

I N

T H E

U P P E R

R O O M



CONTENTS

WEEK 1 // JESUS WASHES THE DISCIPLES' FEET	4
OCTOBER 6, 2019 // JOHN 13:1-20	
 WEEK 2 // A NEW COMMANDMENT	 8
OCTOBER 13, 2019 // JOHN 13:21-38	
 WEEK 3 // I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE	 12
OCTOBER 20, 2019 // JOHN 14:1-14	
 WEEK 4 // JESUS PROMISES THE HOLY SPIRIT	 16
OCTOBER 27, 2019 // JOHN 14:15-31	
 WEEK 5 // I AM THE VINE	 20
NOVEMBER 3, 2019 // JOHN 15:1-17	
 WEEK 6 // THE HATRED OF THE WORLD	 24
NOVEMBER 10, 2019 // JOHN 15:18-16:4	
 WEEK 7 // THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT	 28
NOVEMBER 17, 2019 // JOHN 16:5-15	
 WEEK 8 // I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD	 32
NOVEMBER 24, 2019 // JOHN 16:16-33	

JESUS WASHES THE DISCIPLES' FEET

John 13:1-20

For the Week of October 6, 2019

STARTUP //////////////////////////////////////

Have you ever seen someone in power or authority do something unexpected, specifically helping or serving others? Share in your community group.

How does our culture today view being a servant or serving others? Is the view today the same or has it changed in the last few years? Why?

PASSOVER - THE CONNECTION //////////////////////////////////////

Read Exodus 12:1-27 to learn why the Passover was celebrated.

Now read Matthew 26:17-29 which describes the Last Supper. What parallels do you see with Jesus' death? In what ways was Jesus the ultimate Passover Lamb (see also 1 Corinthians 5:7)?

MEANING OF THE PASSOVER



Passover reminds us of redemption from sin. It was the time Jesus Christ was offered as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. It is on that basis alone that God can justify the ungodly sinner. Exodus 12 reveals that the blood of a lamb sprinkled on the doorpost of a Jewish home caused the Spirit of the Lord to pass over those homes during the last plague on Egypt. As such, those covered by the blood of the Lamb will escape the spiritual death and judgment God will visit upon all who reject Him. Of the seven Jewish festivals, Passover

is of the greatest importance because the Lord's Supper was a Passover meal. In passing the elements and telling the disciples to eat of His body, Jesus was presenting Himself as the ultimate Passover Lamb.



INVESTIGATE //////////////////////////////////////

Read John 13:1-20

- Verse 1 What is it that is moving Jesus both to go to the cross and to wash his disciples' feet?
- Verses 3-5 Look at the way John describes this moment in verses 3-5. What is so shocking about what Jesus does?
- Verses 6-8 Why does Peter object to having his feet washed? What has he misunderstood about Jesus?
- Verses 8-9 What is it that makes him change his mind? What has he rightly understood about Jesus?
- Verses 10-11 In what ways is this foot washing a picture of the love Christ will show on the cross? How did this show Jesus' humility?
- Verses 12-15 List some things you have done for others at church, home or work. How can you tell whether your actions are genuine acts of service?

Verses 16-17 What two motivations does Jesus give for us to serve others in this way?
How does this impact you to be increasingly servant-hearted?

Verse 19 Why does Jesus tell his disciples that he is going to be betrayed?

HUMILITY HIGHLIGHTED

"Do not imagine that if you meet a really humble man he will be what most people call 'humble' nowadays: he will not be a sort of greasy, smarmy person, who is always telling you that, of course, he is nobody. Probably all you will think about him is that he seemed a cheerful, intelligent chap who took a real interest in what you said to him. If you do dislike him it will be because you feel a little envious of anyone who seems to enjoy life so easily. He will not be thinking about humility: he will not be thinking about himself at all. If anyone would like to acquire humility, I can, I think, tell him the first step. The first step is to realize that one is proud. And a biggish step, too. At least, nothing whatever can be done before it. If you think you are not conceited, it means you are very conceited indeed."

