

# 1 John 2:28-29

## Decide to Abide

Scripture: 1 John 2:28-29

Memory Verse: 1 John 2:28 *"And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming."*

Lesson Focus: This is our last lesson with the current set of kids as they will all be promoted the following weekend to the next grade. We hope this shorter teaching will send the kids off well into their new grade! We shortened the teaching so that you will have more time to spend with them in class after the teaching.

Activities and Crafts: Bible Verse Coloring Page, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Bring it Home Discussion for 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>.  
Activity for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders: Vine Craft

Starter Activity: Celery Soak

We will provide you with some visual illustration supplies you can use to start off the lesson. The Friday before the weekend, we will prepare and cut celery into two pieces. \* We will put one piece in a clear cup of water that has been heavily dyed with red food coloring. This piece will soak up the food coloring exhibiting what it has been "abiding" in. We will leave the other piece of celery out of the water to dry. \*

Exhibit the two pieces of celery to your class and have some discussion:

Q: Why does this one piece of celery have a more reddish tinge to it?

A: Because it has been soaking and absorbing the red water that it has been sitting in.

Q: Why does this other piece of celery not look healthy?

A: Because it has not been receiving the nutrients it needs.

Celery absorbs what it is **abiding** in. And if it is not **abiding** in what it needs, it will shrivel up!

In our lesson today, we're not going to talk about celery, but US! We also absorb whatever we are **abiding** in. In both John's letter and his gospel, Christians are challenged to **abide** in Jesus! Let's open our Bibles and learn what this means!

## Bible Study:

**1 John 2:28a:** Throughout this letter, John calls believers in Jesus "little children". This is not because he is writing to kids, but because believers need to be reminded that they ARE God's kids simply through faith and trust in the finished work of Jesus! \*

Q: What does he tell God's kids to do? A: **ABIDE** in Jesus!

We've already talked a little bit about abiding using the celery, but let's go deeper by looking at what John's gospel has to say about this!

**John 15:1:** This is Jesus talking and He says that He is the true vine and that God the Father is the vinedresser (or gardener). Back in Jesus's day vines were everywhere and provided food for the people. So, by saying He is like a vine, He was teaching that He is the source of life for all people! \*

**John 15:2:** But now Jesus talks about these "branches" of the vine.

Q: Who do you think the branches are? A: US!

Q: And what do good and healthy branches do? A: Bear fruit! \*

But notice Jesus said there was another kind of branch that does not bear fruit. This is a bad branch and God, as a good gardener, takes it away. \*

Q: What kind of branch do you think you are: good or bad?

A: The Bible is very clear that ALL of us are BAD...UNTIL we trust in Jesus!

**John 15:3:** Those who trust in Jesus are clean or "healthy" branches because they have received His word. He now helps them bear good fruit. But how do they do this?

**John 15:4:** By **ABIDING** in Jesus, the vine! Just like the one piece of celery abided and became more red, believers in Jesus are to **abide** in Him....spend time with Him in prayer and His word, stay connected to Him, love being with Him, welcome Him into all they do....and will become more like Him!

**John 15:5:** Jesus could not be any clearer! Without abiding in Him, what can a person do? NOTHING! \*

With this better understanding of what it means to abide, let's now go back to 1 John.

**1 John 2:28:** One reason believers are to abide is because they know Jesus is coming back. Believers, by abiding, will have confidence and excitement about this rather than dread and fear.

Q: Has there ever been anything that you have dreaded?

A: Maybe a test at school or a recital that you didn't feel prepared for. John does not want believers to feel this way about Jesus's return! Rather, if they are abiding in Jesus, this will be a joyful reunion!

**1 John 2:29:** Practicing righteousness, or doing what is right, is another way of describing the bearing of fruit that happens naturally when a "branch" abides in the "vine".

Sometimes we might hear verses like and think that we just have to try really hard to bear fruit and be good and righteous. But have you ever heard a fruit tree moaning and groaning about how hard they have to try and work to bear fruit? NO! \* Bearing fruit is what a healthy fruit tree just does. And in the same way, if we are born-again believers that abide in Jesus, we will just bear fruit too!

We don't bear fruit so that we can earn the love and approval of Jesus. Rather, we abide in and rest in Jesus so that He can bear fruit through us!

