

**Sample**

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# **Abiding in Jesus**

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A Study for Youth on Trusting Jesus  
and Encouraging Others

*By Sally Michael*

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**Sample**

Dedicated to my father,  
Richard Fregeau,  
a living example of abiding in Jesus  
and living daily by grace.

# Abide in Me

*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. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>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.*

JOHN 15:4-6

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# Acknowledgements

***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.***

JOHN 15:5

The following people have been fruit bearers, not only because of the gifts they have employed in order to produce this curriculum, but also because of the grace of God they have shown in the fruit of their righteous character through this project.

***Glory to the True Vine!***

Bob Goebel—template design  
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Sarah Nelson—proofreading  
Gary Steward—theological editing  
Beth Stranz—formatting & proofreading  
Kristin Tabb—content editing

# Preface

## **Thus says the LORD:**

**“Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD.”**

JEREMIAH 9:23-24

## Definition of Abide:

to dwell, stay, settle in, sink deeper, remain, endure, continue, stand fast

How easy it is for us to get distracted by this world and put our faith in things that do not last. Jesus calls His children to turn from this world and live in day-by-day fellowship with Him—depending on Him for comfort, strength, grace, guidance, and provision. He calls us away from the cares of this world to deep, abiding trust in Him in all things.

For the believer, victory is found in the cross—not just at salvation but every day as the believer acknowledges his sin, repents, places his faith in the atoning work of Jesus, and pleads for grace—grace to forsake sin, to forgive others, to commit all things to Jesus, to live in daily dependence on Jesus. Oh, the wonderful cross!

*Oh the wonderful cross, oh the wonderful cross  
Bids me come and die and find that I may truly live.*

*Oh the wonderful cross, oh the wonderful cross  
All who gather here by grace draw near  
And bless Your name.*

Living before the cross daily and depending on Jesus brings forth the true fruit of obedience, righteous living, and genuine good works. Self-reliance is put to death before the cross, and the sweet fellowship of dependence on Jesus takes its place. Apart from Jesus we can do nothing (John 15:5).

**So let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows [the LORD]** (Jeremiah 9:24a). We will find Jesus to be all-satisfying and all-sufficient as we abide in Him

As we learn to commit all things to Jesus, learning to trust Him regardless of the circumstances we will, in turn, encourage our brothers and sisters to trust Him as well. True fellowship with Jesus overflows in fellowship with the covenant community of the family of God.

Believers can trust that Jesus will defend us in the Day of Judgment. He will accept us with open arms, and we will be clothed in His righteousness. Our sins will not be counted against us, and we will live forever in fellowship with Him in heaven. We will not be ashamed in the presence of the living God, but will live in everlasting fellowship with Him.

*Oh the wonderful cross, oh the wonderful cross  
Bids me come and die and find that I may truly live.*

*Oh the wonderful cross, oh the wonderful cross  
All who gather here by grace draw near  
And bless Your name.*

—Oh, the Wonderful Cross, copyright © 2000 worshiptogether.com songsSix Steps Music (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing)(Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing) Chris Tomlin / Isaac Watts / J. D. Walt / Jesse Reeves

# Day by Day

Karolina Wilhelmina Sandell-Berg, better known as Lina Sandell, was born to in Sweden in 1832 to a Lutheran pastor and his wife. When she was 26 years old, she and her father were crossing a lake by boat when the boat suddenly lunged forward, throwing her father overboard. He drowned before Lina's eyes.

Out of this tragedy was born a hymn-writer. God, in His remarkable providence, used Lina Sandell's hymns to influence revival in Scandinavia. One of the loved, well-known hymns she wrote from the spiritual depth she acquired through suffering was *Day by Day*.