C.S. Lewis

Humility can be defined as the absence of pride. We cannot become more humble by focusing on humility, as it becomes a source of pride when we believe we have achieved it. C.S. Lewis describes humility (see above quote) not as thinking less of ourselves, but as thinking of ourselves less.

Humility increases when we are willing to be humbled by God, circumstances and others. How is humility achieved in the following ways? Give examples.

- We are humbled when we challenge our motives for the things we do.
For example, we may see that our actions are geared to receive favorable opinion from others.
- We are humbled when we make the majority of our choices based on pleasing people.
- We are humbled when we evaluate our response when we are slighted, overlooked, or underappreciated.

TRUE HUMILITY //////////////////////////////////////

How does true humility produce godliness, contentment and security?

A FINAL THOUGHT: THE SIGNIFICANCE OF JESUS' FOOT WASHING //////////////////////////////////////

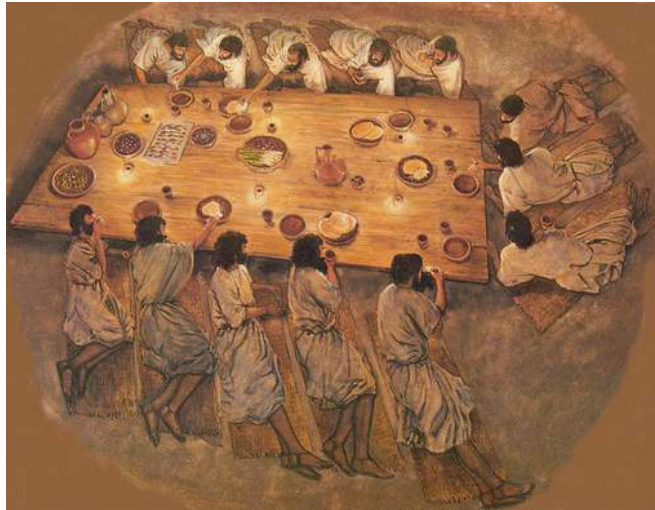
Jesus washing the feet of the disciples has significance in three ways:

1. For Jesus, it was the display of His humility and His servanthood.
2. For the disciples, the washing of their feet was in direct contrast to their heart attitudes at that time (read Luke 22:24).
3. For us, washing feet is symbolic of our role in the body of Christ.

GETTING PERSONAL //////////////////////////////////////

Jesus laid down His power for the sake of His disciples. Think about your "power" in the various spheres of your life. What would it look like for you to lay that power down in loving service of others this week?

A NEW COMMANDMENT
John 13:21-38
For the Week of October 13, 2019



<https://www.preceptaustin.org/luke-22-commentary>

Although people sat for everyday meals, reclining at the table was reserved for special occasions. For the Passover dinner, the men reclined on large floor pillows or backless couches. They leaned on their left elbows, eating with one hand. The seats of honor were on either side of the host. Since John was sitting to the right of Jesus, he could lean his head back against Jesus' chest.

STARTUP //////////////////////////////////////

Have you ever been completely “blindsided” by the bad actions of a person whom you thought to be incapable of doing the things they did? Why were you so surprised? What did this tell you about people in general and yourself?

TROUBLED //////////////////////////////////////

Read John 13:21-22

The verses describe Jesus' inner state as “troubled.” It is the same Greek word used in the following verses (go ahead and look up): John 11:3; 12:27; 14:1, 27. It means “agitated” by deep distress or sometimes anger.

What does this say about Jesus' relationship with Judas?

How did the Lord help you when you were distressed as Jesus was about another person in your life? Has the Lord ever used you to help others who are distressed? Share in your group.

BLINDSIDED //////////////////////////////////////

Read John 13:23-30

How could the disciples be completely blindsided by Judas' betrayal, especially after "rubbing shoulders" and living life together with Judas for over three years? Why was Jesus not blindsided?

WHY DID JUDAS DO IT? //////////////////////////////////////

There are many explanations for Judas' betrayal of his Lord. At a human level, it was partly done out of greed (see John 12:6). But there was a more profound reason: the devil (see 13:2, 27).

Read 1 Peter 5:8-11

What does Peter warn Christians about?

Do Christians (including you) give much thought about the actions of the devil? Why or why not?

