

## Home Group Notes

**Notes to Leaders:** This week's focus is on "maturing rhythms," practices that help us know, love, and follow Jesus. Pastor Bill Born's message is the foundation of this week's gathering. (If you haven't yet, please watch the message on our website.)

### SHARE IT

How have 'good practices' helped you in some way? (e.g. health, career, relationships)

**Notes to Leaders:** Not much good happens in life without good habits. It could be sports, health practices, career habits, etc. The point of this question is to point to the good habits/practices that we need regarding that which is the most important thing in life – our maturing relationship with God and becoming like Jesus.

### LEARN

The focus this week is on exploring rhythms (habits, practices) that help us grow in our relationship with God, become like Jesus, and have his joy. We learned that the key is to "abide/remain" with Jesus (to be present, attentive, responsive). Read John 15:1-17.

What does Jesus say is the result of abiding / remaining? (5, 7-8, 9, 11, 15, 16)

**Notes to Leaders: Check these out:**

- **Fruit = make disciples**
- **Answered prayer**
- **We will experience His love**
- **We will experience Jesus' joy**
- **We will know the master's plans**
- **We will know what to ask for and receive His answers**

What does this passage say abiding looks like? How is this "being present" with Him? (7, 10, 12, 15)

**Notes to Leaders: John mentions a few essentials:**

- **Listening to God in the Word**
- **Talking with God in Prayer**
- **Obedience**
- **Reflecting on His instructions**
- **Loving one another**

What is our motivation to abide? (14:15; 15:8, 10, 11)

**Notes to Leaders:** Clearly, our obedience is born out of love for Jesus (14:15). It is a mistaken motivation to try to repay or please God for purposes of acceptance or earning right standing. Secondly, as Bill Born will share in his message, our motivation for bearing fruit (making disciples) is to glorify God. Lastly, our obedience is joy-filled (15:11).

What is the role of the Holy Spirit in our pursuit to know, love, and follow Jesus? (John 14:16-17)

**Notes to Leaders:** The point of this question is to tie in with last week's message. It is the leading, power, and spiritual work of the Holy Spirit (our Helper) that enables us to grow/mature in our relationship with God and others and bear fruit.

What did Jesus model that inspires you? (Mark 1:35; Luke 5:16; 9:25-28; John 15:11; 17:4)

**Notes to Leaders: The purpose of this question is to personalize the response to Jesus. Jesus example of habits include rhythms of getting away to be with the Father, listening to the Father, teaching others what the Father was teaching/revealing to Him, living in the joy of His relationship with the Father, living in obedience to the Father and completing the work given to Him.**

DISCUSS

We heard that, "We should engage maturing rhythms with delight and discovery" rather than guilt or shame. Agree or disagree? Why?

**Notes to Leaders: Please take time for this conversation. It is easy to slip into the guilt/shame mode rather than delight and discovery where we are obeying and serving out of love for Jesus.**

How is "being attentive to Jesus" connected with our ability to reach people in our relational world?

**Notes to Leaders: As we are attentive to Jesus (abiding), we take on his character, His love (especially for one another), and His passion to reach the world with His good news of forgiveness, grace, and love. This combined is what Jesus called being His witnesses.**

How do we as a community help each other abide? Experience His joy? Grow habits?

**Notes to Leaders: The chronic mistake that independent American disciples keep making is that we think of abiding as a solo practice. BUT these commands are all plural. We are called to abide (follow Jesus) together.**

**COULD YOU SEND ME WHAT YOU HEAR? I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR SENDING ME AN EMAIL WITH HOW PEOPLE ANSWER THIS QUESTION. THANK YOU. [sspringsted@trinityonline.org](mailto:sspringsted@trinityonline.org)**

Praying that our Father will help you draw near to God and one another,  
Steve