

WORSHIP

Sunrise

Welcome & Prayer

I Love You Lord

Worthy Is the Lamb

Awesome

Prayer of Confession

Christ Is Enough

Prayers for One Another

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

Offerings of Gifts & Tithes

Morning Star Productions

Second Graders Faith Marker

Abide with Me

Message

Pastor Matt Erickson

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

This weekend's worship leaders and instrumentalists: Linda Aguado Robinson (vocals), Paul Buethe (bass guitar), Rick Ehlenbeck (drums), Laura Fears (piano), Sarah Fridenmaker (vocals), John Grochowski (percussion), Jeremy Houston (acoustic guitar), Tom Robinson (vocals), Michael Simmons (vocals) **Production Team:** James Bachman, Brady Garrison, Elliot Hacker, Janet Hamm, Kim Koterman, Brian Larson Paul Williams

As we respond to God's Word today, you may want to pray further with someone. Members of our Prayer Team will be at the front of the Worship Hall after the service, ready to pray with you, or you are welcome to visit the Prayer Room, located to the East of the Worship Hall. You may also use the Connect Card in the seatback, or the Prayer Request Card located in either lobby to share prayer requests with the Pastors and Staff.

March 14/15, 2015

MESSAGE

Abide

CHOSEN WORDS | MARCH 14/15, 2015 | PASTOR MATT ERICKSON | JOHN 15:1-17

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15:5)

Jesus as the True Vine (John 15:1)

"True" Vine

Scriptural backgrounds (Psalm 80:8-11; Isaiah 5:1-7; Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-6)

He will do what Israel could not do

He will walk in obedience to God

Abiding in the Vine (John 15:2-6)

Our part is to remain—to abide—to live in—to stay put

Four Aspects of Abiding (John 16:7-17)

Abiding in His words (John 15:7-8)

Abiding in His love (John 15:9-11)

Abiding in love for one another (John 15:12-13, 17)

Abiding by bearing fruit in prayer (John 15:14-16)

STUDY GUIDE

1. Spring is almost here! What plants do you most look forward to seeing as Spring returns? Why?
2. This week we continue our series, "Chosen Words," by looking at Jesus' words about abiding or remaining in God from John 15:1-17. Before you read this passage of Scripture aloud, take a moment to ask God to speak to you as you read His word.
3. Jesus picks up the extended agricultural metaphor of the vine and branches bearing fruit in this passage. This image is used throughout Scripture, often to describe the people of God, as seen in Psalm 80:8-19 and Isaiah 5:1-5. Jesus takes the image a slightly different direction here. What does he say the vine, branches, and gardener represent?
4. One clear theme of this passage is the concept of bearing fruit. Take a moment to notice how often the word 'fruit' appears in this passage. What do you think Jesus mean by 'bearing fruit' in this passage?
5. Would you describe yourself as someone who bears fruit for God? Why or why not?
6. In verse 4, Jesus says: "neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me." If bearing fruit is directly tied to 'remaining' – or 'abiding' or 'staying put' – in Jesus, what does Jesus specifically mean by remaining in Him from this passage?
7. Jesus emphasizes love when He says, "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love" (vs 9). What do you think this means? What sort of love is Jesus talking about?
8. How have you cultivated the life of remaining or abiding in Christ? Are there specific spiritual practices that help you with this?
9. Jesus offers some very specific requests near the end of this passage: 'love each other as I have loved you' (vs 12), 'you are my friends if you do what I command' (vs 13), 'so that you might go and bear fruit' (v 16). How do you think this call to action connects with the call to remain in love?
10. What is one specific thing that God is speaking to you through this study? How will that shape your life in the coming week? If you are with a small group, discuss that with one another and pray for one another. If you are studying on your own, write it down and share it with someone.

[Next week we continue our series, "Chosen Words," by exploring Jesus' words about overcoming difficulty in John 15:18-25 and 16:16-33. Read that portion of Scripture ahead of time.]