



We focused on abiding in Christ in the final sermon of the “Formed” summer series. In John 15, Jesus uses an agricultural example to teach a spiritual lesson about remaining rooted in Christ. As time passes, those remaining in Christ will undergo deep transformation as they are formed in His image. The disciplines and the formations we’ve studied over the last ten weeks are powerful tools in shaping us, but without remaining in Christ the formation they bring may be fleeting. Think about the power of abiding in Christ.

1. What do you think of when you hear the word “abide” or “remain?” Are these things that come naturally to you, or do they take active effort on your part?
2. **Read John 15:1-4.** Jesus speaks about removing the branches that do not bear fruit. Tell your group about a time you have felt you have been pruned. Did it lead to growth?
3. **Read Isaiah 46:4 and 2 Peter 1:3.** In John 15, Jesus claims to be the true vine, from which the branches are sustained. How have you seen God’s sustenance in your own life, physical and/or spiritual?
4. There is a result of remaining in Christ. **Read John 15:5-8.** Jesus is very repetitive in his teaching. How many times do we need to hear about our identity in Christ before it sinks in? Is it easy for you to forget who you are in Him?
5. We already discussed being “pruned” by the Lord. Are there areas that still need to be pruned from your life? Are you submitting to His pruning in these areas?
6. **Read John 15:9-13.** You’ll notice a theme of love throughout this passage. In verse 10, Jesus describes what it takes to abide in his love. Is this what you typically think of when you think of remaining in Christ? Discuss.
7. Throughout this sermon series, we have covered several spiritual disciplines and concepts that help in our spiritual formation. Between mentorship, solitude, practice, prayer, worship, community, fasting, and Scripture, what has been or will be most helpful in your pursuit of remaining in Christ?
8. Close your time in prayer. Lift up each other’s needs, and pray that each member of your group would abide in the sustaining love of Jesus.