



ABIDE



WALNUT HILL
COMMUNITY CHURCH

12

DAYS WITH JESUS



WALNUT HILL
COMMUNITY CHURCH



Introduction

John 15:4 (ESV) | “Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.”

To abide means to remain, to rest, to draw close and to stay connected to the very source of life. When Jesus called His disciples to abide, He wasn’t offering a short-term fix or a religious task list. Jesus was inviting them into a new way of life through an enduring life-giving relationship with Himself.

The call to abide hasn’t changed. As His Church, we are called to abide – to be rooted in Him, nourished by His Word and responsive to the movement of the Holy Spirit. We are called to cultivate a vibrant relationship with Jesus.

Part of being in a relationship is getting to know who the person is. It is the same as we pursue a relationship with Jesus. We must spend time getting to know who Jesus is through personal and powerful daily moments with Him.

For that purpose, we are walking together through *“Abide: 12 Days with Jesus”* – reading and reflecting on Scripture and spending time in the Presence of Jesus through prayer.



This 12-day journey is for everyone in our church family – from the youngest to our “Thrive” community. Here’s how you can join us:

1. For 12 days, meet with the Lord using this special “Abide” resource. This resource includes Scripture passages to read, questions to consider and ways to pray. We encourage you to journal your way through the 12 days. It’s always good to have a record of how the Lord speaks.
2. Complete the “Abide” self-assessment shared in the middle of this resource to consider your current relationship with Jesus and how He is calling you to abide this year. Access the assessment using the QR Code.
3. Save the Date for Friday, October 3, 2025, for an All-Campus Prayer and Worship Gathering at 7 p.m. at the Bethel Campus. This will be an opportunity for us to close our 12-day journey together in prayer and worship and celebrate all the Lord has done.



Our prayer is that these 12 days will renew our minds and prime the pump for this year of “Abide” – as we learn what it means to abide and to live out our faith authentically, always connected to Jesus and always bearing fruit for His Kingdom.





Jesus is The Messiah

1 READ John 1:35-41(NIV) | John 4:7-26 (NIV)

REFLECT

2

Messiah, from the Hebrew word *mashiach*, means anointed one or chosen one – someone with a special, God-ordained purpose. Calling Jesus the Messiah reveals His purpose on the earth – to fulfill and complete the will of God (John 6:38), to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many (Mark 10:45) and to seek and save the lost (Luke 19:10). Jesus is the One who was sent to “...proclaim good news to the poor...to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives, and release from darkness for the prisoners” (Isaiah 61:1).

John 3:16 (NIV) | For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

God the Father sent Jesus to the earth as a gift of love – one who would restore and reconcile all who believe in Him into relationship with the Father, the relationship we were intended to have since the beginning of time.

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REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- What led Andrew and the woman at the well to declare that Jesus is the Messiah?
- What does it mean for you to have a relationship with Jesus, the Messiah?
- Does how you approach Jesus change with your perspective of Him as the Messiah?
- After having an encounter with Jesus, both the Andrew and the woman at the well brought others to meet Jesus, with the expectation they too would be transformed. Who do you need to bring to the feet of Jesus – in prayer, in invitation to church, in sharing your testimony?

3

PRAY

Jesus, today I acknowledge you as my Savior, Messiah and Lord. Thank you for your willingness to serve and give your life as a ransom for many. Forgive me for the ways I have lived that have not acknowledged you as the Messiah. Teach me how to approach you with reverence, humility and confidence that you hear me, see me and love me. Show me the people in my life I need to bring before you – through prayer or through extending an invitation to church. Please give me fresh experiences in my life where you reveal yourself to me as Messiah so that I can glorify your name and tell people of your goodness. In Jesus’ name. Amen.





Jesus is The Healer

1 READ John 4:46-47, 49-53, 5:5-9 (NIV)

Jesus is the only one who can heal.

2 REFLECT

What's interesting about these two stories is that Jesus didn't touch either person who needed healing. And in the case of the royal official's son, Jesus wasn't even in the vicinity; the royal official walked 20-23 miles (a day's journey) from his home to ask Jesus to heal his son. Jesus spoke healing and new life into the royal official's son and into the paralyzed man.

