



WIVA!

1 JOHN

WEEK TWO: **ABIDE**

## HOW TO USE

We wrote this curriculum for those times when life is busy and you might be looking for a little help and inspiration as you plan for time with your students. Everything you need to know for each week's curriculum is laid out below. That being said, the best results will come from spending some time with the curriculum in advance—make sure, in particular, to read the “Teacher Prep” section.

Each of these lessons can be led in different ways. Please be sensitive to your group. You might have a group that really wants to dig into an idea, or you might have a group that just needs to hear the basic truth. You get to decide that as you meet.

Finally, please feel free to discard any of this content to stay in your group's context. The best curriculum for your group is you, caring for them as they get to know God.

Have ideas about this curriculum? Be part of the revolution and give us some feedback at <http://help.theyouthcartel.com/hc/communities/public/topics/200121073-Viva>

## WHO WROTE THIS

Brad Hauge is a Northwest boy through and through who can't shake his boyhood love of Pearl Jam or the Mariners. He really likes Jesus and really likes students. And he really likes helping students realize they can totally be a part of what Jesus is up to in our world. He gets to do that for a living in Spokane, WA, where he work as the Director of High School Ministries at First Presbyterian Church.

## THE REST

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3Objectivew

# OBJECTIVE

The concept of “abiding” in God is a common theme throughout John’s writings. But while “abiding” may be a fairly common word in church contexts, what does it actually mean for the lives of the kids in your community? This lesson will take a look at what John means when he calls followers of Christ to “abide,” and how abiding will help us remain with Jesus, experiencing the light and love John speaks of.

# TEACHER PREP

- **SPECIAL NOTE:** There is an optional (but helpful) video clip referenced in this lesson from the movie *The Big Lebowski*. Though the clip itself contains no foul language or bad behavior, the movie itself is often quite inappropriate. Feel free to preview the clip (<http://youtu.be/EsKoxi12jbI>) and see if you’d like to use it. If you’d rather not use the clip as a passive endorsement for the movie we ***completely understand***.
- An internet connection and the ability to play a YouTube video with sound for your group.
- Enough Bibles for everyone (or at least close). If you have time before your meeting, encourage the students to bring their Bible with them.
- Spend some time reading, and becoming familiar with, 1 John 2:3-6 and 26-28, 1 John 3:17-24, and John (gospel of John) 15:1-8.
- Spend some time preparing for the activity—it will be helpful to have ***at least a little*** practice before you try to lead it.

# OPENING ACTIVITY

## "STICK WITH ME"

### SAY SOMETHING LIKE:

“I’m going to do one of three things. You follow me in everything I do, except for one thing.

- If I clap, you clap after me.
- If I raise my right hand, you raise yours.
- If I put my right hand down, you put yours down.
- If I put my left hand up, YOU DO NOTHING.

Got it?”

## Examples:

You clap. They clap.

If they clap late, they're out.

If you put your right hand up and tell them to put it down (while your hand is still raised) and they follow you, they're out.

If you put up your left hand and they put up their left hand (the only exception), they're out.

If you turn around and put up your left hand (giving some the indication it's your right hand) and they follow you, they're out.

You can also pretend to start clapping but stop short. If they clap when you didn't...they're out.

Keep playing until you get down to one. If it goes quickly, feel free to play another round—maybe even letting a student play the role of “leader.”

## DISCUSSION STARTERS

(Depending on the size of your group you may want to have them turn to a couple of neighbors to create small discussion groups, or just have the discussion as a large group.)

- Be honest, were any of you just terrible at that game?
- How hard was it to remain with the leader?
- What was the hardest part about it?
- Was there anything the leader would do that would make it easier to remain in the game with them?

## MAIN LESSON

There's an old cult movie with a character who goes only by the name “The Dude.” His birth name is actually Jeffrey but no one refers to him as that—he is simply The Dude.

