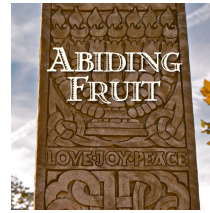


MAXIMIZE YOUR MORNINGS

FALL 2011 STUDY GUIDE



ABIDING FRUIT

BY

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I long for my life to be one which bears the unmistakable mark of a Christian. When people interact with me, I want them to see Christ and His characteristics in me.

But when the baby is crying, my oldest is trying to tell me every detail of his *very important* dream, my toddler is...well, being a toddler, I've lost track of time and we need to be in the car, like NOW, but no one seems to carry the same urgency that I have, and, oh my gosh, I'm still in my pajamas...well, I'm not sure there is much evidence of Christ in me in those moments.

Why is it so hard to do what I desire to do?

If you know this familiar struggle then I'm glad you are reading this. Not (only) because it makes me feel less alone, but because this Fall we are going to take a journey through the Bible to find out how we can have the *abiding fruit* of Christ in our lives.

THE PLAN:

We have hand-picked thirteen different passages of Scripture to help us understand how the fruit of the Spirit can become evident in our lives.

This study guide is unique in that we will be guiding you to new passages and YOU will be doing the studying! Each week we will read and study the same passage over the course of five days. Using different study questions, we will observe the passage with a new set of "glasses" each day to help us dig through another layer of Scripture.

There will also be weekly, supplemental posts on each week's passage over at [Do Not Depart](#), a blog dedicated to bringing encouragement and tools to abide in God's Word. Each Monday, beginning September 19th, we will take a deeper look at the passage we studied the previous week on our own and give you a chance to share what you are learning through your time in our study of the fruit of the Spirit.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

- A Bible
- A journal or some paper
- A pen
- The study “cheat sheet” (at the end of the study guide)

THE SCHEDULE:

Week of September 19 :: Fruit of the Spirit	Passage to Study: Galatians 5:16-26
Week of September 26 :: Abiding in Christ	Passage to Study: John 15:1-11
Week of October 3 :: Why we struggle	Passage to Study: Romans 7:15-24
Week of October 10 :: LOVE	Passage to Study: I Corinthians 13
Week of October 17 :: JOY	Passage to Study: Psalm 16
Week of October 24 :: PEACE	Passage to Study: Philippians 4:4-9
Week of October 31 :: PATIENCE	Passage to Study: 1 Samuel 1:1-18
Week of November 7 :: KINDNESS	Passage to Study: Titus 3:3-8
Week of November 14 :: GOODNESS	Passage to Study: Proverbs 31:10-31
Week of November 21 :: FAITHFULNESS	Passage to Study: Hebrews 10:19-25, 35-39
Week of November 28 :: GENTLENESS	Passage to Study: Galatians 6:1-10
Week of December 5 :: SELF-CONTROL	Passage to Study: 2 Peter 1:3-8
Week of December 12 :: Our hope for change	Passage to Study: Romans 6:1-14

THE METHOD:

Begin each day with a short prayer, asking God to open your heart to His Word. Then answer each day’s questions. Keep your journal open, ready to note your discoveries.

The first intentional step to studying a passage is observation. As we read a text we simply note *what* we see. We observe the scene. We observe the people. We observe the context. We begin by noting the “what” of a text before we can glean the “why” from a text. -[Savoring Living Water](#).

DAY 1: INITIAL READ/CONTEXT

With an expectant heart, read this week’s passage. Keep a pen and your journal handy. On this initial read, simply write down anything that jumps off the page and ministers to your own heart.

If you are unfamiliar with the passage, look into the context of the verses. Why were these words written? By whom, to whom?

Read the passage again. This time write down any questions you may have about the passage.

The purpose of the initial read is to get familiar with the text, not to answer all of your questions.

DAY 2: TRUTHS

Lies fill our world and seep into our homes. If we don't know His truths then lies will take us captive. *Lies have taken me captive*. If lies bind us, we doubt God's love and question His faithfulness when difficulties arise. If lies fill our minds, we define God's character based upon our circumstance rather than based upon His revelation. We must maintain an arsenal of truths in our hearts and souls in order to combat lies. - [Savoring Living Water](#)

With your journal and pen ready, look for specific **TRUTHS** in this week's text. Read the passage three times, each time answering one of the following questions:

- What does this passage teach about God?
- What does this passage teach about the author?
- What can I learn about who I am in Christ?

As you find truths, list them in your journal. Consider making a master list of all you learn through your studies about the Holy Spirit, the fruit that comes as you keep in step with the Spirit of God, and what is true of those who are in Christ.

DAY 3: PROMISES

At times He speaks conditional promises, meaning they will *only* be experienced when a condition is met. For example, He promises to guard our hearts and minds with peace as we lay all of our anxious thoughts before Him with prayer and thanksgiving. (Phil. 4:6-7) Peace comes *after* we come to Him.