That is the power of the voice of Jesus. His voice and the truth He speaks to our souls (through the Word of God and the Holy Spirit) transform our hearts and minds.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV) | Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. The old has gone, the new is here!

When we have heard Jesus calling to our hearts through the Gospel and we choose to put our faith in Christ and Him alone, we become new creations in Christ. We can set aside our old ways of thinking, doing, speaking and responding. We have the privilege of being healed by the truth. Jesus reveals who He is to us and who we are to Him – recipients of His love, grace and mercy.

? REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- Consider the two people who encountered Jesus – the royal official and the paralyzed man. What is the difference in the way they approached Jesus? Did their approach change the way Jesus responded to them and the mercy He showed them?
- How do you approach Jesus when you need healing?
- What in your life needs the healing and transformative power of the voice of Jesus?
- What passage(s) of Scripture can speak to the areas in your life that need healing?

3 PRAY

Jesus, I know you are the only One who can heal my body and soul – from anxiety, anger, fear, shame, physical ailments and every emotion that tries to blind me to the truth. I pray that you would reveal the places in my heart and body that need your healing touch, especially those places where I have issues that I have begun to accept as my "normal." Forgive me for forgetting, neglecting, not acknowledging and not seeking your healing power. Jesus, interrupt the status quo in my life and heal me inside and out so I can bring you glory. In Jesus' name. Amen.





Jesus is The Bread of Life

1 READ John 6:33, 35, 47-51, 57 (NIV)

2 REFLECT

Jesus, by calling Himself the Bread of Life, is saying that He is the One who will sustain us and give us eternal life. Someone who eats the bread that is Jesus Christ means they are a true disciple of Jesus Christ – one who has surrendered their life to Him, one who enjoys an ongoing fellowship with Him, and one who is being transformed by the Word of God and the power of the Holy Spirit in all believers.

However, we have a choice of what we feed ourselves. We can choose to fill our hearts and souls with things that don't satisfy, like wealth, status, celebrity and things that distract us from fellowship with Jesus – such as Netflix, television, and social media – or we can ask the Lord to provide us with the bread of life so that we will never be hungry.

Matthew 6:9-13 (NIV) | "This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one."

In the prayer that Jesus taught His disciples, He told them to ask for "daily bread." As we pray this same prayer, we are reminded to ask Jesus to make us aware of His Presence so that we can feed ourselves on His Presence every day – because we need Him to sustain us.

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REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- Often when we feed ourselves the wrong physical food, we don't feel well and must make a change in our diet. Consider your spiritual health: How are you feeling? Are you feeling strong in the Lord or are you feeling depleted?
- What are you feeding yourself – in the spiritual sense? Do you feel satisfied in your soul?
- In what ways do you think you need to change your spiritual "feeding habits"?

3 PRAY

Jesus, thank you for the reminder that I should work for the food that endures to eternal life – food that only you can provide because you are the Bread of Life. Open my eyes to my current spiritual state – strong or depleted, awake or asleep, focused or distracted. Show me the ways I have rejected you as the One Who Sustains me and have tried to sustain myself. When I need peace, teach me to pursue the peace that only you can offer. When I need joy, remind me there is joy in your Presence. When I feel stressed or sorrowful, speak to my heart, mind and soul so that I remember to turn to you in these moments and nothing or no one else. In Jesus' name. Amen.





Jesus is The Light of the World

1 READ John 8:12, 9:5 (NIV)

2

Have you tried to walk around in the dark? It's very easy to run into something or head in the wrong direction without light to show you the way to go.

REFLECT

When Jesus called Himself the light of the world, He was revealing that He was the light who would show us the way of the Kingdom of God and the way to a restored relationship with the Father.

2 Corinthians 4:4, 6 (NIV) | The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the Gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ... For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ.

Psalms 119:105 (NIV) | Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.

It is not enough for us to see and acknowledge the light that is the power and Presence of Jesus. We must choose to follow the light – the light is meant to show our feet the path we were created and called to walk on.

It is this same light that changes our sight, giving us the ability to see the truth, and equips us to "let [our] light shine before others that they may see [our] good deeds and glorify [our] Father in Heaven" (Matthew 5:16, NIV).

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REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- Where in your life are you walking around in the dark and need the light of Christ to shine?
- Have you seen the light of Jesus and Him showing you the way to go, but you are hesitant to take steps to follow Him? Speak honestly with Jesus about the situation and ask Him to open your eyes and heart so you will step out in obedience.
- Who do you need to pray for so the light of Christ will shine in their hearts?

