christ's death has purchased for the Christian a present and a future inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading.

- Another benefit of a new identity in Christ is becoming an heir of God's kingdom. This inheritance is purchased by the death of Jesus, secured by the Holy Spirit and guarded through faith. While partially experienced in the present, Children of God will fully realize all aspects of the inheritance in eternity. The gift is an imperishable, undefiled, and unfading treasure.

Key Verse: Philippians 3:8

Lesson 6: A New Identity in Christ: Member of the Covenant Community — The New Self (Colossians 3)

As individual members of God's covenant community, Christians are to encourage each other and resist divisions among the body.

- At salvation, believers become part of God's covenant community. As members of the same body, Christians are to encourage and build each other up as they prevent sinful divisions among the body which grieve Christ and hurt others. Members of the body have the privilege of both receiving from and contributing to the body.

Key Verses: 1 Corinthians 1:10; 1 Thessalonians 5:11

Lesson 7: A New Identity in Christ: Partaker of the Divine Nature — Dead to Sin (Romans 6)

By His power and grace God has granted the Christian to be a partaker in the divine nature and to daily die to sin.

- At conversion, Christ makes Christians partakers of the divine nature. Christians must rely on grace daily for strength to daily die to sin and to become alive to God. Those who are not born of God make a practice of sinning, but Christians do not have to obey their wrong passions.

Key Verse: 2 Peter 1:3

Lesson 8: Living in Daily Dependence on Jesus — Bread from Heaven (Exodus 16)

We were created to live in daily dependence on Jesus.

- All men were created dependent on God, but sin's rebellious nature reacts against dependency and strains for self-sufficiency. Abiding in Jesus means rejecting the selfish desires and living in daily dependence on Him.

Key Verse: Acts 17:24-25

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Lesson 9: Dependency on the Cross

The Law and Sin (Romans 7)

Living in repentance and faith before the cross daily brings victory to Christians battling sin.

- Even though Christians are partakers of the divine nature, they still battle with sin and need to "preach the Gospel" to themselves daily. The way to fight sin is to rely on God's grace through Jesus—to live before the cross daily. Non-Christians are condemned to the wrath of God and eternal punishment, but there is no condemnation for Christians.

Key Verse: 1 Timothy 1:15

Lesson 10: Abiding and Obedience

Various Passages

Love for God is accompanied by joyful obedience.

- Evidence of abiding in Jesus and loving God is seen through joyful obedience. His commandments are not burdensome to His children.

Key Verse: John 14:23b

Lesson 11: Abiding and Bearing Fruit

I Am the True Vine (John 15)

True believers will demonstrate genuine fruit even in difficult situations, but false believers will not bear genuine fruit and will be condemned.

- Another evidence if someone abides in Jesus is the type of fruit he bears. The true Christian demonstrates genuine fruit—a proof of discipleship—even in difficult situations. Those who do not bear fruit are not true disciples and will be condemned.

Key Verse: John 15:8

Lesson 12: Abiding and Prayer

Various Passages

The Christian who is abiding in Jesus, and in whom Jesus' words are abiding, will be continually praying pleasing prayers to God.

- Abiding in Jesus also results in praying without ceasing. When believers abide in Jesus and His words abide in them, they will pray for His desires. Prayers reveal people's hearts and many prayers are selfish and self-centered, which are not pleasing to God.

Key Verse: 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Lesson 13: Satisfied in Jesus

Various Passages

Jesus gives us true satisfaction by delivering us from the self-centered, adulterous desires that compete to control our hearts.

- Praying wrongly is praying for our self-centered desires rather than for the will of God. Good desires can easy grow to adulterous, self-centered proportions, which are not satisfying. Jesus came to deliver people from their self-centered desires and provide real satisfaction and joy in Himself. Christians must fight the battle for the desires that control their hearts.

Key Verse: Psalm 90:14

Lesson 14: Trusting God's Heart for You

Instructions to Timothy (2 Timothy 4)

God's heart is always for His people, and His children must trust in His goodness and resist false interpretations of His actions

- Everyone is an interpreter, but interpretations can sometimes be incorrect, causing people to question the goodness of God. He has promised to do good to His people and God's heart is always for and not against them. On the other hand, God's heart is against those who do evil. God is free to work on behalf of His children because He has no needs of His own.

Key Verse: Jeremiah 32:40

Lesson 15: Trusting God's Word

Various Passages

Trusting in the completely reliable Word of God involves acting on the Word.

- God's Word is completely reliable, always proving true. A believer's response to life situations demonstrates his level of confidence in God's Word. Trusting God's Word involves acting on it.

Key Verse: Psalm 18:30

Lesson 16: Committing All Things to Jesus

The Righteous Will Never Be Moved (Psalm 112)

Christians are freed from the anxiety, fear, anger, and despair caused by dwelling on problems, because they can find peace and victory in committing all things to Jesus.

- Dwelling on problems or difficult situations makes them appear bigger than they are and causes people to be anxious, fearful, angry , or despairing. God instructs His children to intentionally commit all things, including problems, to Jesus, which results in peace and victory.

Key Verse: Philippians 4:6-7

Lesson 17: Trusting Jesus in Sorrow

How Long, O Lord (Psalm 13)

Christians find comfort in their sorrow when they commit their sorrow to Jesus and trust in the promises of the God who walks with them in their sorrow.

- It is not wrong to grieve, because God is with believers in their sorrow. There is always purpose in sorrow and it will not last forever. Comfort in sorrow can be found in committing the sorrow to Jesus, abiding in Him, and seeking comfort from other Christians.