**Key Point:** So, boys and girls: **DECIDE TO ABIDE!** And while we're going to stop here today, I would like to read the first phrase of the next chapter to give you one reason WHY you should **DECIDE TO ABIDE.**

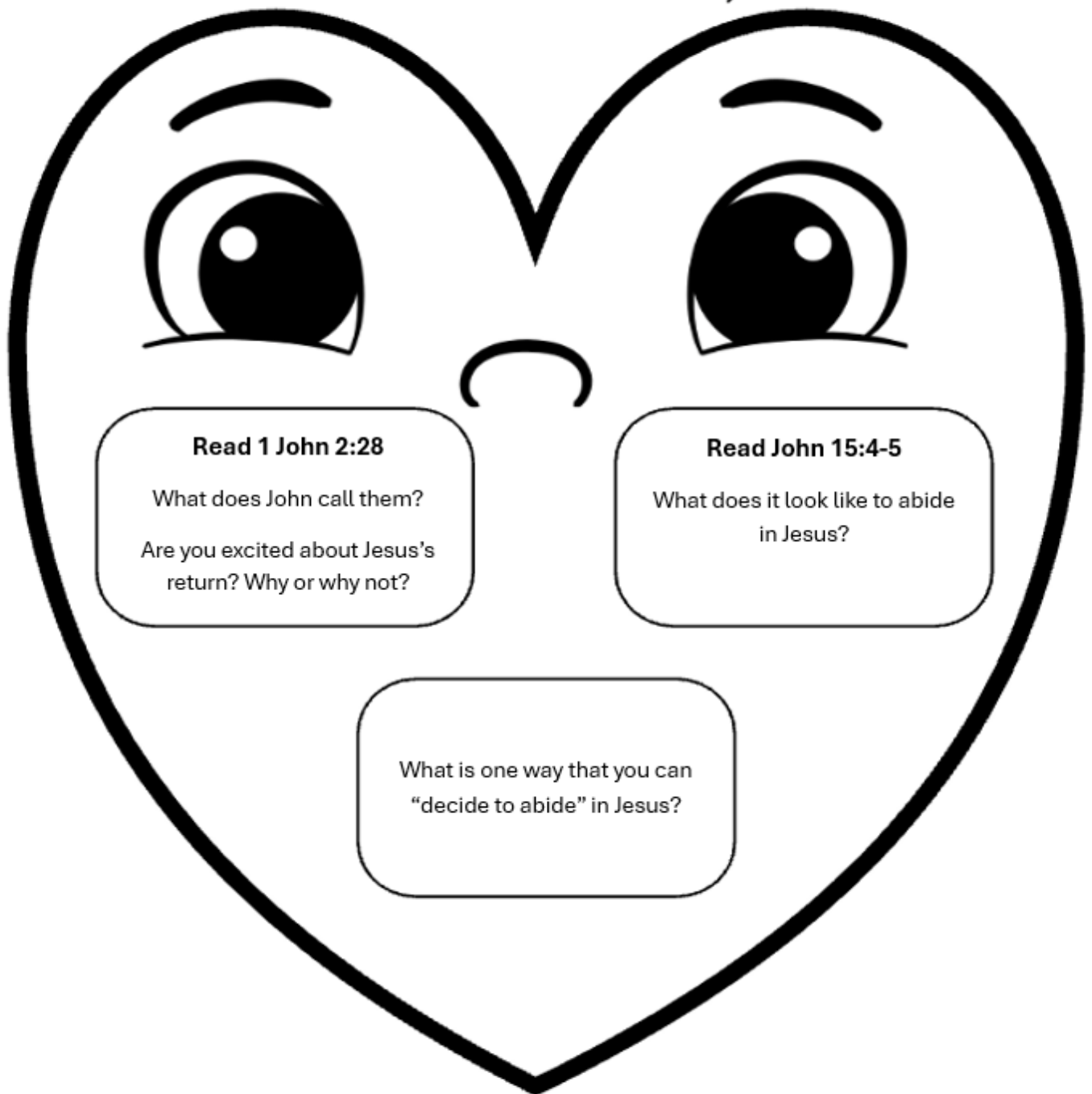
**1 John 3:1a:** Because God loves you! John is expressing here the sheer wonder of it all \*, that we, despite our sin and failure, can be called His kids by simply trusting and believing in Jesus. And if we do, we aren't simply called His kids, but we ARE His kids! We must remember this! There is no greater love in the entire universe!

This is your last weekend in your current class. As you move onto your next Sunday School class, **DECIDE TO ABIDE** in the One who loves you infinitely more than you deserve!

**Classroom Time Afterwards:** Since this is the last time you will be with this group of kids as they will be promoted the following weekend, please take the extra time with them in class to encourage them as they move onto their next class. Encourage them to **DECIDE TO ABIDE** in Jesus always, pray for them, and spoil them in some way too if you like!

# BRING IT HOME

**BEHOLD** what manner of **LOVE** the Father has bestowed on us,



that we should be called children of God!