3

PRAY

Jesus, thank you for continually lighting the way for me, even when I can't see it or don't recognize it. I admit that I sometimes am content to walk around in the dark and neglect to ask you to shine your light on a situation. I pray that you would shine your light into every dark corner of my heart, mind and life so you can rid me of the darkness within and equip me to shine as brightly as I can. Teach me, Jesus, to follow you wherever you lead so I can experience the joy of following you here on the earth and into eternity. In Jesus' name. Amen.





Self Assessment

Jesus calls His Church today to abide in a culture marked by distraction, division and spiritual fatigue. This is a radical act of discipleship. Abiding isn't passive. It is active trust, surrendered following and courageous obedience that bears fruit in every area of life.

As we abide, we begin to know Jesus more deeply, follow Him more wholeheartedly, serve Him more joyfully and proclaim Him more boldly.



Using this QR Code, you can access a self-assessment that will lead you through questions to reflect on and gauge your life and relationship with Jesus. Your answers will remain anonymous.



Our prayer is that this survey will help you consider your relationship with God and how He is calling you to abide this year. It will also help us better understand how we can best support you and the rest of our church family to abide in Christ so that we all might bear fruit for His Kingdom.





Jesus is The One Who Sets People Free

1 READ John 8:31-32, 34-36 (NIV)

2

REFLECT

Our culture and society define freedom as “the power or right to act, speak or think as one wants without hindrance or restraint,” but this is not the kind of freedom Jesus offers to those who are His disciples – those who are determined to obey and live according to the teachings of Jesus.

Jesus offers freedom in the form of spiritual transformation – being changed from sinful people into the image of Jesus Christ and being set free from the power and consequences of sin. The freedom Jesus offers is the privilege of knowing what is right and being empowered to do what is right – the good, pleasing and perfect will of God (Romans 12:2). This freedom sets us free to be the kind of people God intended us to be and is only accessible through a relationship with Jesus Christ, who not only speaks the truth that sets us free, but is the truth who sets us free.

Galatians 5:1 (MSG) | Christ has set us free to live a free life. So take your stand! Never again let anyone put a harness of slavery on you.

We’re set free to know Jesus. We’re set free to choose to live out the full range of His teachings. We’re set free to find our identity in Christ and what He says about us. We are beloved, chosen, forgiven, known, loved and redeemed.

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REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- How have you defined freedom? Has your perspective of freedom changed in light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ?
- What ways of thinking, acting or speaking are blocking you from the freedom that Jesus offers – through walking in obedience to His teachings?
- How have you experienced spiritual transformation by the power of the Holy Spirit connected to freedom in Christ?

3

PRAY

Jesus, thank you for freedom! Thank you for renewing my mind as I choose to fix my attention on you and as I resolve to recognize your will for my life and immediately respond to it. I know that I can only be the person and image bearer you intended me to be as I grasp and pursue the freedom you so freely offer. If there is anything I’m still bound by or places in my life that I have not surrendered to you, please reveal them to me so that I can walk in increasing freedom and bring you glory. In Jesus’ name. Amen.



Jesus is The "I Am"

1 READ John 8:54-58 (NIV), Exodus 3:13-14 (NIV)

REFLECT

2

Jesus was speaking plainly when He revealed Himself as "I AM." This was clearly a reflection of the moment when God revealed His name as "I AM WHO I AM" in Exodus. The name "I AM" expresses the eternal existence of Jesus. There is no period of time when Jesus didn't exist. Before Abraham came into being, Jesus was, and He is and will forever continue to be.

Colossians 1:15-17 (NIV) | The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in Him all things were created: things in Heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

Jesus was present in the beginning to create things in Heaven and earth. The earth continues to spin, the sun rises and sets, and the laws of nature exist because Jesus holds every aspect of our existence in His hands – even the parts we take for granted (like the air we breathe). Jesus is the All-Sufficient One, meaning He is fully capable of meeting all needs. Jesus – "I AM" – is or has what you need in every circumstance. He has the power to speak and change things in an instant. He can give you peace and joy in situations where neither would make sense. It is the promise of His Presence that makes peace and joy possible.

