

ABIDE IN CHRIST

→ the short study



Prepared for The Navigators by Staff Development and Care

Adapted from *Triple A Bible Study* from Women of Influence.

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STEP ONE: Ask Questions for Facts

Your goal in Step One is to become thoroughly familiar with the facts of a passage. Study the passage of Scripture individually and record your observations to five fact-finding questions.

WHO? *Who are the primary and secondary characters?*

WHAT? *What idea or action is happening in the story?*

HOW? *How do the characters act, relate, or respond?*

WHY? *What is the reason, purpose, or motivation?*

SO? *What is the climax or result?*

STEP TWO: Analyze Facts for Meaning

Your goal in Step Two is to analyze the meaning and significance of the passage. Study the passage individually a second time, recording observations to five analysis questions.

REPETITION: *Identify words or phrases used more than once.*

CONTRAST: *Look for the association of opposites.*

COMPARISON: *Look for similar things, words, or concepts.*

KEY WORDS: *Which words identify the main point of the passage?*

SIGNIFICANCE: *What is the significance of the actions or ideas?*

IMPLICATIONS: *What are the implications?*

STEP THREE: Apply Insights from the Passage

In Step Three, the goal is personal reflection on the meaning of the truths and ideas discovered in the passage. This step is the most crucial step of inductive study, since it involves putting the knowledge gained from Scripture into practice.

FACILITATING STEP ONE

Explain Step One. To explain Step One, direct the group's attention to the left margin of the Bible Passage Worksheet, where the five fact-finding questions are listed. Read the description of the five questions that are listed on the previous page.

FACILITATING STEP TWO

Explain Step Two. To explain Step Two to the group, direct their attention to the right margin of the Bible Passage Worksheet, where the five analysis questions are listed. Read the descriptions of the five questions, which are listed on the previous page.

FACILITATING STEP ONE AND TWO CONTINUES:

- *Study the passage.* Allow several minutes for yourself and the others to study the passage and record observations to the analysis questions, again marking your discoveries on the worksheet.
- *Discuss your findings.* As in Step One, encourage discussion of what each participant finds to be significant in the passage. It is not necessary to thoroughly discuss repetition, contrast, etc. To keep the discussion within suggested time limits, you may need to focus on just a few key insights.

FACILITATING STEP THREE

You can invite the group to share their personal applications, or allow time for everyone to reflect on the passage privately by writing their responses in the bottom margin of the worksheet.

Note: You can insert any narrative passage in the center portion of the study and continue to be blessed by this format.

STEP ONE

ASK

QUESTIONS FOR FACTS

WHO? *Characters*

WHAT? *Activity or Idea*

HOW? *Response*

WHY? *Reason*

SO? *Result*

¹ "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³ Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. ⁹ As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. ¹² "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. ¹⁷ These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

STEP TWO

ANALYZE

FACTS FOR MEANING

REPETITION? *Same Words*

CONTRAST. *Opposites*

COMPARISON. *Similarities*

KEY WORDS. *Reveal Main Point*

SIGNIFICANCE. *Implications*

STEP THREE

APPLY

YOUR INSIGHTS

Jesus often used familiar, everyday metaphors to teach deep truths about His kingdom. In His day, vineyards flourished all over the Judean countryside, even in poor soil. Without a vinedresser, vines would spread along the ground, allowing moisture, pests, and dense foliage to ruin the fruit.

Even today, the careful tending of an experienced vinedresser greatly increases the possibility of a bumper crop of plump grapes. A vinedresser walks among the vines daily, looking at them closely to check for pests and make sure the vines receive the right amount of water. He lifts up and cleans any fruit lying on the ground so that mold and fungus won't damage the harvest. The vinedresser also cuts most of the leaves off the branches, allowing direct sunlight to ripen the grape clusters. After the harvest, even more extensive pruning occurs. The vinedresser cuts the branches back all the way to the vine so that all the nutrients are directed to deepening the roots. The vinedresser's careful and timely touch in pruning the branches throughout the growing season and after the harvest helps the vine to be fruitful in the upcoming year.

"Picture Jesus, even as He calls you to 'abide in Me,' pointing to the Father and saying, 'It is My Father who is the Vinedresser. It is because of Him that you are in Me; it is through Him that you abide in Me; it is to Him and for His glory that you bear fruit.'" (Murray, *Abide in Christ*, p. 31)

Want to learn more? Explore this excellent resource:

<https://preservingbibletimes.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Story-II.Chapter-4.pdf>