

## 1 John 2:20-28

**20** But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and all of you have knowledge. **21** I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and you know that no lie comes from the truth. **22** Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son. **23** No one who denies the Son has the Father; everyone who confesses the Son has the Father also. **24** Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you will abide in the Son and in the Father. **25** And this is what he has promised us, eternal life. **26** I write these things to you concerning those who would deceive you. **27** As for you, the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and so you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, abide in him. **28** And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he is revealed we may have confidence and not be put to shame before him at his coming.

### REFLECT & DISCUSS

#### Context

Again in 1 John 2 we find a very similar parallel to the Gospel of John 15. In John 15:4 Jesus says, "Abide in me as I abide in you..." We see the same word used here in 1 John 2 where the writer says in verse 24, "Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you."

This community is facing false teachers who are denying the humanity of Christ. This

teaching is confusing the community and the writer encourages them in this letter to remember and to *abide* in the message they have known from the beginning. This message that the Gospel message of love has indeed come in human flesh through Jesus Christ. They are to abide in that message in order to share that love with others.

#### Big Ideas

- Let love in. Be vulnerable enough to let the love of Christ dwell and abide in you, so that you can abide in God's promises.
- Let love work. Allow the love of Christ to abide deeply within you so that it can transform your heart and the way you love others.
- Let love out. After allowing the transforming love of Christ into your heart and allowing it to work within you; proclaim that transforming to love to those who need it.

#### Reflect

1. Read the scripture passage carefully and slowly. What word or image stands out to you? Why?
2. What does it mean to you to abide in Christ? What does this look like?
3. How can you be more vulnerable and open to letting Christ's love in?
4. Where are areas in your life that this love needs to work?
5. Where have you seen this transforming love in your own life?