

# Life Group Leader Guide

## Believe and Be Changed

### Abiding in His Love (John 15)

Real transformation doesn't come from trying harder; it comes from **staying connected to Jesus**. When we abide in Christ, His life produces spiritual fruit in us and shapes the way we love others.

#### Icebreaker “What helps you stay connected?”

- What is something you rely on staying connected to (Wi-Fi, power, phone battery, etc.)?
- What happens when that connection is lost?

#### Read Together

Read **John 15:1–11** as a group.

#### Discussion Questions

##### 1. The Vine and the Branches

Jesus says, *“Apart from me you can do nothing.”*

- What do you think Jesus meant by that statement?
- Why do you think Jesus used the image of a vine and branches?
- Where do you see people (including Christians) trying to produce spiritual fruit apart from Jesus?

##### 2. What is “Fruit”?

The sermon explained that fruit refers to **godly character**, not just activity.

Read **Galatians 5:22–23**.

- Which fruit of the Spirit do you see most in your life right now?
- Which one feels most difficult for you?
- Why do you think character transformation is such a powerful witness to others?

##### 3. The Problem of the Human Heart

The Bible teaches that humans were **created good**, but sin separated us from God.

- Do you think most people believe humans are basically good or basically bad?

- How does the biblical view (created good but fallen) explain the world we see today?
- Why can't rules, rewards, or punishments ultimately fix the human heart?

#### 4. What Does It Mean to “Abide”?

Jesus says repeatedly, “**Abide in me.**”

- What do you think it practically means to *abide* in Jesus?
- How is abiding different from simply trying harder to be a good Christian?
- What are some practices that help you stay connected to Christ during the week?

#### 5. Love as the Central Command

Read **John 15:12–17**.

Jesus summarizes His command:

“Love one another as I have loved you.”

- What makes Jesus’ command to love different from ordinary human love?
- What are some ways Jesus demonstrated sacrificial love?
- Where is it hardest for you to love others like Jesus?

#### 6. The Community Jesus Envisions

Imagine a community where people consistently lived out the fruit of the Spirit.

- What would that community look like?
- How would relationships change?
- How could our church or group move closer to that kind of community?

#### Key Quotes from the Sermon

“The man who abides in Christ has all the resources of heaven at his disposal.”  
— A.W. Tozer

“The main thing about Christianity is not the work we do, but the relationship we maintain.”  
— Oswald Chambers

#### Further Reading This Week

Encourage the group to read:

- **John 15:1–17** – Abiding in the Vine
- **Galatians 5:16–25** – Walking in the Spirit
- **Psalms 1** – The tree planted by streams of water
- **Romans 5:6–11** – Reconciliation with God
- **Colossians 2:6–7** – Rooted and built up in Christ