

LIVING THE GOOD LIFE: Faith on Monday

August 12

Reading Plan

Day 1-

READ: **John 15:1-5**

REFLECT: Jesus is THE true vine. According to John 15:5 why is it so important to abide (continue in relationship) with Him? What does Jesus mean when He says, “apart from me you can do nothing?”

PRACTICE: List some ways you TRY to do good apart from Jesus, then pray and ask Him to show you how to depend completely on Him to produce fruit in you.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: *“A soul filled with large thoughts of the Vine will be a strong branch, and will abide confidently in Him. Be much occupied with Jesus, and believe much in Him, as the True Vine.”*

— Andrew Murray, Abide in Christ

REFLECT: Meditate on the unique qualities of Jesus and thank Him for being your true vine.

PRACTICE: Watch this short YouTube video from Francis Chan about what it means to abide:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ea8yYulD2U>

Day 2-

READ: **John 15:6-11**

REFLECT: What are the negative consequences if you don't abide in Jesus? What are the amazing positive consequences when you do abide in Jesus?

PRACTICE: Take some time to think about how you can make abiding in Jesus your regular practice. Decide on one thing you can do this week to put you in the right environment to grow closer to Him, then pray and ask Jesus to do that good thing in you.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: **John 15:8, Matthew 5:16, Isaiah 61:3**

REFLECT: How does our fruit (good works) glorify God? How is God glorified in you?

PRACTICE: Listen to John Piper's explanation of what it means to abide in Jesus on this short YouTube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=11FTk05nWhe>

Day 3-

READ: **1 John 2:3-6; Philippians 1:6**

REFLECT: How can we (and others) tell if we are abiding in Jesus? In what ways are you seeing yourself become more like Jesus?

PRACTICE: Spend some time in prayer thanking Jesus for the work He is doing and promises to continue to do in your life.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: **Philippians 1:9-11**

REFLECT: In these verses how does Paul pray for the believers? How do love, knowledge, and discernment (wisdom) lead to the fruit of righteousness THROUGH JESUS?

PRACTICE: Pray this prayer of Paul's over yourself, your family members, your Life Group members.

Day 4-

READ: **Matthew 7:15-20; John 15:2**

REFLECT: What is the difference between bad fruit and good fruit? How does pruning help produce more/better fruit? What could God's pruning work look like in our lives?

PRACTICE: Reflect on some ways you've seen God prune you and thank Him for doing that hard but necessary work in your life.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: *"The vinedresser is never nearer the plants than when He is pruning them."*—David Jeremiah

REFLECT: How does God's pruning show His love for us? What are some things you might need to prune from your own life so you can abide in Jesus?

PRACTICE: Listen to this song by Michael Card and ask God to point out any things you might need to leave behind: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PHsMKgdIryk>

Day 5-

READ: **Romans 6:5-11**

REFLECT: What does it mean to "consider yourself dead to sin and alive to God?" How can you practice being "alive to God in Christ Jesus" during your regular daily life?

PRACTICE: Watch this short video about "Practicing the Presence of God" and consider ways you could intentionally do this: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h2P0hh6YVUw>

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: **Colossians 3:1-3; Ephesians 3:14-21**

REFLECT: *"Follow me." When about to leave for heaven, He gave them a new word, in which their more intimate and spiritual union with Himself in glory should be expressed. That chosen word was: "Abide in me." — Andrew Murray, Abide in Christ*

Is there a subtle difference between following Jesus and abiding in Jesus? How would each of these look in your life?

PRACTICE: As a symbol of openness to all Jesus wants to do in your life, pray with your hands open and upturned. Confess that you are unable to even abide in your own power and read Ephesians 3:14-21 aloud as your prayer for yourself.