

JULY DAILY SCRIPTURE WRITING PLAN

Abiding: Prompts for thought

BY HEATHER BANKS

1. **Isaiah 32:14-20**- Isaiah was a great prophet. He spoke hard truths, and this is one of them. As we head into a month of abiding, we need to remember that abiding isn't the first step in any situation. Abiding only comes after the plowing, planting and initial growth. This verse is a powerhouse for your war room. Remember, abiding and complacency are not the same.

2. **John 8:31-38**- Jesus speaks here of being a slave to sin. This is a good reminder for us to watch where we abide. Sin becomes comfortable, and it is easy to remain in the "little" sins. Take this verse as a reminder that there is freedom outside of sin! Abiding in Christ is much more peaceful than abiding in sin.

3. **Psalm 91:1-16**- Part of this passage may feel familiar, but not in this context. Satan actually quotes part of this Psalm to Jesus while he was tempting Him in the desert. Satan omitted part of these verses in an attempt to manipulate Jesus and appeal to His ego. However, Jesus knew all of the Scripture and was able to resist the temptation. So let's take a cue from Him and hide these words in our hearts.

4. **John 8:21-36**- This passage is packed with revelation and power! Abiding in Christ means that we are free from the condemnation of sin. We have to allow God to set us free from sin! So as you write this, pray for His power in resisting sin, so that you can experience His freedom.

5. **1 Peter 1:13-25**- This passage refreshes my soul in such a unique way. I love the reassurance that is here for us. Abiding is sometimes hard for us, because we live in such an instant gratification society. Abiding is long term. But here, we get the assurance that we were ransomed with the non-perishable blood of Jesus Christ. So take a moment and let that wash over you!

6. **1 John 3:1-10**- This passage is a piercing reminder. Verse 6 serves to warn us about recurring sin. Often times we want to be in Christ, but cling to our favorite sins. But when we strive to abide in Christ in all areas we have to face those sins head on and live in God's freedom instead of sin's slavery.

7. **Romans 8:1-11**- The great 8! That is the nickname of this chapter. It is packed full of so much. Today, for us this is another reminder of our identity in Christ. We are literally new creations that are made to be indwelt by the Holy Spirit! So embrace that when you write these words. The Spirit is life!



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8. **Philippians 1:15-26**- Sometimes the rhetoric in this passage can be overwhelming. But just take a minute and marinate on it. What sticks out to me is the desire to be in heaven, but the realization that the work left on earth is still very important. So I think this passage presents us with a very important caveat: Not to be so “heavenly” minded that we are of no “earthly” good. In other words, if your faith is only for you, then you might need a self-check. So think about it. When was the last time you used your abiding for someone else? Has the Spirit prompted you to something and you are ignoring it?

9. **1 John 2:12-17**- Doing the will of God. That is tough sometimes. Discerning His will can be nerve wracking. But when we are deep in abiding, then our spirit is certain of what He is prompting us to do. God is the beginning and the end, and we can live forever in His will.

10. **Psalms 1:1-6**- Christ tells us that He is living water, and I love the picture of that in this Psalm. That planted tree is abiding in the water. The water refreshes that tree, it makes that tree grow. So take a minute and let the living water refresh your soul.

11. **Exodus 16:1-12**- The Israelites were complaining again. And yet again they were choosing not to trust in the Lord's provision, but in the slavery they knew in Egypt. God heard their grumbling and offered them assurance. Meat in the evenings and bread in the morning. But there was one catch ... you only got as much as you needed for that day. Abiding is like that, we aren't just sitting in God's will like a conveyor belt, seeing the next provision coming. We are trusting in Him each day, believing that He will bring about exactly what we need, when we need it.

12. **Acts 7:44-53**- This is a great reminder for us. That God is everywhere. We can not contain Him in our tiny bodies or our church buildings. The WHOLE earth can not contain His glory. When we think about abiding, it isn't just in our minds, we abide in His creation!! So enjoy it. If you have a photo of creation that you just love, drop it in the comments in the Middle Places community!

13. **Genesis 8:15-22**- Sometimes we forget that the world abides in God's promise. This is the covenant that God made with Noah after the flood. SO take a moment and reflect on that, find a rainbow somewhere today!

14. **John 15: 1-8**- I know you have been waiting on it. The vine and the branches is the Abiding anthem of the Bible! Jesus is reinforcing His teaching to the disciples about staying in God. I love the parables, they are often defined as an earthly story with a heavenly meaning, and that is so true here. We won't fully understand that heavenly meaning until we are in glory, but the taste of it here on earth is so sweet.

15. **Galatians 2:11-21**- When we abide in community conflict will always arise. Because if we hang out with imperfect people, we will encounter imperfect situations. Here in Galatians there was an imperfect situation with believers being hypocritical and wanting to excommunicate Peter. Does that sound familiar to you? I love that the Bible is full of examples on how to handle every type of situation.

