

## Strength for Today and Hope for Tomorrow: A Journey at Hamblen to Draw Closer to Jesus Christ Through the Pandemic and Beyond

Even during the pandemic, political divisions, and loss, Christians are strengthened by a relationship with Jesus Christ and find hope for the future in him. Join us on a journey this fall to draw closer to Jesus Christ in this season and beyond. We'll discover resources for this journey together as we participate through sermons, adult small groups, individual adult quiet times, children's Sunday School, and youth groups.

### Week 2--September 27

#### Can I follow Jesus when I am tired?

##### Focus

Christians are strengthened for today by abiding in Christ. Resting in Jesus daily produces strength and hope.

##### Scripture Reading

John 15:1-11

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

##### Questions for the Journey

- What is preventing you from making time for a relationship with Jesus?
- What "busyness" can you give up to make this relationship a priority?
- In the sermon, Pastor Steve talked about "sharpening the saw." Why would adding a daily quiet time with Jesus empower your time overall? Be specific to your daily life.

##### Drawing Closer

- Try setting 15 minutes aside to rest in the Lord's presence this week by doing a quiet time like Pastor Steve mentioned in the sermon. If you can make it happen every day, great, if you only wish to do one day that is a start. Write it on your calendar.
- Use this time to read this week's Scripture passage and name the fruit that is produced in your life when you abide in Christ.
- We can't always control our circumstances, but our hearts can change when we rest in Christ with a quiet time. What changes do you notice in your heart? How can you rest in grace if you are not yet experiencing this kind of heart-change?

**We used portions of *Discipleship Essentials* by Greg Ogden in this resource. For an even deeper exploration of your journey as a follower of Jesus, check out Chapter 3**

## To Use this Resource with a Partner or in a Group:

We are called not just into relationship with Christ, but are also called into relationships with other believers. We invite everyone to go through these exercises as individuals, then discuss your answers with at least one other person. Sharing our experiences is a powerful way to see God at work in others and ourselves. If you would like to be put into a group where you can discuss this series, let Heather Notske know ([heathern@hamblenpres.org](mailto:heathern@hamblenpres.org) or 509-448-2909).