

FOUNDATIONS

JOURNEY WAYPOINTS

January 4–10, 2025

A stop along the journey to study, share, and support one another while we learn the way of Jesus.

This Week's Big Idea:

Covenant is God's chosen foundation for accomplishing His purposes in our lives—a stubborn, unbreakable commitment rooted in His steadfast love. Covenant life is sustained not by our striving, but by abiding in Jesus and intentionally letting His words (Scripture) abide deeply within us as His covenant people.

Scripture and Study:

KEY TEXT: Colossians 3:16-14, John 15:1-11, Ephesians 5:18-21 [Click here to access this week's scripture](#)

In a world of contracts, exit clauses and fine print, God speaks a very different word to His people: covenant. Covenant is not a transaction to manage; it is a relationship we inhabit. It is God's stubborn refusal to be God without us; it is His decision to bind Himself to us in love, faithfulness and presence. From Abraham to Israel, from Noah to David, Biblical covenant always begins with God's initiative, not human negotiation, and points forward to the New Covenant in Jesus: "I will abide in you, and you in me."

To abide (μένω, meno) means to remain, to dwell, to make your home. Covenant life is sustained not by achieving more, but by remaining connected—like branches drawing life from the vine. This abiding isn't passive; it's an active dependence. Covenant does not eliminate hardship—but it gives hardship meaning. Jesus reminds us that pruning is not punishment; it is covenant care. The Vinedresser is not removing us—He is tending us. Fruitfulness flows not from frantic striving, but from faithful presence. We do not remain in covenant because we are strong, but because God is faithful, His *hesed*, steadfast love never fails.

Living in God's covenant life reshapes everything, especially our life together as God's people. Colossians 3:16 echoes Jesus' command to let His Word abide in us. "Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly." This is not merely an individual practice; it is a communal calling. God's covenant is meant to shape a people who are formed together by Scripture, gathered together in worship, and held together by His Spirit.

When we abide in Christ together, we become a people who stay when it's difficult, speak truth with love, worship through joy and pain, forgive freely, and bear one another's burdens. The church is not a gathering of religious consumers—it is a covenant family learning how to make our home in Christ and with one another. Because God has bound Himself to us in Jesus, we are free to bind ourselves to one another in love. We do not covenant together to earn belonging—we covenant together because we already belong.

Discussion Questions:

- How does viewing covenant as "making your home" rather than "keeping a contract" change the way you relate to God?
- What does it look like for the Word of Christ to dwell richly among a community, not just within individuals?
- Where might God be pruning in your life right now—and how could that pruning be an expression of covenant care rather than punishment?

Apply It:

- Reflect: Write down one way God has remained faithful to you during a difficult season. How does that faithfulness invite you to remain connected rather than pull away?
- Pray: Pray John 15:4–5 slowly, asking the Spirit to show you where you are striving instead of abiding. Invite Jesus to make His home there.
- Act: Choose one "one another" practice this week—encouraging, forgiving, serving, or praying—and intentionally live it out as a sign of covenant love within the community.