16. **Daniel 1:8-17**- If ever there was a man that was determined to abide, it was Daniel. Ripped from his homeland as a slave, then promoted to the King's house because of his brains and good looks, it would have been easy for him to abandon God's teachings about food and personal purity. But Daniel stuck with God's laws and in the end was shown to have made the better choice! What a beautiful story of abiding.



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17. **Psalm 3:1-8**- This was a song of David, when he was running from his own son. Family relationships can go south even in the best of families. Here, David calls on God to sustain him. That is the essence of abiding, day-to-day sustaining,

18. **1 John 4:12-19**- Love! It is a theme all through John's writings. I especially am blown away by verse 12. It is a good reminder that loving each other is a part of showing God's abiding presence in your life. It can be SO difficult, but showing love is always worth the effort.

19. **Ephesians 3:8-21**- In my Bible verses 14-21 are titled, "Prayer for Spiritual Strength". Isn't that beautiful? We can pray not only for physical needs, but for our own spirit to be renewed. Often times we think of abiding as a static state of just being still in God. But if we approach each day as new, then we are in living water, not a stagnant pool.

20. **Jude 1:17-25**- A one chapter book, Jude is often just the mark that you haven't flipped to Revelation yet. BUt this one chapter packs quite a punch. THIS is a warning about false teachers. Jude ends his letter reminding people to stay in Christ so that they can discern a false teacher.

21. **Colossians 3:1-11**- Let the peace of Christ rule in your heart. LOVE, LOVE, LOVE!! We all struggle with anxiety at some time or another. THIS is a favorite verse of mine. Preceding those words we are reminded that love binds all things together. So instead of writhing alone in uncertainty, lets bind together with other Christians and support each other. Help someone find their peace, it might help you find yours too.

22. **2 Corinthians 5:12-21** A new creation!! That is my favorite excuse to shop you know! I am a new creation, so I should wear a new creation. ;) All kidding aside, this is a powerful passage that we are reading today. Where the love of Christ controls us, that phrase caught me. Because, that is THE goal. To be so deep in Christ that His love controls our words and actions. So write slowly today, let it sink in, abiding in Him, being under His control. It sounds scary, but when you finally let go, the rest and peace in Him is SO perfect.

23. **John 14:15-24**- Abiding is only possible for us because of the Holy Spirit. We are sinful beings and without the indwelling forgiveness of the Spirit we cannot be in God's will. I love that Jesus taught about what would happen after his death and resurrection. He prepared the disciples and us for what was coming. I love the phrase, "come and make our home with ..." that just gives me chills that God, would come down and make His home in my spirit.

24. **Psalm 24:1-10**- Often the forgotten passage after the 23rd Psalm, this is a good reminder of God's abiding creation. He put us in a glorious earth, to see his beauty. We abide amongst creation, yet often overlook it. So enjoy your abiding today and make note of the beauty around you.

25. **Judges 2:11-19**- I honestly get really frustrated with the Israelites. They were constantly seeing GOd's power and faithfulness in very tangible ways, yet turning away from Him the next day. Then I realize that I am just like those "stiff-necked" people. I am chief among sinners. This is a story about Israel's unfaithfulness and God allowing them to feel the consequences of their own actions. They chose not to abide in His laws and protections and found life away from the Lord is treacherous. But God always raise up a judge to lead them back to Him. God always has a way for us to return to Him. Sometimes it is difficult to leave the sin pit you are in. But God will lift you up, if you ask, then follow His commands.



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26. **Daniel 6:10-17**- Daniel again. This man faced so much, yet remained faithful. Here Daniel is faced with knowing that his faith is now officially illegal. But even in the face of that, he takes the time to go and be with God. He did this EVERY day. Daniel was in a foreign and hostile land, but he remained in God, and God remained faithful to him.

27. **1 Samuel 16:14-23**- This story comes right after David is anointed King, but Saul is still reigning. Saul had essentially spit in the face of God, and the Lord had told him that he was no longer to be king. So Saul was in a very tormented state. The only thing that soothed him was David's playing. Have you ever had a song bring you back to a time of peace? I think that music speaks to our spirit like nothing else can.

28. **Job 28:12-28**- Job was a man that was determined to abide. This man stood by God and declared his innocence despite all speaking against him. Job didn't understand his trials, but he remained faithful to God through it all. That is a huge encouragement to us. Even if we don't understand our trial, stay with God, He is our protection.

29. **Revelation 3:14-21**- Here we have the letter to the church of Laodicea. This passage absolutely wrecks me every time I read it. Being lukewarm. Oh how easy that is to be. It requires no effort from us, as we just keep plugging along in our routine to keep us from being "cold," but nothing deep or powerful enough to make us HOT for God. So let this warning resonate in your spirit.

30. **Ecclesiastes 4:9-16**- So often I have come across fellow believers that tell me there is no value in church to them. Every time I hear that, I am heartbroken for them. I have found such strength in corporate worship and especially in corporate prayer. This a good reminder to abide in Christ with others. Find your tribe, do life with them, lift each other up!

31. **Psalms 61:1-8**- Abiding is a protection for us. It is what we cling to in the times of searching. So keep this Psalm as a reminder of the protection we have in Christ.



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