What does Peter tell us to do? How can we be "watchful" when our lives are so busy? Likewise, how do you specifically "resist" the devil? List the ways and share in your group.

A HARDENED HEART //////////////////////////////////////

One of the great tragedies in John 13 is that Judas could have repented. But now it is too late. There can come a moment when you so harden your heart to the truth of God that the course of your life is set. Have you seen this occur? Share in your group.

BREAD FOR THE BETRAYER



The bread Jesus gave Judas was matzah, flat bread baked without yeast that is used in the Passover meal. Most of the food on the table represented something associated with the time the Israelites were slaves in Egypt and God delivering them. The matzah represents the bread the Israelites didn't have time to let rise when they escaped. Jesus dipped it in bitter herbs – horseradish, which reminded the men of the misery of being slaves as well as charoset, a mixture of apples, wine, and nuts that represented the bricks the Israelites had to make.

A NEW COMMANDMENT //////////////////////////////////////

Read John 13:31-38

Let's dissect this passage.

What is the command?

Why is it new?

Why should we follow it?

What does it look like to love like Jesus?

How can we possibly love like that?

What difference would it make if we did?

What difference would it make if we didn't?

NEW KIND OF LOVE //////////////////////////////////////

The Greek word *agape* is rarely found outside the Bible. The Greeks celebrated *eros*, which is an impulsive love between men and women. There is also *philia*, an affection of deep friendship. The human authors of the New Testament needed a Greek word to express the kind of love taught by Christ and commanded by Him in the Upper Room, but the most common Greek terms wouldn't suffice. Based on John's rendering of Christ's teaching, the Lord said, "By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have *agape* for one another" (John 13:35).

Authentic Love

Agape love has three distinct qualities that set it apart as distinctly heaven-made. Discuss each quality in your group.

Authentic love is unconditional in its expression.

Authentic love is unselfish in its motive.

Authentic love is unlimited in its benefits.

PRAY FOR THIS //////////////////////////////////////

Do you love other Christians as Jesus has loved you? Spend a moment praying for those people who are difficult to love as Jesus does. Pray that God would help you to love them and give you an opportunity to love them in practical deeds of care and service. Pray that, as a church, we at RiverLakes would also be those who use the Lord's power to serve and to love one another.

I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE
John 14:1-14
For the Week of October 20, 2019

A BETTER PLACE AHEAD //////////////////////////////////////

Read John 14:1-3

Why were the disciples "troubled" or worried (read John 13:33, 36)? Was their worry valid? Why or why not?

What was the Lord's response? What was promised to the disciples? What hope does this promise give (read 2 Corinthians 5:1-5)?

A safe statement to make is that we all worry to some degree. Why do we worry? Is worry an indication of lack of faith? Why or why not? Read Philippians 4:6. What did the apostle Paul say is the key to combat worry?

ONE WAY ONLY

"Jesus said, 'I am the way.' He is not just a person who shows the way, but He, personally, is the way. No church or ceremony can bring you to God. Only Christ can bring you to God. He is the way. Either you have Christ or you don't have Him; either you trust Him or you don't. Also, Jesus said that He is the truth. He isn't saying that He tells the truth, although He does do that. He is the truth! And He is the life. He isn't simply stating that He is alive. He is the source, the origin of all life."

J. Vernon McGee
Author and host of "Thru the Bible"

Read John 14:4-11

I AM //////////////////////////////////////

In the Greek language, "I am" is an intense way of referring to oneself. It would be like saying, "I myself, and only I, am." This is the sixth of seven "I am" statements in the book of John. It is another claim to deity. Read John 18:4-6 on the power of these words. These words reflect the very name of God in Hebrew, *Yahweh*, which means "to be" or "the self-existing one." It is a name of power and authority yet Jesus also personifies love. Are these attributes at odds with each other? Why or why not?

THE WAY //////////////////////////////////////

Jesus didn't say, "I know the way to heaven and I can point you to it." Rather, He says, "I am the way." If you were discussing this verse with a seeker, and they asked you what is meant by "the way," how would you respond (see Acts 4:12)?