**Optional:** Show your group this brief YouTube clip from *The Big Lebowski*. **You'll want to end the clip** at the 1:10 mark, or when the cowboy at the bar starts talking to the camera.

<http://youtu.be/EsKoxi12jbI>

**Ask:** Does anyone know what the word “abide” means? What do you think he meant when he said “The Dude abides?”

## SAY SOMETHING LIKE:

This movie character named Jeffrey has taken on a persona, and a way of life, that has completely consumed him. But it wasn't always this way. "The Dude" wasn't born the day Jeffrey was born. "The Dude" had to be learned, practiced, and perfected—otherwise he could never have gotten away with changing his name from Jeffrey to something as ridiculous (and awesome) as "The Dude."

The Dude's favorite catchphrase is "The Dude abides." When he's in a stressful situation he responds by saying "The Dude abides." When he's in a wonderful and happy situation, he simply mentions that "The Dude abides." This alter ego of Jeffrey's is so fully a part of him that it seems to have completely taken over his way of living. The Dude has abided for so long that you can no longer tell the difference between "The Dude" and Jeffrey.

1 John, the letter we're looking at, has absolutely no mention of Jeffrey, or The Dude for that matter. But I think John is onto something in this scripture, something that matters for our active faith in Jesus. Let's take a look at a few of the ways John calls us to abide in and with Jesus.

## BIBLE EXPLORATION

Have your students turn toward each other in groups of 4-5 and assign **one of the following passages** to each group. One person can read the entire text or you may want to have students take turns with verses and sections.

**You may want to mention** that some of the verses are from the Gospel of John as well as 1 John but that the author is the same!

- 1 John 2:3-6 and 26-28
- 1 John 3:17-24
- John (gospel of John) 15:1-8

*Once they have all had a chance to read and hear the text, give them a few minutes to discuss the first prompt within their groups **before inviting them to share their ideas with the larger group.** Then present the second prompt and so on. During the discussion, make sure to acknowledge all responses as worthy of consideration.*

### Prompts:

1. In general, what about this section resonates with you? Is there anything you don't understand?
2. If your translation doesn't actually use the word abide, what words does your Bible use to convey the same idea?
3. What seems to be John's main point in these sections in terms of abiding, or remaining?
4. What would John say the character of Jeffrey has right when it comes to letting "The Dude abide?"

## SAY SOMETHING LIKE:

Stick with me for another minute with the example of “The Dude.” The Dude allowed something he valued (being easy going and rolling with the punches, no matter what life throws at him) to consume his entire being. This changed the core of who he was. John wants the church, those of us who love Christ, to exemplify this same idea. To abide in Jesus to the point where it consumes who we are and how others see us.

John says in the second chapter of 1 John, “This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.” In other words, whoever claims to abide in Jesus needs to live like it.

Now, I get that this can feel like a lofty and impossible goal. But let’s not forget what John showed us last week when we met—that Jesus is God and that he is light. That living in the light means living in love and peace, hope, joy, and freedom. And while it is definitely hard to let Jesus into more and more and more of our lives, it should also feel exciting to know that truly abiding with God like this means we’re living a life of light, a life that produces that same love, peace, hope, and joy.

May we work and fight and commit to living a life full of enough of Christ’s freedom to simply shrug our shoulders and explain, “Jesus abides, man. Jesus abides.”

## RESPONSE

Invite your students to re-form their smaller groups from their Bible Exploration time (or if you have small groups that regularly meet, use those!) and work through these prompts:

- Last time we met we looked at how John compares living with God to living in the light. Were there any areas of your life you were able to take from darkness to light this past week?
- Do you feel like there are any areas of your life where you truly are abiding with Jesus? If so, what are they and how does that affect your daily life?
- If you were to abide more with Jesus, how would your life look different? Does it seem like a goal worth fighting for, or would it not make that much of a difference?
- How can you help each other abide more closely with Jesus?

**End your time together in prayer—whether prayer requests, prayer partners, or just a general prayer thanking God for the ways in which we can know truths about him and about ourselves.**