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REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- Jesus is "I AM." What do you find you need in this season from the All-Sufficient God? Freely and humbly approach Jesus for mercy, grace and help.
- Are there parts of your life that seem to be falling apart? Are these things that should continue to be a part of your life or do you need to let them go? Ask Jesus to be the One who holds all things together, while also committing to release the things that are no longer His will for your life.

3

PRAY

Jesus, I am grateful that you are the "I AM." You stand unchanging across time and space and are the One I need in every moment. I confess that sometimes I try to meet my own needs or neglect to approach you when I have needs. Teach me to rely on you as the All-Sufficient One. When things in my life are shaking, Jesus, teach me to cling to you as my firm foundation and to let go of the things that are not your will for my life and don't give you glory. As I empty my hands of those things, I pray that you will fill my life and satisfy me with good and perfect things from your hands. In Jesus' name. Amen.





Jesus is The Gate

1 READ John 10:7-10 (NIV)

2

To enter an amusement park, you must wait in line to be admitted to the park through the admission gate. To go through the admission gate, you have to pay a fee and receive proof that the fee has been paid.

REFLECT

When Jesus called Himself "The Gate," He was revealing that He is the only way to be admitted into the Presence of God – here on earth and ultimately in Heaven for eternity. Jesus paid our admission for entry into the Presence of Father God through the sacrifice of His life on the cross for our sins and rising again in victory, defeating death.

Through faith in Jesus, we come into relationship and communion with God. Jesus brings and presents us to the Father, which gives us access to communicate with God in prayers and supplications.

In relationship with Jesus, we are the recipients of **"His very great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share His divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires (2 Peter 4:4, NLT)."**

As The Gate, Jesus protects and leads us so we can find safety, nourishment, provision and security. Jesus also protects us from those who don't have the proper intent – those who come to steal our hearts and affections from Jesus, ultimately killing and destroying our souls.

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REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- How often do you thank Jesus for being The Gate – the way to be admitted into the Presence of God?
- What does it look like for you to have a relationship and communion with God?
- What are some of the "great and precious promises" of God we have access to because of our faith in Jesus Christ as Savior, Messiah and Lord?

3

PRAY

Jesus, I thank you that you are The Gate and by you I can have access to my heavenly Father. Thank you, Jesus, for protection – safety, nourishment, provision and security. Deliver me from those who would come to steal my heart, attention and affection from you, so I can receive your promise of abundant life (John 10:10). Restore and strengthen our union, Jesus, so I can see and understand your will for my life and give you glory and honor through my obedience. In Jesus' name. Amen.





Jesus is The Good Shepherd

1 READ John 10:11, 14-18, 27-28 (NIV)

2

REFLECT

Psalm 23:1-4 (NIV) | The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters, He refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for His name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Jesus is the Lord our Shepherd. When we place our faith and trust Him, we become His sheep. As our Shepherd, Jesus provides everything that we need – rest, refreshment, direction and protection.

But Jesus doesn't just call Himself a Shepherd, He calls Himself the **Good Shepherd**. As the Good Shepherd, Jesus gives life to His sheep. He gives us life more abundant than we could ever expect or than we are able to ask for or think of. Abundant life is life with the advantage of walking in relationship with Jesus.

Our Good Shepherd Jesus not only gives life to His sheep, but He also gives His life for the sheep. He was willing to leave the glory and splendor of Heaven so that, by His death, we could receive new life and be restored to God the Father. We need Jesus as our Good Shepherd so we can have the life that God intended us to have.

The Shepherd-sheep relationship is an intimate relationship with Jesus – one that is as intimate as His relationship with the Father. Just as Jesus knows the Father and the Father knows Him, Jesus knows us. He knows our strengths and weaknesses, and He approves and accepts us. Our role is to be known by Jesus and to know Jesus – to experience His Presence, to hear and recognize His voice and to do what He says.

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REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- To be part of the Good Shepherd's flock, we must surrender our life to Him – our thoughts, our ways, our plans and our desires – so that we can follow Him. What do you need to surrender to belong to the flock of Jesus Christ more completely?
- What does it look like for you to intentionally get to know Jesus better? What kinds of things do you need to do? Why kinds of things do you need to stop doing?