*Day by day, and with each passing moment,  
Strength I find, to meet my trials here;  
Trusting in my Father's wise bestowment,  
I've no cause for worry or for fear.  
He whose heart is kind beyond all measure  
Gives unto each day what He deems best—  
Lovingly, its part of pain and pleasure,  
Mingling toil with peace and rest.*

*Every day, the Lord Himself is near me  
With a special mercy for each hour;  
All my cares He fain would bear, and cheer me,  
He Whose Name is Counselor and Power;  
The protection of His child and treasure  
Is a charge that on Himself He laid;  
"As thy days, thy strength shall be in measure,"  
This the pledge to me He made.*

*Help me then in every tribulation  
So to trust Thy promises, O Lord,  
That I lose not faith's sweet consolation  
Offered me within Thy holy Word.  
Help me, Lord, when toil and trouble meeting,  
E'er to take, as from a father's hand,  
One by one, the days, the moments fleeting,  
Till I reach the promised land.*

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# Sample

## Lessons

1. Ashamed in the Presence of God
2. Peace with God through Jesus
3. Daily Fellowship with Jesus
4. A New Identity in Christ: God's Treasured Possession
5. A New Identity in Christ: Heir
6. A New Identity in Christ: Member of the Covenant Community
7. A New Identity in Christ: Partaker of the Divine Nature
8. Living in Daily Dependence on Jesus
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10. Abiding and Obedience
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14. Trusting God's Heart for You
15. Trusting God's Word
16. Committing All Things to Jesus

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18. Trusting Jesus in Failure
19. Trusting Jesus in Discipline
20. Trusting Jesus for Grace
21. Trusting Jesus to Provide
22. Trusting Jesus for Guidance
23. Trusting Jesus in Success
24. Trusting Jesus for the Future
25. Waiting on God
26. Trusting God in the Silence
27. Comforting Others
28. Trusting Jesus in the Judgment

## Appendices

- I A Note to Parents
- II Visuals Not Provided on the Resource Packet CD
- II Songs for Worship

# Trusting Jesus for the Future

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## FOCUS STATEMENT:

**Remembering God's faithfulness in the past is a means of increasing our faith in God's future grace.**

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## KEY VERSE:

For all the promises of God find their yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory. 2 CORINTHIANS 1:20

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## MAIN IDEAS:

- > God has promised His future grace to His children.
- > Remembering God's faithfulness in the past is the solid foundation that informs our future hope.
- > The promises of God are purchased for the believer by the blood of Jesus.

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## SCRIPTURE:

- |                       |                      |                           |
|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1) 2 Corinthians 1:20 | 4) John 14:1-3       | 7) 1 Corinthians 15:50-58 |
| 2) Hebrewes 13:5-6    | 5) Philippians 1:6-7 |                           |
| 3) Psalm 27:13        | 6) Isaiah 46:9       |                           |

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## VISUALS:

- |                                            |                                                   |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| > Bible                                    | > Yes (Resource Packet CD)                        |
| > Chalkboard/chalk or whiteboard/marker    | > I Will Never Leave You (Resource Packet CD)     |
| > Tape/tacks                               | > Goodness of the Lord (Resource Packet CD)       |
| > Pitons <sup>1</sup> (Resource Packet CD) | > I Will Come Again (Resource Packet CD)          |
| > Rock Climber (Resource Packet CD)        | > God Will Complete His Work (Resource Packet CD) |
| > Future Grace (Resource Packet CD)        | > Summary (Resource Packet CD)                    |

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## PREPARATION:

Study the Scripture passages carefully and prayerfully. Ask God to make them real in your own heart. Be open to what God may be teaching you in this lesson. Study the lesson well. Pray for the students in your class.

If you will be using a media projector for the visuals, set up the equipment.

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<sup>1</sup>If you have a real piton, you may want to substitute it for the picture.

## Introduction

### Illustration



(Show the Pitons.) Ask if anyone knows what it is. Share the following information:

A piton (pronounced pee-ton) is a metal spike used in rock climbing. It is also called a pin or a peg. Using a hammer, a rock climber can drive a piton into a crack in the rock face and use the piton as an anchor. Before the use of wires, nuts, and dams, pitons were more popular.