THE TRUTH //////////////////////////////////////

Jesus didn't say, "I can teach you the truth." He said, "I am the truth." Jesus equates Himself with the Law of God as the authoritative standard and that He came to fulfill the Law and the prophets. Read Psalm 119:142, Matthew 5:17 and John 1:1. How do these verses support this claim?

THE LIFE //////////////////////////////////////

Jesus didn't say, "I can tell you how to have life," but rather, "I am the life." Read John 5:21, 26; 17:3. How do these verses support this claim?

The three statements in verse 6: the way, the truth, and life imply the exclusivity of Christ's claims. But His final statement clinches it when Jesus states "...no one comes to the Father but through me." In today's culture, people don't have a problem if you say that Jesus is a way to God or that you personally believe in Him, as long as you don't say that all others beliefs are false. If you claim Jesus is the exclusive way to God, then you will most likely be labeled intolerant and arrogant or worse. How would you respond to someone of another belief or no belief at all that feels this way?

A LOGICAL POINT //////////////////////////////////////

Discuss the following statement from theologian R.C. Sproul in your group:

"The notion that all religions are valid is logically impossible because, if all religions are valid, then Christianity is valid. But Jesus said that He is the only way to God, which eliminates all other ways. So either He was right or He was wrong. If He is wrong, then Christianity has no validity at all. If He is right, then there is no other way."

EVEN GREATER THINGS //////////////////////////////////////

Read John 14:12

What does it mean to do "even greater things" than Jesus' miracles? This has perplexed many. But the key to understand this is the phrase that comes at the end of the sentence which says, "...because I am going to the Father." Jesus has previously promised the gift of the Holy Spirit because He will be going to the Father (see John 16:7). So "greater things" will occur with the Holy Spirit. How does the Holy Spirit help us to do "greater things" (hint...evangelize!)? Describe in your group one example of how the Holy Spirit helped you in spreading the Good News.

PRAYING IN JESUS' NAME //////////////////////////////////////

Read John 14:13-14

What does it mean to pray in Jesus' name? Does it result always in God granting what is asked for? Why or why not?

Read 1 John 5:13-15

What condition is attached to this promise? What other condition did he give in 1 John 3:22?

To ask God according to His will means that we should ask according to what the Bible teaches about God's will for His people (sometimes called God's "revealed will"). If Christians are praying in accordance with what pleases God as found in the teaching of Scripture, they are praying according to His will (see Matthew 6:10).

Praying according to God's will include the need to:

Pray in faith (Matthew 21:22; James 1:6)

Pray with patience (Luke 18:1-8)

Pray in obedience (1 Peter 3:12)

Pray in submission to God's greater wisdom (Romans 8:28)

After reading these passages, does this impact how you currently pray and specifically, your prayer requests? How?

JESUS PROMISES THE HOLY SPIRIT
John 14:15-31
For the Week of October 27, 2019

INVESTIGATE //////////////////////////////////////

Read John 14:15-31

What do the following verses tell us about the Holy Spirit?

Verse 16

Verse 17

Verse 18

Verse 26

MORE ON THE HOLY SPIRIT //////////////////////////////////////

The Holy Spirit can be described as a "Helper," and "Advocate," and an "Intercessor." Give an example of how the Holy Spirit helped you, or was an advocate for you, or interceded for you. Share in your group.

Read the following from pastor and author Dr. Josh Moody about the Holy Spirit:

"God's Spirit leads us into truth and is the truth. To have the Spirit is to have the Spirit of truth; and where the Spirit is at work, Christians desire to learn more of the truth. Jesus adds that the Spirit cannot be physically seen, so it will be normal for people who are not Christians ("the world") to reject the notion of the work of the Spirit. But if we believe in and follow Jesus, then we will have the Spirit in us, and we will know his work and know him ourselves."

How does God's Spirit lead us into truth?

LOVE AND OBEDIENCE //////////////////////////////////////

What link does Jesus draw between love and obedience (14:5, 21, 23-24)?

How does Jesus model perfect loving obedience to His Father (14:30-31)?

"LET NOT YOUR HEARTS BE TROUBLED" //////////////////////////////////////

In verse 27 Jesus says for the second time, "Do not let your hearts be troubled" (see also verse 1). How would you summarize the reasons He has given His disciples to not be troubled?