Other times He gives unconditional promises, meaning that they will happen *regardless*. For example He promises to never leave or forsake His children. Never. Once His, He will not leave us. We may try to walk away from Him, but He remains our Father. He promises. - [Savoring Living Water](#)

Today read your passage while looking for **PROMISES**. Remember to note whether a promise is conditional or unconditional.

- What is promised to me in this passage?
- Are these promises conditional or unconditional?
- If conditional, what does He require for the promise to be fulfilled?

DAY 4: COMMANDS

He's our Father. He loves us. He designed us. He knows us perfectly. He gives us commands for our good and His glory. When we choose to obey, we choose His blessing. - [Savoring Living Water](#)

Read this week's passage noting **COMMANDS** in your journal. Read the passage again, this time looking for any *implied* commands. We can learn much from the experiences and failures of people in the Bible. As the Word commends or disapproves of certain characteristics, we can use this as a model towards Christ-likeness.

- Note the things He tells us to do or not do.
- Observe the things He tells us to lay aside or pursue.
- Look for Christ-like examples after which we can follow.
- Notice any mistakes of those who have gone before us.

DAY 5: APPLY

Today we make the passage personal through application. Journal through these questions:

- How does my view of God line up with this passage's teaching about God?
- What is the Lord leading me to DO as a result of this passage?

Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to do the work in your heart so that you may walk in obedience to this passage.

THE RESULT:

You may not find "answers" to each of these questions each week. The point is to begin training yourself to look for truths, promises, commands, and application points when you read the Bible.

As you notice other "categories" feel free to develop your own searching questions. For example, on the week of October 31st when we study patience, as seen in Hannah, you may not learn much about the author of 1 Samuel, but there is much to observe about Hannah.

After walking through these passages this way, you might just be ready to do another study of Scripture all on your own! You will certainly encounter Jesus in a deeper way. And that is what this is all about.

If you have any questions about the study guide, feel free to contact [Katie](#) or [Lara](#).

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FALL 2011 ABIDING FRUIT STUDY

Week of 9/19 :: Fruit of the Spirit :: Galatians 5:16-26

καρπός karpós: fruit, that which originates or comes from something, an effect, result.

Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water. James 3:12

Week of 9/26 :: Fruit comes from abiding in Christ :: John 15:1-11

μένω menō: to remain, abide

...filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. Philippians 1:11

Week of 10/3 :: Why we struggle :: Romans 7:15-24

σάρξ sarx: the flesh, the earthly nature of man apart from divine influence, and therefore prone to sin and opposed to God

Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? There is not one. Job 14:4

Week of 10/10 :: LOVE :: I Corinthians 13

ἀγάπη agapē: affection, good will, love, benevolence, brotherly love

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. 1 John 4:7

Week of 10/17 :: JOY :: Psalm 16

χαρά chara :: joy, gladness

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. Romans 15:13

Week of 10/24 :: PEACE :: Philippians 4:4-9

εἰρήνη eirēnē: the tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God and content with its earthly lot

You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. Isaiah 26:3

Week of 10/31 :: PATIENCE :: 1 Samuel 1:1-18

μακροθυμία makrothymia: patience, forbearance, longsuffering, slowness in avenging wrongs

Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Romans 12:12

Week of 11/7 :: KINDNESS :: Titus 3:3-8

χρηστότης chrēstotēs: benignity, kindness

...God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance. Romans 2:4

Week of 11/14 :: GOODNESS :: Proverbs 31:10-31

ἀγαθωσύνη agathōsynē: uprightness of heart and life, goodness, kindness

So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith. Galatians 6:10

Week of 11/21 :: FAITHFULNESS :: Hebrews 10:19-25, 35-39

πίστις pīstis: firm persuasion, conviction and belief in the truth

No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God. Romans 4:20

Week of 11/28 :: GENTLENESS :: Galatians 6:1-10

πραΰτης praūtēs: mildness of disposition, gentleness of spirit, meekness

What do you wish? Shall I come to you with a rod, or with love in a spirit of gentleness? 1 Corinthians 4:21

Week of 12/5 :: SELF-CONTROL :: 2 Peter 1:3-8

ἐγκράτεια egkrateia: the virtue of one who masters his desires and passions, especially his sensual appetites

A man without self-control is like a city broken into and left without walls. Proverbs 25:28

Week of 12/12 :: Our hope for change :: Romans 6:1-14

νεκρός nekros: dead, destitute of force or power, inactive, inoperative

Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. John 12:24

Initial Read/Context

Who is writing? Why?
Jot down initial thoughts and questions.

Truths

What does this passage teach...
about God?
the author of the book?
who I am in Christ?

Promises

What is promised to me?
Are they conditional or unconditional?
If conditional, what is required?

Commands

What am I commanded to do or not do?
What can I learn from the example of others?

Apply

What is the Lord leading me to DO as a result of this passage?

Join us on Mondays for a supplemental study on each passage.

www.DoNotDepart.com

