

Group Leader Guide-Sept 29

Sermon Recap

Pastor Alex discusses the importance of following Jesus and keeping Him at the center of our lives, emphasizing the role of a disciple as someone who closely follows the leader—Jesus. He highlights the concept of abiding in Christ, using the metaphor of a vine and branches to illustrate our connection to Him, which is essential for living a fruitful and abundant life. By abiding, we cultivate a deep relationship characterized by dependency, commitment, and continuity, allowing us to bear fruit that glorifies God. Ultimately, abiding is not just about duty but about joy and intimacy with Christ, who empowers us to live according to His will.

Ice Breaker

If you could only communicate using animal sounds for a week, which animal would you choose to be and why?

Discussion Questions

What does it mean to 'abide' in Jesus, and how can we apply that in our daily lives?

- Pastor Alex talked about 'abiding' as a key point of discipleship, highlighting the meaning of connection and commitment to Jesus, using the analogy of a vine and branches.
- In what specific ways can you ensure that you are 'abiding' in Jesus daily, such as through prayer, reading scripture, or building relationships with other believers?

How does the relationship between the vine and branches illustrate our need for Jesus?

- Pastor Alex explained how the branch is dependent on the vine for life and fruitfulness, emphasizing that apart from Jesus, we can do nothing.
- Can you think of times in your life when you tried to accomplish something without seeking Jesus first? What was the outcome?

Why is it important to remain committed to Jesus as described in the sermon?

- The sermon emphasized being committed to Jesus, likening it to being fully connected and not just halfway in our faith.
- What are some commitments or distractions in your life that might prevent you from being fully committed to Jesus?

In what ways can a strong connection with Jesus lead to a fruitful life?

- The sermon highlighted that being connected to Jesus allows us to bear fruit and serve a greater purpose.

- How might your actions and decisions change if you fully embraced the idea of being fruitful in your relationship with Jesus?

How can we experience the joy that Jesus promises when we abide in Him?

- Pastor Alex mentioned that abiding in Christ not only brings power and purpose but also joy, which isn't taken away by the world.
- Think about a time when you felt truly joyful in your relationship with Jesus. What circumstances contributed to that joy?

Prayer

- Ask for prayer requests from the group.
- Pray for each member to find ways to stay connected to Jesus in their daily lives.
- Ask God to help everyone commit to following Him wholeheartedly this week.
- Pray for strength to continue abiding in His love and sharing that love with others.