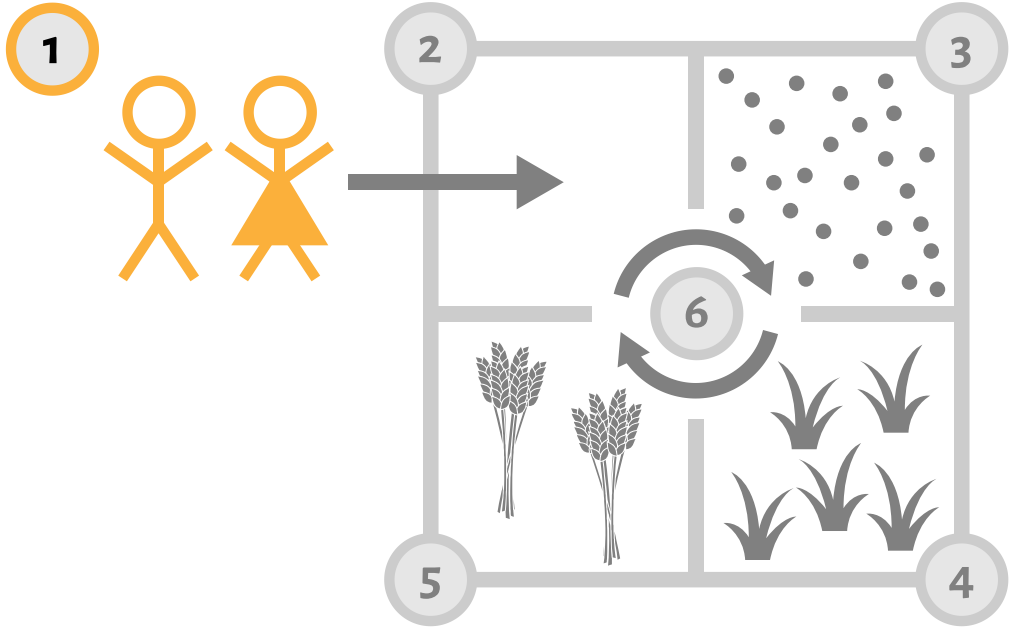


ABIDING IN GOD



As followers of Jesus, we can do nothing apart from him. To be effective in making disciples and seeing God's kingdom grow, we must continually abide in God and abide in his love.

We can only bear fruit if we abide in Jesus.



John 15:1-11:

[Jesus said,] “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. 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. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. These

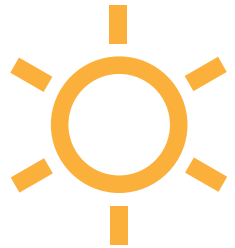
things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.”

We cannot bear fruit unless we abide in Jesus, the true vine. We cannot be effective in making disciples and seeing God’s kingdom grow unless each of us abides in Jesus, and Jesus in each of us. But whoever abides in Jesus and he in them will bear much fruit. God is willing to bear fruit through us if we abide in him.

We must walk in the light to have fellowship with God.

1 John 1:5-10:

This is the message we have heard from [Jesus] and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and



to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

To have fellowship with God and with his Son Jesus Christ, we must walk in the light. Walking in the light does not mean that we have not sinned, but that we confess our sins and do not make a practice of sinning. When we have sinned, we bring our sin to light by confessing it and receive forgiveness in Jesus. Walking in the light is a life of love and confession when we fail to love God and others. We must walk in the light to be effective in bearing God's fruit.

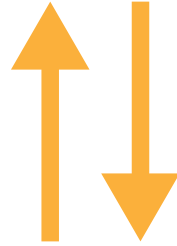
How can we abide in God?

From John 15:1-11 and 1 John 1:5-10 we can see a few ways by which we can abide in God and have fellowship with him. We can illustrate them this way:





**Let God's word
abide in us**



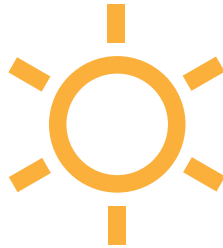
**Ask for things
in prayer**



**Abide in the
love of Jesus**



**Obey God's
commandments**



**Confess sin and
walk in the light**

These five actions are ways that we can seek to abide in God and have fellowship with him. One action is reading, meditating on, memorizing, and sharing God's word with others so that it will abide in us. Another action is prayer, communicating with God, often. We also should abide in the love of Jesus, remaining grounded in the truth that he loves us. From a heart of love for God and others, we should also obey God's commandments. And when we sin, we confess our sin and walk in love.

If we continually abide in God and have fellowship with him, we will bear much fruit. Only if we abide in God will we be effective in making disciples and seeing the kingdom of God grow.

For Kingdom Growth

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Many thanks to all who have contributed to this material for kingdom growth. Your service in the Lord is never in vain.