Why do we worry if we fully trust the Lord and have committed our lives to Him (see Philippians 4:6)? How would your life look if you fully implemented 4:6? What next step can you take now to decrease your worry?

OVERCOMING FEAR //////////////////////////////////////

Reread John 14:25-31

Jesus' announcement of His departure sent the disciples into an emotional meltdown. They could not think of their future without Jesus, so the prospect of going on alone was terrifying. These eleven men needed courage, just as we do today. Jesus gives these men three truths, which are applicable today in overcoming fear of any kind.

Truth #1: We may be inadequate, but the Holy Spirit will make us competent and courageous (verses 25-26). How has the Holy Spirit done this in your life? Share in your group.

Truth #2: We may be fearful, but the peace of Jesus Christ is ours for the taking (verse 27). We tend to think of peace as the absence of trouble, but the peace Jesus Christ gives us peace even in the middle of a storm. How does having a right relationship with the Lord provide you with peace? How have you experienced the peace that only the Lord can provide in the midst of a storm? Share with your group.

Truth #3: When circumstances are difficult, courage is found in obedience (verses 28-31). How does obedience to the Lord provide courage?

TRUST VS. CONFIDENCE //////////////////////////////////////

The disciples were equipped by our Lord but fear threatened to make them powerless. Why? It's the same reason as today: lack of confidence in the truth of His words. The disciples trusted in Christ, but they lacked confidence. What's the difference?

Trust = the decision to accept as truth the words of Jesus and to make them the basis of all future decisions.

Confidence = the growing feeling of peace as we apply the words of Christ and see them confirmed over and over again.

Do you fully trust in Jesus? Assuming your answer is yes, how is your confidence in the truth of His words? Has your confidence grown as you have matured in your walk with the Lord? Share with your group.

EXPLORE MORE //////////////////////////////////////

The passage in verses 15-31, along with others in John, raises questions about the nature of the Trinity and how the Father and the Son relate to one another. What do these verses reveal about the relationship of the Father and the Son?

John 1:1-2

John 5:19-20

John 6:38

John 10:30

John 14:11

John 14:28, 31

How does this move you to worship the triune God more deeply?

I AM THE VINE
John 15:1-17
For the Week of November 3, 2019

THE SETUP //////////////////////////////////////



In this passage, Jesus gives the disciples God's purpose in saving them: He wants them to bear much fruit. Jesus pictures Himself as the true vine, the Father as the vinedresser, and the disciples as the branches. A man plants a vineyard for a different reason than he plants a flower garden. We plant flower gardens so that we can enjoy the beautiful flowers. If you plant a vineyard, your purpose is to harvest a crop of grapes. Your goal is that your vineyard bears a lot of fruit. So, the big point is:

Christ's true followers abide in Him as branches
in the true vine and so bear much fruit.

TALKABOUT //////////////////////////////////////

What is the key to being fruitful at work? What about in the Christian life?

INVESTIGATE //////////////////////////////////////

Read John 15:1-17

What is meant by each of the elements (vine, vinedresser, branches, and fruit) in this metaphor?

THE VINE //////////////////////////////////////

Besides a present vine which is our Lord Jesus Christ, there are past and future vines found in Scripture. What does each represent?

Past (Psalm 80:8-19; Isaiah 5:1-7)

Future (Revelation 14:14-20)

THE VINEDRESSER //////////////////////////////////////

The vinedresser prunes the branches in two ways: he cuts away dead wood that can breed disease and insects, and he cuts away living tissue so that the life of the vine will not be so bad that the quality of the crop will be jeopardized. Why is the pruning process so important in a believer's life? How does God love us by pruning us, even when this can cause distress?

THE BRANCHES //////////////////////////////////////

Verse 5 gives us the term "abide," which means to stay with, be joined to, and spend time with someone. It's more than a casual relationship or a nodding acquaintance; it's an ongoing, deepening friendship. Remaining in Jesus is not an automatic act. We have to work at the relationship. Look at each discipline below. How does each discipline help a believer to "abide" in Him?

