

Dear Life Group Leaders,

In this passage, Jesus specifically mentions the Holy Spirit for the first time in John's Gospel, who is such a great source of encouragement and comfort, especially during a time of increasing worldly anxiety. Jesus also promises the gift of his peace, which is with us in all circumstances. I pray that both you and your Life Groups will be blessed and enriched by these beautiful verses, and grow in knowledge and relationship with the Holy Spirit as you study this passage.

God bless,
Elizabeth

(This week's Life Group Guide was prepared by Elizabeth Ryan, a member of our Wimbledon venue)

LIFE GROUP GUIDE

John 14:12-31

This week's BIG IDEA: Jesus promises the gift of the Holy Spirit to all who believe in him.

1. Can anyone summarise what we learned last week from the first 11 verses of John 14?

Read John 14:12-14

2. v12, what are the 'greater things' that Jesus mentions here and how can we do 'even greater things'?
[Leaders note: Jesus is talking about the things he has been carrying out up to this point in his ministry, so this doesn't include what was about to come: his dying for our sins and his resurrection.]
3. v13-14, why do we pray in Jesus' name? What should be the ultimate goal of praying in Jesus' name? Are there some prayer requests that Jesus doesn't grant despite being prayed 'in his name'?
[Leaders note: e.g. 'Please let me have a private jet by this time next week, in Jesus' Name, amen!']

Read John 14:15-21

4. How does Jesus link love and obedience through this section?
5. v16-17, in a 'post-truth world' of fake news and 'your truth and my truth', what difference does it make to know that there is a Spirit of Truth. How can we recognise his work?
6. The Holy Spirit or 'Advocate', as Jesus refers to Him here, is rejected by a world that can't see or know Him. How have you witnessed this rejection of the Holy Spirit in your life?
7. v18-20, what does Jesus say will happen to ensure the disciples know they are part of God's family?
8. v21, how do we demonstrate our love for Jesus? What promises are contained in this verse?
9. How hard do you find it to experience and express your love for Jesus? And to receive his in return?

Read John 14:22-26

10. v22-24, how does Jesus answer Judas' question?
[Leaders note: This is Judas son of James (cf Luke 6:16). Jesus reminds him that salvation is open to anyone who loves God. The barrier to finding God is more lack of heart than lack of knowledge.]
11. v25-26, you might have heard some people say that the Trinity is never mentioned in the Bible. How might we use this verse to help bring clarity in that type of conversation?

Read John 14:27-31

12. v27, how is the peace offered by the world different to the peace given by Jesus?
13. How have you personally experienced Jesus' peace? How would you describe it?
14. v30-31, how is the arrival of the 'prince of this world' connected to the world learning that the Son loves the Father? What do these verses tell us about the enemy and about Jesus' sacrifice?
15. Chapter 14 ends with Jesus' instruction: 'Come now, let us leave'- in the original Greek, this phrase (*agomen*) means 'let us go and meet the advancing enemy.' Where do you need to meet the advances of the enemy in your life? Which promises of Jesus in this passage can you stand on and draw strength from? Spend some time waiting on the Holy Spirit, our Advocate, asking Him to strengthen you.