3

PRAY

Jesus, I thank you for being my Good Shepherd – for calling me into a deep and intimate relationship with you. I need the rest and refreshment that only you can provide. I need your direction and protection as I choose to walk in obedience to your will. I pray that you will reveal to me the things in my life I need to surrender to you so I can be a good sheep. Help me to set aside things in my life that prevent me from getting to know you and to pick up practices and habits that deepen my relationship with you. In Jesus' name. Amen.





Jesus is The Resurrection and the Life

1 READ John 11:25-26 (NIV)

2

Jesus is the resurrection and the life. This means that Jesus is the source of life. This is good news for us because we need His life to make us truly alive.

REFLECT

Ephesians 2:1-2, 4-5 (NIV) | As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient... But because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved.

Living in sin and the ways of the world outside of what God has for us is the way we can be alive in our physical bodies, but dead spiritually. But praise God Jesus is the resurrection and the life to us. This means when we come to Christ – when we declare with our mouth “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in our hearts that God raised Jesus from the dead – we are saved. We are transformed from being spiritually dead in our sins to being spiritually alive through Jesus.

We are brought to life spiritually by surrendering our lives to Jesus Christ. Because of Jesus’ sacrifice of His life on the cross and His victory over death, we are forever freed from final death – separation from God at the end of time. By faith we receive a new level of life that is spiritual, and there is no end – no death – to this relationship we have in Jesus Christ.

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REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- To walk in new life with Christ, we must make choices that support our new life. Are there ways you could change and adjust the way you spend your time so you have more time to spend with Jesus?
- How are your physical energy and outlook on life lately? Do you feel as though you are walking in new life? Reflect on how you expend energy and what is affecting your perspective. Are there things you’re sensing you need to let go of so you can be filled with new life from Christ?

3

PRAY

Jesus, thank you for your grace, mercy and love that led you to sacrifice your life for me. Your sacrifice made new life available to me, but only as I choose to surrender my life fully to you. I want to be fully yours – fully alive so that I can live my life for you and bear fruit for your Kingdom. Show me the ways I think, speak and act that are dead weight and outside of your will for me. Help me to enjoy new life with you now as I spend time in your Presence, while also looking forward to life with you in eternity. In Jesus’ name. Amen.





Jesus is The One Who Comforts

1 READ John 11:28-35 (NIV)

2

REFLECT

When his friend Lazarus passed away, Jesus went to see the sisters, Mary and Martha, to comfort them. Fully knowing what He was going to do in raising Lazarus from the dead, Jesus still went to each sister and had time with them individually. He didn't scold them or question their faith. Instead, Jesus saw their pain and their anguish at the loss of their brother. He listened to their hearts as they grieved. His spirit was deeply moved, which led Him to weep – not out of grief for Lazarus's death but because of the havoc and chaos brought into the world by sin and death. He saw the suffering of the sisters and wept at their pain because of the darkness of the world. This is what the comfort of Jesus looks like.

Psalm 34:15, 18 (NIV) | The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are attentive to their cry... The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

Psalm 56:8 (NLT) | You keep track of all my sorrows. You have collected all my tears in your bottle. You have recorded each one in your book.

In moments of difficulty, anxiety, worry, pain and sorrow, Jesus is so near – closer than we think. He holds us closely and tightly in His embrace, giving us the strength we need to keep breathing, to keep getting up out of bed and to keep walking with Him. If we let Him (as we invite Him into our pain, anxiety, worry and sorrow), Jesus promises to give us a divine exchange – comfort in mourning, joy instead of sorrow and praise instead of despair.

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REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- In what places of your life do you need the comfort of Jesus? Are you experiencing difficulty in relationships, difficulty at your job, anxiety, fear or worry? There is not a situation that Jesus doesn't want to sit with us and speak comfort to our hearts, minds and souls.
- Is there someone in your life who needs you to comfort them just like Jesus did for Mary and Martha – to see them in their pain and grief, to listen to what they say, and to offer words of encouragement or prayer?

3

PRAY

Jesus, I'm thankful that you are One Who Comforts. I admit that I have places in my heart, mind and life where I am filled with sorrow, anxiety, worry, fear and grief. As I present those places and things before you, I'm grateful that you see my pain and you choose to extend your hands and arms to comfort me by the power of your Spirit. Jesus, I eagerly anticipate experiencing your joy, your peace and a heart filled with praise in exchange for what I am carrying. For those in my life who are feeling weighed down by the difficulties in their lives, I pray that your Presence will lighten their load, even if just for a moment. In Jesus' name. Amen.