Praying

Reading and studying the Bible

Worshipping God alone and with other believers

Being accountable to at least one other believer

SERVING OTHERS //////////////////////////////////////

What is your self-assessment of each of the above disciplines in your life?

Which discipline(s) need improvement in your life? What next step(s) can you take?

THE FRUIT //////////////////////////////////////

What does Jesus say is the key to being fruitful as a Christian?

Verse 2

Verses 4-5

Verses 7-8

Verses 9-11

Verse 16

DIFFERENT KINDS OF FRUIT //////////////////////////////////////

Several different types of spiritual fruit are named in the Bible. Check out the following passages and identify the type of fruit mentioned in each passage:

Romans 1:13

John 4:35-38

Romans 6:22

Romans 15:28

Galatians 5:22-23

Colossians 1:10

Has your life exhibited fruit as mentioned in the above passages? How? When has fruitfulness come in your life? Was it during a quiet period or a time of trials and tribulations? What life lesson(s) have you realized from this?

Is God's agenda in our lives for our comfort or for fruitfulness? Explain your answer.

APPLY //////////////////////////////////////

How is what Jesus says in verses 1-17...

A relief?

A warning?

Something to be excited about?

THE HATRED OF THE WORLD

John 15:18-16:4

For the Week of November 10, 2019

REVIEW //////////////////////////////////////

Reread and review John 15:1-17

In chapter 15, Jesus speaking to the disciples sets forth the priorities of life. Chapter 15:1-11 stresses the importance of our relationship with the Lord first ("Abide in me, and I in you," John 15:4a). The second priority is our relationship to other believers ("Love one another," John 15:12).

STARTUP //////////////////////////////////////

Read John 15:18-16:4

The third priority is the relationship we have to the outside world. Jesus wanted to prepare the disciples for the opposition that they would face after his departure.

PERSECUTION //////////////////////////////////////

DICTIONARY

Persecution: *to make to run or flee, put to flight, drive away.*

Define John's use of the term "world."

What does it mean to be hated by the world (John 15:18-19)?

DISCUSS //////////////////////////////////////

Why does Jesus not want us to be surprised that we will be hated? What does "a slave is not greater than his master" mean? Read John 15: 20; 13:16, and 2 Tim. 3:12

EXPLORE MORE //////////////////////////////////////

What Psalm is Jesus quoting in John 15:25? Why do you think He quotes David?

REACT //////////////////////////////////////

What should our reaction to persecution be? (John 15:26)

What are the disciples called to do in the face of opposition? (15:26-27)

If you live a godly life, you can be sure you will run into resistance. Have you ever run into resistance when you tried to do what's right? If so, how did you react? What did you learn from it?

DICTIONARY

Advocate: a person who pleads for or in behalf of another; intercessor.

Who is our advocate in verse 26?

What is the role of our advocate in persecution?

How should this bring you comfort in times of trial?

Read John 16:1-14

Why is Jesus telling His disciples this?

What is keeping you from falling away in the midst of opposition from the world?

REFLECT AND APPLY //////////////////////////////////////

Have you been hated without cause for being a disciple of Jesus?

What are some ways you can prepare and endure in persecution?

What truths from this passage do we need to remind ourselves of the next time we face persecution or opposition from the world?

In what ways does your life reflect Jesus when the world defames you in public? Are you patiently enduring persecution?

PRAY FOR THIS //////////////////////////////////////

Pray for each other to abide in Christ daily, bear fruit, love one another and rely on the Holy Spirit as we face opposition.

Pray for non-Christians in your life who may be the cause of persecution that God would convict them of their sin and turn to Christ.

Pray for the persecuted church, our sisters and brothers around the world living in countries where they face opposition and even death for owning a Bible, going to church and for sharing their faith.

Only as we abide in Jesus can we bear fruit and through Him we are capable of loving others and able to endure in persecution.

THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
John 16:5-15
For the Week of November 17, 2019

START UP //////////////////////////////////////

Read John 16:5-15

Why weren't the disciples more curious about Jesus' future?

What was Jesus trying to teach the disciples in John 16:7? What was better?

What was Jesus' response to the disciples' grief?

