The Invitation

THE INTIMACY OF THE INVITATION

At His last supper with His disciples, Jesus ascribed new meaning to the Passover elements. He consecrated the bread as a symbol of His body, about to be broken for the world. He consecrated the cup as a symbol of His blood of “the covenant” (Matt. 26:28, NIV; Mark 14:24, NIV)/the “new covenant” (Luke 22:20)/the “everlasting covenant” (Heb. 13:20), which ratified His covenant(s) with humanity.

After supper, He shared with them His “last words” (John 13:31–16:33). Among His other themes that night was His invitation. Their faithfulness to the covenant and their reception of all that it promises would depend on their response to His invitation; it remains the same today. The invitation: “Abide in Me, and [‘as,’ NIV; the Greek allows for either] I in you. . . . For without Me you can do nothing” (John 15:4, 5, NKJV).

The Greek root menō is variously translated “abide,” “dwell,” “remain,” “stay,” “continue.” Used 118 times in the New Testament, John uses it 55 times, often with theological meaning. Significantly, its most concentrated use, ten times in seven verses, occurs in John 15:4–10! Jesus was emphasizing something here!

With “the covenant,” which He was about to ratify with His blood, still fresh in His mind, He invites the disciples, and all subsequent believers, to “abide”/“dwell”/“live”/“remain” in Him. Not just to “abide with” but to “abide in” Him! That connotes an intimacy beyond human experience.

Welcome to the invitation . . . from Jesus . . . to you!
Write out John 15:1–17 from the translation of your choice. If you’re pressed for time, write out John 15:4–7. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map the chapter.
Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

Circle repeated words/ phrases/ideas

Underline words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

Draw Arrows to connect words/ phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse in John 15:1–17. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

Why do you think that bearing fruit is so important to God?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/cov13-3
What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

What practical steps should one take to "abide in" Jesus?
Review your memorized verse from John 15:1–17.

What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

John 17:20–23
Galatians 2:20
Galatians 5:19–25
Revelation 3:20, 21
1 John 5:14, 15
Isaiah 55:10, 11; 5:1–6
Matthew 23:37

What other verses/promises come to mind in connection with John 15:1–17?
Meditate on John 15:1–17 again and look for where Jesus is.

What specific areas could be improved in your “abiding” with Him?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus in this way?

Read more at
www.inversebible.org/cov13-6
Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this entire lesson’s study, what personal applications are you convicted of in your life?

What are practical promises you must apply in your school, family, workplace, and church?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/cov13-7
Share insights from this week’s memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

How intimate is your experience with God?

Why is this intimacy foreign to other so-called Christians?

What fruit have you seen in your walk with God?

How has your new-covenant experience been more vivified through this study of “Decoding the Covenants”?

How has this quarter reaffirmed your identity as a Seventh-day Adventist who believes in the entire Bible as a whole?

How has this quarter challenged you personally and spiritually?

Why do you think God has led you personally to the completion of this study on His covenants?