

Community Group Discussion Guide: John 14:15–31

Summary of the Passage

The conversation continues in the upper room, with the cross now only hours away. Jesus has been preparing His disciples, not just for His departure, but for how they will live in His absence. He begins with a simple statement: “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.” Love for Jesus is not abstract; it takes shape in a life that listens and responds to Him. Then He makes a remarkable promise. He tells them that the Father will send “another Helper,” one who will be with them forever. This Helper, the Spirit of truth, will not merely stand alongside them but will dwell with them and in them. What once was found only in the person of Jesus will now be multiplied in His people. They will not be left alone.

Jesus presses this even further: “I will not leave you as orphans.” He is going away, but not in a way that abandons them. Through the Spirit, His presence will remain. They will know Him, experience Him, and be united to Him.

There is a deep Trinitarian beauty here; the Father sends, the Son secures, and the Spirit applies. The life of God is not distant from His people; it is shared with them. As the passage unfolds, Jesus describes the ongoing work of the Spirit. He will teach, remind, and anchor the disciples in what is true. In a world that will soon feel unstable and hostile, they will not be left to figure things out on their own. And then comes the gift: “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.” Not a fragile peace tied to circumstances, but a steady peace grounded in Christ’s finished work.

Jesus closes by reminding them that everything unfolding, even His departure, is under the Father’s sovereign plan. What feels like loss is actually the pathway to something greater: God dwelling in His people.

Theological Highlights

- God dwells with and in His people
Through the Holy Spirit, believers are not merely followers of Christ; they are indwelt by God Himself.
- **Love and obedience are connected**
Obedience is not a way to earn God’s love, but the fruit of already being loved by Him.

- The Spirit applies what Christ accomplished
Salvation is secured by Jesus and brought to life in us through the Spirit's ongoing work.
- We are not spiritual orphans
The Spirit assures us that we belong to the Father, even in seasons of doubt or struggle.
- Peace is rooted in Christ, not circumstances
The peace Jesus gives is deeper than changing situations—it is grounded in His presence and promises.

Discussion Questions

Living with the Awareness of God's Presence

1. Jesus promises that the Holy Spirit will dwell in His people.
 - How often do you consciously live with an awareness that God is present within you?
 - How might your daily life look different if you truly believed this moment by moment?
2. Think about how you prepare your home when guests are coming.
 - In what ways does that illustrate how differently we might live if we were more aware of God's presence?

Love That Leads to Obedience

3. Jesus connects love for Him with obedience.
 - How do you tend to think about obedience: as duty, burden, or response to love?
 - Where is God currently inviting you to respond to Him in obedience?

The Ongoing Work of the Spirit

4. The Spirit continues the work that Christ began in us (Philippians 1:6).
 - Where have you seen evidence of God's ongoing work of transformation in your life?
5. Where do you feel stuck or discouraged in your spiritual growth?
 - How might trusting the Spirit's work change your perspective?

Assurance in the Midst of Struggle

6. Jesus says we are not left as orphans.
 - When life is difficult, are you more prone to feel like a child of God or like you're on your own?

7. The Spirit testifies to us that we belong to the Father.
 - What are the “voices” you tend to listen to when life is hard (fear, shame, doubt)?
 - What might it practically look like to listen to the Spirit’s assurance?

Receiving the Peace of Christ

8. Jesus offers a peace that is different from what the world gives.
 - Where are you currently seeking peace in things that cannot ultimately provide it?
9. What does it look like to receive and rest in the peace that Jesus has already given?

Closing Prayer Points

1. Awareness of God’s Presence

- Thank God that He dwells within His people through the Holy Spirit.
- Ask for a greater awareness of His presence in everyday life.
- Pray for lives that reflect reverence, attentiveness, and joy in Him.

2. Love-Oriented Obedience

- Thank Jesus for loving you first.
- Ask for a heart that responds to Him with joyful obedience.
- Pray for strength to follow Him in specific areas where He is calling you.

3. Trusting the Spirit’s Work

- Thank God that He is continuing the work He began in you.
- Bring areas of discouragement or disappointment before Him.
- Ask for trust in His timing and faithfulness in your growth.

4. Assurance of Belonging

- Thank God that you are not an orphan but a beloved child.
- Confess moments where you have doubted His love.
- Ask the Spirit to deepen your assurance of the Father’s care and presence.

5. Receiving the Peace of Christ

- Bring your anxieties and burdens before the Lord.
- Ask for the peace that Jesus promises, not dependent on circumstances.
- Pray for steady hearts that rest in Him.

6. Living as Spirit-Filled People

- Ask God to shape your daily life in light of His presence within you.
- Pray for sensitivity to the Spirit's leading.
- Ask for your life to increasingly reflect Christ to those around you.

Closing Reflection

Jesus does not send His disciples out empty-handed.

He gives them His Spirit.

He gives them His peace.

He gives them His presence.

We are not left to figure out the Christian life on our own.

God Himself dwells within us—guiding, assuring, and transforming us every step of the way.