



In Columbia as it is in Heaven: Abide

1. Catch Up On Life:

This is when we update each other on the things that Jesus has been up to in our lives since we last saw each other. As church family, we care about each other's lives: what we're celebrating, what we're mourning, what decisions we are praying through, and everything in between. (1 Thessalonians 2:8, Romans 12:10 and 15)

- Celebrate the wins - where have you seen Jesus working in the last week (shaping you to be more like Himself or working in the lives of those that He's put around you)?
- What (if any) big life updates do you need to catch us up on (positive or negative)?

Pray: Take every opportunity to pray and thank God for the good He's doing in our lives, and ask for help and healing anywhere there is pain.

2. Review the Mission:

Just like God the Father sent Jesus on a mission of reconciliation for us, Jesus sends us out as ambassadors of His reconciliation. We are called to make disciples wherever we go. (John 20:21 and 2 Corinthians 5:18-20)

People:

- Reactive - Who in your life (family, coworkers, etc.) can we join you in praying for? Who has God put around you that is showing spiritual interest? Who is hurting and could use some love from our group?
- Proactive - Who are the people we are intentionally living on mission with (neighbors, STC partner organizations, or a specific demographic in Columbia)? What are our upcoming plans to love, serve, and build relationships with this group?

Plan:

- Are there any rhythms already planned, or an extra rhythm we could plan to create a way for these friends to connect with our group?

Pray: Prayer is the fuel of God's mission. Let's pray for our people by name; pray for their needs, and opportunities to have spiritual conversations that help them take next steps toward Jesus.

3. Sermon Discussion:

God uses His Word to reveal Himself to us, equip us to live the good life He's designed for us, show us our sin, and strengthen us as we follow Him. We preach the Word on Sundays and apply it as a LifeGroup throughout the week. (2 Timothy 3:16-17, Colossians 1:9-12 and James 1:22-25)

Primary Passages: John 15:1-11

Read **John 15:1-11** out loud. Spend some time silently reflecting and journaling the following questions as a LifeGroup.

- What stands out from the passage?
- What does this passage reveal to us about God?
- What does this passage reveal to us about people?
- Share with one another what you thought, reflected, and wrote about.

What stood out overall from the sermon?

Abiding in Jesus connects us to Him as the source of life as He produces fruit in us. **Therefore, I commit** to the consistent disciplines of meditating on God's Word and prayer.

- How did you do this week abiding with Jesus (meditating through Scripture and prayer)? What does that reveal about you?
- Are there other vines that you are more likely to abide in? How does that impact your life?
- What are some practical next steps you can take this week to grow in abiding?
- How can the LifeGroup hold you accountable to your plan?

If you want to learn more about this covenant practice, go to the Abide sermon page on our site and look under "Recommended Resources." If this is a collective weakness in your LifeGroup, consider taking the next 1-2 weeks going through those resources together.

4. Engage the Heart:

Jesus calls us to walk in the light, confessing our sins to God and each other. God's Spirit works through confession and community to lead us to repentance. (Romans 3:23-24, James 5:16 and 1 John 1:5-10)

- What are you struggling to trust God with this week? How can you give God control of it? (As people confess sin, make sure to remind one another of the good news Jesus offers. If need be, use the worksheet "Go-to Verses Offering Good News" at MidtownLifeGroups.com)
- Has the Holy Spirit been prompting you to do anything that you've been resisting? What steps do you need to take to obey?

Pray: James tells us that a community that regularly confesses sin and prays for each other will see a lot of healing. Confess your sins to God in prayer and pray for each other. Pray for the Spirit to work in you as you take steps of repentance.

1. Have questions about the sermon? Ask us at bit.ly/2Kzyd9B (form.jotform.com/91616134918157)

2. Looking to grow as a LifeGroup? MidtownLifeGroups.com

3. Check out our Bible reading and Prayer Plan based on this series at midtowncolumbia.com/reading-plan