Key Verse: Psalm 30:58

Lesson 18: Trusting Jesus in Failure

Various Passages

Though followers of Christ will be persecuted because of their identification with Christ, they can rejoice because their reward will be great in heaven.

- Forgiveness is a daily grace from God and just as He forgives people, they must also forgive themselves. The sincerity of a man's repentance can been seen through his willingness not to excuse his sin, the change in his behavior, and his forgiveness of others. Every sin will be paid for either on the cross or in hell.

Key Verse: Romans 8:1

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Lesson 19: Trusting Jesus in Discipline

Do Not Grow Weary (Hebrews 12)

God disciplines His children in love for their good.

- God disciplines His children in love for their good. Discipline produces the fruit of righteousness and it should not be despised. Believers should pray for a tender heart so God will not have to use extreme measures in disciplining them. God disciplines non-Christians as a punishment for evil, or to keep them from eternal condemnation by turning their hearts to Him.

Key Verse: Matthew 5:13

Lesson 20: Trusting for Grace

Various Passages

God gives grace to His children when they live in humble dependence on Jesus.

- The Christian life is not a set of principles to live by, a way of life, or merely a belief system, but it flows out of friendship with God who gives grace to the humble who recognize their dependence on Him. Jesus was fully human with limitations and temptations, but He was sinless because He lived in a relationship of humble dependence on the Father. God's children have free access to the throne of grace through Jesus.

Key Verse: 2 Corinthians 9:8

Lesson 21: Trusting Jesus to Provide

Give Generously/Cheerful Giver (2 Corinthians 8-9)

God faithfully provides for His children, so Christians are released from worry and free to give generously to others.

- God faithfully provides for His children and has already given the greatest sacrifice so He will give lesser things as well. Generous giving is a sign of confidence in God's provision, but worrying about one's needs is a sign of not trusting in Jesus to provide.

Key Verse: Romans 8:32

Lesson 22: Trusting Jesus for Guidance

Marks of the True Christian (Romans 12)

God can be trusted to guide His children through His Word, providential circumstances, and the wise counsel of mature Christians as they acknowledge Him in all of life.

- Through His Word, God provides the general principles to guide His children and their decisions as well as reveal the major portion of His will. Christians need to trust God's promise to guide them one step at a time. God guides through providential circumstances and the wise counsel of mature Christians, but "special revelations" from God should be approached very cautiously. Believers need to pry and strive for a heart that desires God's will.

Key Verse: Proverbs 3:5-7

Lesson 23: Trusting Jesus in Success

Remember the Lord Your God (Deuteronomy 8)

Jesus is honored by our humble, dependent, thankful hearts in success, and when we rejoice in the true success of having our names written in heaven.

- All success comes from God and any glory or gratitude for it belongs to Him. In His mercy, God sometimes withholds success because it is difficult for most people to handle. Jesus is honored by humble, dependent, and thankful hearts and provides true success to believers by writing their names in heaven.

Key Verse: 2 Corinthians 10:17-18

Lesson 24: Trusting Jesus for the Future

Mystery and Victory (1 Corinthians 15)

Remembering God's faithfulness in the past is a means of increasing our faith in God's future grace.

- Although the future is unknown, God has promised His future grace to His children. Remembering God's faithfulness in the past provides a solid foundation that informs future hope. Believers can trust in this promise from God because it was purchased for them with the blood of Jesus.

Key Verse: 2 Corinthians 1:20

Lesson 25: Waiting on God

My Help and My Deliverer (Psalm 40)

God teaches His children to trust Him as they wait for His perfect timing; He rewards those who wait for Him in faith.

- God often requires His children to wait for the fulfilment of His promises but His timing is perfect and fits in according to His plan. Having to wait exposes a person's heart and shows whether or not he trusts God. Through waiting, God teaches His children to trust Him and He rewards those who wait for Him in faith.

Key Verse: Isaiah 64:4

Lesson 26: Trusting God in the Silence

Send out Your Light and Truth (Psalm 43)

God deepens faith even in the times of silence as His children learn to inform their hearts with truth.

- There are times in a Christian's life when he can feel silence from God. During these times, believes must not walk by unstable feelings, but by faith which comes through hearing the Word. God's order is that the head inform the heart about the truth and feelings will follow.

Key Verse: Isaiah 8:17

Lesson 27: Comforting Others

God of All Comfort (2 Corinthians 1)

Christians are called to comfort others by encouraging them to abide in the God of all comfort.

- As members of the same body, Christians are called to comfort one another by encouraging, exhorting, cheering, empathizing, and providing support. The greatest comfort one believer can give another is to encourage him to abide in Jesus. God is the greatest Comforter and cares for His children in times of difficulty. This practical ministry to others can be stated as: love (others), know (understand their heart), speak (God's truth), and do (grow in His truth).

Key Verse: 2 Corinthians 1:3-5

Lesson 28: Trusting Jesus in the Judgment

Various Passages

Christians can have confidence that on the Judgment Day, Jesus will defend those who abide in Him, but those who are not trusting in Jesus will have no defense before God.

- Everyone responds to truth in some way, but some are deceived into thinking they are Christians when in reality they do not trust in Jesus. God's truth must be embraced, and a person must abide in Jesus to receive the promise of eternal life. Those who are trusting in Jesus will have no fear on the Day of Judgement because Jesus will defend them before the Father.

Key Verse: 1 John 2:24-25, 28-29

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