



September 4, 2020

Dear Friends,

You can imagine how nice it was to have some time together in person with the team leaders. I met in person with 1 group Monday and another group on Tuesday. Sadly, some were under travel restrictions and so we met on a video call instead.

We spent time looking at Joshua 1:1-9 and then John 15:1-11, especially focusing on abiding. Abiding in Jesus has been a discussion for us in the past because it is so important. Jesus says that we need to abide in Him and Him in us "for apart from Him we can do nothing". **I don't want my life, my work to produce nothing! I want to bear fruit.** What helps me, us, you abide? We discussed that at length.

An interesting benefit of this discussion that I had not foreseen, was how reassuring this discussion was. We are facing incredible challenges and limitations. We have to find all new ways of doing things. So much is beyond our control. **But we do know how to abide in Jesus. We know how to live in dependence upon Him and in His power. This is familiar ground.** And God is not thrown off by Covid and all of the fallout from it. **He is still building His kingdom.** He is still drawing people to Himself; He is still calling believers in their discipleship to follow Christ. What hope that gives us as we take steps forward!

Another fun part of our in person time was taking a hike in the state park. In the picture above you see us by the Merrimack River. It was so good and important to have a chance to walk and talk together. You can understand how important it is to be able to talk to others that are going after the same things you are.

Another day that week we had a video call altogether that was much more focused on strategies and the like. One great feature of Zoom is the breakout rooms. So we were able to have the benefit of being together and yet also in small groups.

Please pray:

- For me and the leaders that we will abide in Christ. (Sang, Scott, John, Alyssa, Cole, Matt, Andrew, Ben, Sharon, Malisa, Todd, Jeremiah, Meagan, Sarah, Pat, Tammy, Shelley, Tim, Bob, Stephanie, Keith)
- That I will love and lead them well.

Thank you!

Thank you for your partnership with me in this great work. May God bear fruit through us for His glory.

Abiding,



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