Jesus is The Way The Truth & The Life

1 READ John 14:1-7 (NIV)

2

We have all had days where we feel lost – our plans fall through, people disappoint us – and we don't know where to go or what to do. In those moments, these words of Jesus are of great comfort to us.

John 14:6 | I am the way, the truth and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.

When we don't know the way, Jesus Himself is the way. So if we feel lost, seeking Jesus – spending time in the Word of God, in prayer and in silence – is the way we need for our heart, mind, soul and spirit. Seeking Jesus is the only way to what our souls truly need – restored relationship with Father God.

This is the truth of knowing Jesus. Our souls are only satisfied in relationship with God. In reality, we try to satisfy ourselves or fill the God-sized void in our hearts with things and people and habits, but only knowing the Triune God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – can satisfy our souls.

Psalms 107:8-9 (NIV) | ...give thanks to the Lord for His unfailing love and His wonderful deeds for mankind, for He satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.

Being satisfied by a relationship with the Living God is the life we were intended to have. Anything else is counterfeit. Pursuing Jesus is the way we discover the truth and live a transformed life by the power of God.

REFLECT

?

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- When you feel sad, tired, anxious or stressed, what do you do to feel better? Do you turn to things or people, or do you turn your attention and affection toward Jesus?
- What kind of rhythms of life or new ways of thinking do you need so you can remember to seek God first in every circumstance?

3

PRAY

Jesus, thank you that you are the way, the truth and the life – that I need to look no further than you for anything my heart, soul and mind desires. I repent for the times I have gone after things and people to fill the space in my heart reserved for you. Teach me to pursue you in every situation and circumstance of my life, knowing that your Presence will satisfy my soul, satiate my hunger and quench my thirst. When I have been satisfied in your Presence, Jesus, lead to me praise you and thank you for all you have done. In Jesus' name. Amen.





Jesus is The One Who Gives Peace

1 READ John 14:25-27 (NIV)

2

In a world filled with trouble, Jesus offers us, as His disciples, something that the world cannot offer – peace. This peace is not the absence of conflict. This peace is shalom – inner contentment, completeness, wholeness and well-being.

REFLECT

Jesus warns us, **“Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”** Why? Because He knew that things in the world – wars, natural disasters, violence, tragedies of every kind – could cause any person’s heart to tremble and to be fearful. The world will try to snatch away our peace. But in the face of all this sorrow and calamity, we can have peace in Jesus Christ.

Philippians 4:5b-7 (NIV) | ...The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

We can have peace because the Lord is near! When we turn our focus from the things that cause anxiety and turn to Jesus in prayer and thanksgiving, we can experience a peace that doesn’t make sense – that transcends all understanding. A mind focused on Jesus – in the face of the trouble of the world – preserves and retains the peace that Jesus gives.

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REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

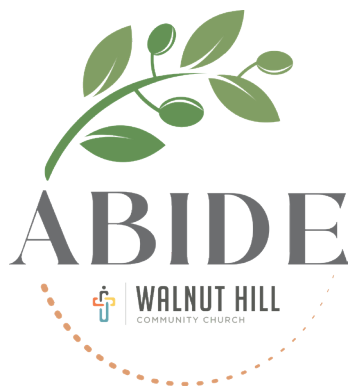
- What things in your life and the world are causing anxiety and fear? What would it look like for you to give those things over to Jesus and receive His peace instead?
- What do you do to protect, preserve and retain the peace that Jesus has freely given you?

3

PRAY

Jesus, thank you for your gift of peace – the peace that surpasses all understanding, a peace that can exist even in the trouble and chaos of this world. I want to hand over every situation that is making me anxious and afraid – anything that is threatening to steal or block your promise of peace to me so that I can fully receive your peace in my heart and mind. I pray that my friends, family, colleagues, neighbors and nation will come to know you so that they too can have access to your peace. Teach me to protect the peace you have given me by consistently and intentionally pursuing you, the Prince of Peace. In Jesus’ name. Amen.





12 DAYS WITH JESUS



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