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"By His almighty grace you now are in Him; that same almighty grace will indeed enable you to abide in Him."

[Andrew Murray]

ENGAGE & CONNECT ||

Where is "home" for you?

BEGIN WITH PRAYER ||

Jesus, be our home, our refuge, our stronghold. Be our souls' comfort, our love, and our rest.

"The one I love is a cluster of henna blossoms to me, in the vineyards of En-gedi."

[Song of Songs 1:14]

BIG IDEA ||

God desires that you have a life of deep, lasting joy, and the only path to get there is through intimate connection with Him.

PASSAGE & DISCUSSION ||

1. What does it mean to "abide in Christ?" How does that look in your life?

John 15:1-17

2. What has God removed this past year?
3. How do people try to produce fruit themselves?
4. How do we remain in the love of Jesus?
5. What does "complete joy" look like?
6. Which of the false identities is the biggest pitfall for you? (examples: I am what I have, I am what I look like, I am what I do, I am what people say about me, I am who I'm with, etc.)
7. If "I am a child of the living God and heir to the kingdom of heaven" is your identity instead of those other things, what would change?
8. What does your time with your heavenly Father look like? Any adjustments you want to make this year?

STEP OF OBEDIENCE ||

If we remain in Jesus, **the Spirit will produce the fruit that we will bear.**

As you consider your next step, reflect on: 1) How was abiding in Christ last year? 2) How can I just BE with the Lord without making it about DOING something?

Step of Faith Ideas

1. Tell the Lord that you want to abide in Christ and ask Him to teach you how.
2. Remove idols that keep trying to trap you in a lesser identity than who God says you are.

PRAYER FOCUS ||

Remain in Jesus

Our example of how to do all these things is how Jesus remains in the Father—His own person, yet still one. It is a mystery, but exploring mysteries is how we draw closer to God and deepen our faith.

- Pray that we would know the full extent of the love of Jesus.
- Pray that we would experience the fullness of joy in Jesus.
- Pray that Jesus would be our truest home and closest family.
- Close your time by reading this prayer together:
 - *“Teach us how to abide, to remain, to be at home with You. Let us look more like Jesus as we receive everything we need from our heavenly Father, like He did while He walked the Earth.”*