



Sermon Discussion Guide

Present with God - Hannah Dreblow
December 14, 2025

Hook - Getting to know one another

- *How is everyone doing this week? Add other questions to get to know one another, especially ones related to the topic in the sermon.*
 - *What is your biggest gardening success or flop?*
 - *What did you learn from the experience?*
 - *Have you ever experienced a moment when you felt fully present? What made that moment possible?*
 - *What are signs that people are being present and attentive with you... and vice versa?*
 - *How do you know when someone has checked out of your moment with them? What are signs you have noticed, indicating when you yourself have checked out from relating with others?*
 - *Tell the group about a time when you or someone close to you completely zoned out, had no clue what was happening, and tried to act like you'd been paying attention the whole time?*

Book - Scripture

- *Read the scripture passages and discuss to understand **what the text is saying**:*
 - *John 15:1-8*
 - *According to the passage:*
 - *Who are the different Characters in the passage?*
 - *Who or what do they represent?*
 - *How are each of these symbols - the vine, gardener and branches, act in relationship to each other?*
 - *What claims did Jesus make in speaking this passage?*
 - *About who He is?*
 - *About what He would do?*



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- *About what will happen to people?*
- *What invitation does Jesus make?*
 - *For what purpose does he make it?*
- *How many times is the word “**abide**” (or “remain”) used?*
- *How do verses 1-3 relate to verses 4-8?*
- *What might “fruit” represent based on the context of this passage?*
- *What does it mean to **abide** in Jesus according to the passage?*
- *How is abiding described as an ongoing relationship rather than a one-time event?*
- *What clues does the passage give about how someone knows they are abiding?*
- *What does the fate of unfruitful branches suggest about the seriousness of abiding?*
- *How does this passage reshape how we understand spiritual effort?*
- *How is abiding connected to effective prayer in verse 7?*
- *What does this passage suggest is the ultimate purpose of a disciple’s life?*

Look - Connections to our world today

- *This section focuses on implications about **what this text means** about what’s wrong in the world, about trusting God, about who God is, etc.*
 - *What does Jesus mean when he calls himself the “**true vine**”?*
 - *In this metaphor, what does the **vine** provide that the branches cannot produce on their own?*
 - *What does the role of the **vinedresser** (the Father) suggest about God’s involvement in believers’ lives?*



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- *What about our world today makes living out this passage challenging?*

Took - Personal Application

- *This application focuses on **how God is calling us to respond**. This could be personally, as a family, small group, or church. It could be something to believe, to meditate on, to say or do this week.*
 - *What does “abiding in Christ” look like in your everyday life right now?*
 - *When do you feel most aware of your dependence on Christ? When do you tend to forget it?*
 - *What practices or rhythms help you remain connected to Christ?*
 - *What are some ways you try to produce spiritual fruit apart from Christ?*
 - *What does it look like to surrender control while still being spiritually intentional?*
 - *How does “apart from me you can do nothing” challenge your normal approach to growth or success?*
 - *Verse 7 connects abiding with Jesus’ words remaining in us. How are you currently engaging with Scripture?*
 - *What changes (small or significant) could help Christ’s words shape your desires more deeply?*
 - *How might Scripture move from being something you read to something that remains in you?*
 - *How does this passage reshape the way you think about prayer?*
 - *What prayers might change if your primary focus was abiding rather than outcomes?*
 - *Where do you need to align your prayers more closely with Christ’s desires?*



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Time of Prayer