Has there been a time in your relationship with God that hopelessness in your current situation kept you distracted from looking at the future with hope?

CONTEXT

The context of 16:8-11 is the coming of the Holy Spirit "to you," meaning the Holy Spirit will confront the world from within believers, through believers. People in the world do not have the Holy Spirit active in them in this way.

DICTIONARY

Convict: *The Greek verb translated "convict" has a wide range of meaning outside the New Testament, including "to scorn," "to bring into contempt," and "to rebuke." However, NT writers restricted the definition to one: "to show people their sins and summon them to repentance."*

DEFINE //////////////////////////////////////

Sin (v.8)

Righteousness (v. 10)

Judgment (v. 11)

THE FUNCTION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT //////////////////////////////////////

What is the function of the Holy Spirit to the world (v. 8-11)?

What did Jesus promise in verses 12-13?

Describe the function of the Holy Spirit to believers (v. 13-15).

"The child of God living on this earth, empowered by the Spirit of God, is a living letter observed by the world. As the world witnesses the child of God being controlled by the Spirit, the world observes a life undergoing transformation. The world is confronted by His activity in believers."

Charles Swindoll

CONSIDER AND RESPOND //////////////////////////////////////

What are some ways we can participate in the Holy Spirit's transformation process in our lives?

How can you be a vessel for the Spirit to work in the life of non-believers?

Share a time you have been convicted of sin and how God used that to transform your thinking and glorify Him.

PRAYER //////////////////////////////////////

Pray that we would remember the significance of the promise of the presence of the Holy Spirit with us and that we would rely on the power of the Holy Spirit daily.

Pray that the Spirit would transform our minds and hearts into the likeness of Christ.

Pray that the Spirit would convict us of sin and that our lives would glorify God.

I Have Overcome The World John 16:16-33 For the Week of November 24, 2019

OVERVIEW //////////////////////////////////////

Jesus' teaching shifts from the Spirit's future work to what the disciples' immediate future would hold. He uses these last opportunities with the disciples to teach and encourage them knowing persecution, injustice, anguish and His death lie ahead.



wikimedia commons

Read John 16:16-33

Why were the disciples confused by the phrase “a little while?” What does Jesus say is going to happen soon? What does he mean by this?

In John 16:24 Jesus tells the disciples that they have not appealed to the Father in Jesus' name before. As Old Testament believers, they had grounded their petitions on God's promises in the Old Testament. What does Jesus teach the disciples about the significance of asking “in my name” (Verse 25. Read also John 14:13–14; 15:16; 16:24, 26)?

The disciples were asking each other questions, yet they had the one who could answer all their questions. However, Jesus didn't clarify their questions. Why did He speak figuratively?

DICTIONARY

Speaking Figuratively (v. 25): *using imagery and metaphors that are not to be taken literally.*

What does Jesus tell the disciples about a time coming when He will speak plainly?

Jesus gave his disciples three promises to encourage them that the shadow of the cross lie ahead.

What did He promise?

In John 16:19-24 _____

In John 16:25-28 _____

In John 16:31-33 _____

The breadth and depth of what Jesus was teaching the disciples would not come into full focus until He had departed. They would not fully understand joy until they experienced the loss of Jesus and then experienced His resurrection. They would not fully understand love until they experienced the work on the cross and they had direct access to the Father. They would not truly understand peace until they understood what it meant that Christ had overcome the world!

REFLECT AND RESPOND //////////////////////////////////////

In what ways does your life reflect joy, love and peace in the midst of life's difficulties?

In the Upper Room, Jesus mentioned impending sorrow and persecution several times. However this would not be the end of His relationship with the disciples. He gave them clarity with their issue of sorrow by explaining joy. He addressed their issue with access by explaining they would now have access to the Father and He addressed their issue with separation in verses 31-33. Which of these issues do you struggle with the most?

Which of these promises are easiest for you to cling to when your circumstances are difficult?

In what ways does Jesus's resurrection give you joy and peace?

PRAY FOR THIS //////////////////////////////////////

Pray for joy in the midst of sorrow that attracts others to the Gospel.

Pray for a deepening love and dependency on the Father.

Pray for those in your life that need God's peace.