(Show the Rock Climber.) *If you were in this position, you would be very grateful for the use of a piton or some other piece of rock climbing equipment. Though the danger is still present, there is a place of security to hang onto—something to keep you from plunging into the vast unknown.*

## Large Group Lesson

- There are lots of "unknowns" in life too—at least unknown to us. What will tomorrow look like? Will some one in my family die or get cancer? What will high school be like? Are we going to have another financial crash? What will future trials be like? What will I have to go through?
- The unknown future can make us feel anxious.
- But God has given us sure, solid pitons to hang on to.



*Today, we are going to talk about these pitons of rock solid security in the face of the future unknowns for the children of God. If there is one banner, or one label we could hang over these pitons, it would be Future Grace.<sup>2</sup> (Show Future Grace.)*

- Future grace is the grace that God has promised His children will be there for them in the future. It is based on the promises of God and the past proven faithfulness of God.
- It is expressed in the last two lines of the third stanza of the hymn *Amazing Grace*.

*Through many dangers, toils and snares,  
I have already come;*

(Ask the students to quote the last two lines.)

*'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.*

This piton of security states the solid truth of **past** experience: 'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far... and the sure hope of **future** experience: And grace will lead me home. Remembering God's faithfulness in the past, especially the death and resurrection of Jesus, is the solid foundation that informs our future hope.

- Pastor John Piper said his mother taught him to live his life "between the two lines of

<sup>2</sup>For a fuller explanation of future grace, see: John Piper. *Future Grace*, (Sisters: Multnomah Books, 1995).

*Amazing Grace.* The first line: "Tis grace has brought me safe thus far." The second line: "And grace will lead me home."<sup>3</sup>

- The goal of this lesson is to teach you to live your life between these two lines; between the solid truth of the past and the sure hope of the future—to strengthen your faith in God.



- Under the banner of Future Grace are five pitons we are going to look at today. (Show Pitons.)  
(Ask a student to read the following verse.)

*2 Corinthians 1:20—For all the promises of God find their yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.*

**Explain the meaning of this verse and the implications of this verse to the class.** [all the promise God has made in the Bible are confirmed in the death and resurrection of Jesus; all of God's promises are for His children and the evidence of His trustworthiness is found in the promised Savior who came and died for us]



(Show "Yes.") *All of God's promises are true for the believer. God says "yes" to them all. You can trust the sure foundation of the death and resurrection of Jesus as evidence that God is a promise-keeping God.*

(Ask a student to read the following verses.)

*Hebrews 13:5-6—Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." <sup>6</sup>So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?"*

**What false confidence is replaced with real confidence in this verse?** [the false confidence of money is replaced by the real assurance of God's presence with His people and the promise of His help]



(Show "I Will Never Leave You.") *No matter what situation looms for us in the future, God is already there! His presence goes with His people through all the storms and calms of life—and He has promised to help us in them all!*

(Ask a student to read the following verse.)

*Psalms 27:13—I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living!*



**What piton does this verse give us?** [God is good]

(Show "Goodness of the Lord.") *Are you concerned about what tomorrow may bring... or next year...or five years from now? If you are a child of God, He has promised good*

<sup>3</sup>John Piper. *Future Grace*, (Sisters: Multnomah Books, 1995), 6.

for you in the future—not just your future in heaven but your future here on earth. His plans are for "good and not for harm." Good does not mean trouble-free, but even the trouble will be for our good. No matter what happens, you can grab on the piton of the goodness of God and have confidence that all things will work for your good. And God's grace will be there in the future to get you through any difficulty you may have.

(Ask a student to read the following verse.)

*John 14:1-3—Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.*

**What piton does this verse give us?** [Jesus will return to bring His children home with Him]



(Show "I Will Come Again.") *Jesus is preparing a place for His children in heaven and He **will** come back to rescue His children from this world of sin. Hang on to that piton "though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea."*

In your small group you will discuss the fifth piton.

## Small Group Discussion

(Read the following verses and answer the questions.)

