***The Gospel of John: So that you may believe***

***Abiding In Christ***

**Digging Deeper into John 15**

**Read John 15:1-11** (*If there are different translations being used by the group members, pay attention to the differences.*)

1. Tony Suggested that “abiding” in Christ refers to a relationship with him. He described this abiding as pursuing our Savior, seeking to know and honor Him.

* *How would you describe ‘abiding’ in Christ? Would you add or subtract anything from Tony’s perspective?*
* *What are the hindrances in your life that distract you from abiding?*
* *How has God ‘pruned’ you to make you a healthier ‘branch?” (see verse 2)*

2. When a branch is properly connected to the grape vine, it will produce fruit. Apply the metaphor to this group. Describe and discuss what this fruit might look like in your life (individually and as a group).

3. It is clear from the passage that fruit includes obedience (***reread 15:9-11***). Survey the context to get a reminder of Jesus’ emphasis on obedience and its connection to love: John 14:15, 14:21, & 14:23-24.

* Discuss your understanding of obedience to your love relationship with Jesus. How do we navigate the truths expressed in John 14:23-24 without falling into legalistic self-righteousness (“*I am more obedient then you*”) or despair (“*I can never obey enough, I might not even be a real Christian*”)?

4. If time allows, Read the rest of John 15 (vs:12-25).

Tony suggested that there was a relationship between living a life of obedience and deeply loving your fellow Christians that might result in the world hating you. Do you agree with this analysis of John 15? Why would the world hate you for being obedient and loving? How might 2 Timothy 3:1-5 inform your conversation?