

Abiding in Christ

John 15:7-11

1/14/23

COMMUNITY GROUP FACILITATION GUIDE

Here are a few tips for leading a discussion in your group this week.

• Prepare

- We are using the H.E.A.R. Method of Bible study to help equip our groups to study Scripture and apply its teachings to their lives. Here is a short summary of each step:
 - **Highlight:** *This step involves reading a passage of Scripture and highlighting or underlining key verses, phrases, or words that stand out to you, and/or writing down thoughts about the passage. This helps you focus on specific parts of the text and draw attention to the important details.*
 - **Explain:** *After highlighting, take time to explain what you believe the passage is saying in your own words. This can be done individually or in a group setting, where participants can share their understanding of the passage. This step encourages deeper comprehension and interpretation of the text.*
 - **Apply:** *Reflect on how the passage applies to your own life. Consider any personal convictions, challenges, or practical steps you can take to align your life with the teachings of the passage. This step focuses on making the message of the Scripture relevant and applicable to daily living.*
 - **Respond:** *In this final step, respond to the passage through prayer and seeking God's guidance. Express gratitude, ask for help, or make commitments to specific actions based on what you have learned from the Scripture. This step encourages a personal and heartfelt response to the Word of God.*

• Lead

- **Get comfortable with silence:**
 - *Don't be the first to answer your own questions*
 - *It usually takes time for people to process the question and think of an answer.*
- **Ask follow-up questions:**
 - *After someone answers a question, use follow-up questions to draw out more thoughts*
 - *Use statements like "Tell me more", "What do you mean?", "Anything else?", "Someone else?"*
- **Give affirmation whenever you can:**
 - *Use phrases like "Great question", "Thanks for sharing." If you find that someone makes a statement that you don't agree with, thank them anyway for sharing their perspective.*
- **Try to involve everyone:**
 - *More people involved means a better discussion*

H - HIGHLIGHT:

Take a moment to read **John 15:7-11** and underline key verses, phrases, or words that stand out to you.

E - EXPLAIN:

What is the passage saying about the connection between abiding in Christ, bearing fruit, and experiencing joy? Consider the significance of Christ's love and obedience in this context.

Clarifying Questions:

- What does it mean to "abide" in Christ, and how does it differ from simply believing in Him?
- How does abiding in Christ lead to bearing fruit, and what kind of fruit is Jesus referring to?
- In what ways does keeping Christ's commandments demonstrate our abiding in His love?
- How does the concept of joy relate to abiding in Christ, and why is it described as "full"?

A - APPLY:

How can you personally apply the teachings of this passage to your life? Consider your prayer life, obedience to God's commandments, and the pursuit of joy in Christ.

Application Discussion

- What specific steps can you take to abide more deeply in Christ on a daily basis?
- In what areas of your life do you sense a need for greater obedience to Christ's commandments?
- How can you actively pursue and experience the joy that comes from abiding in Christ's love?

R - RESPOND:

Reflect on your understanding of the passage and share your thoughts, feelings, and commitments with the group. Discuss how the truths from John 15:7-11 can shape your perspective and actions.

Clarifying Questions:

- How has your view of prayer been challenged or expanded by the promise in verse 7?
- In what ways can the concept of abiding in Christ transform your relationships with others?
- How might your understanding of joy change if it is rooted in abiding in Christ rather than external circumstances?

Conclusion:

In this study, we've explored the profound message of abiding in Christ as presented in John 15:7-11. As we seek to apply these truths to our lives, may we grow in our relationship with Christ, bear fruit that glorifies the Father, and experience the fullness of joy found in Him.