*Philippians 1:6-7—And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel.*

### QUESTIONS:

1. *Who initiates the work of salvation? Where do you see this in the passage?* [God—"He who began a good work"—any response to the gospel starts with God's call and heart transforming work]
2. *What words of Paul's show you the confidence he has in the truth of what he is saying?* [I am sure; it is right]
3. *What is the truth of what Paul is saying in verse 6?* [God began the good work of their salvation, and is continuing their sanctification until Jesus returns when He will complete their glorification; salvation for the true believer is sure—God will not desert them but will finish the work of grace He began in the believer's life]
4. *What does verse 6 say about the nature of God?* [He is faithful—He will not desert or abandon His people—His past grace assures His future grace]
5. *What is Paul's identification with the Philippian believers? Explain this.* [they are all "partakers of grace"—God's grace saved them; God's grace enabled Paul to withstand prison and for them to minister to him in prison through their encouragement, and in spreading the Gospel; God's grace enabled them to defend the Gospel]
6. *How do these verses show the past, present, and future grace of God?* [they show God's past grace of salvation, the present grace of sanctification and ministry, and the future grace]

## Large Group Lesson



(Show "God Will Complete His Work.")

- There are many more pitons of future grace. The whole Bible is full of them. The way we know they are true is to look at past grace.

(Ask a student to read the following verse.)

*Isaiah 46:9—remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me.*

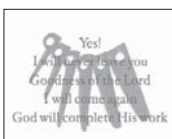
**Why does God tell us to remember the "former things"?** [because looking at past grace gives us the faith for future grace]

- God is God and there is no other god. The same God who gave grace in the past will give grace in the future. We don't need to worry about the future, because God will be there for His people.
- This is why the psalmist can say in Psalm 112:7 about the righteous, *He is not afraid of bad news; his heart is firm, trusting in the LORD.*
- God's grace is past, present, and future.

*What do we do while we await the future, not with anxiety, but trusting in Jesus, and holding on to the faith of future grace? We live each moment satisfied in Jesus, and furthering His kingdom here on earth. Listen to these glorious words of the future for the Christian and these confident words of challenge to us today.*

(Ask a student to read the following verses with excitement and conviction.)

*1 Corinthians 15:50-58—I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. <sup>51</sup>Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, <sup>52</sup>in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. <sup>53</sup>For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. <sup>54</sup>When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." <sup>55</sup>"O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. <sup>56</sup>The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup>But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>58</sup>Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.*



(Share or have someone else share a testimony of hanging on to one of these pitons, or another promise or past work of God to trust God for the future. Show Summary visual.)

(End the lesson with prayer.)

## Small Group Application

*What things cause you anxiety? How can faith in future grace help you?*

*Is there a situation in your life right now that is causing you anxiety? What are your worst fears about the situation? What promises can you hold on to?*

*What are some past mercies of God in your life?*

*How are you investing yourself in kingdom work while you await the return of Jesus?*

*What assurances are there for those who are not in Christ?* (Students should understand that the only assurance for those who are not in Christ is the promise of condemnation. The good promises of God are not extended to unbelievers. The grace that an unbeliever receives is common grace alone. For example, rain, as in Matthew 5:45.)

**Small group leader:** Tell the group about something that happened a long time ago and explain how it worked out for your good.

## Fellowship Time

(Encourage students to pick up some refreshments as they split into their pairs/triplets.)

**Note to Small Group Leaders:** You may want to send your small group a note this week with the following quote from Hudson Taylor:

*All God's giants have been weak men, who did great things for God because they reckoned on His being with them... Want of trust is at the root of almost all our sins and all our weaknesses, and how shall we escape it but by looking to Him and observing His faithfulness. The man who holds God's faithfulness will not be foolhardy or reckless, but he will be ready for every emergency.*

—Hudson Taylor

**Sample**



**Sample**



Sample

Future

Grace

# Yes!

Sample



For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. — 2 Corinthians 1:20

# I will never leave you

Sample



...he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”  
So we can confidently say, “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear;  
what can man do to me?” — Hebrews 13:5b-6

# Goodness of the Lord

Sample



I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD  
in the land of the living! — Psalm 27:13

# I will come again

Sample



And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again  
and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. —John 14:3

# God will complete His work



Sample

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. — Philippians 1:6



Yes!

I will never leave you  
Goodness of the Lord

Sample

I will come again

God will complete His work