

the gospel of

JOHN

all intents and purposes

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WEEK 2: A JOB HALF DONE

Read the Text

John 16:16-24

16 “A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me.” 17 So some of his disciples said to one another, “What is this that he says to us, ‘A little while, and you will not see me, and again a little while, and you will see me’; and, ‘because I am going to the Father?’” 18 So they were saying, “What does he mean by ‘a little while’? We do not know what he is talking about.” 19 Jesus knew that they wanted to ask him, so he said to them, “Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying, ‘A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me’? 20 Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. 21 When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. 22 So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you. 23 In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. 24 Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

Main Point

Whether a Christian or not, we can all expect to experience joy and sorrow in this life. As Christians, though, we have hope because when we experience sorrow and lamenting, we are not alone. ***Sorrow is the chief way Christians process grief in God's presence.*** It is only Jesus who can provide true comfort and relief. And in this passage, we see that Jesus can take our sorrow and turn it into joy. As followers of Jesus, this is incredible news, because the joy that Jesus offers is permanent. No person and no circumstance can take it away. ***The joy we have in Jesus sustains us in times of suffering and roots us in the Gospel and in who we are in Him.*** And now, through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and His resurrection, we have direct access to the Father. ***In times of suffering, joy, and everything in between, we can pray in His name because we have been granted access to the Father through Christ's life, death, and resurrection.***

Reflect Together

1. ***Who is God?*** Do you see God as the sustainer of joy even in times of suffering? If so, what does that look like? How is it possible to access joy from Him when circumstances are difficult?
2. ***What has He done?*** We now have access to the Father through Jesus. What is the significance of our ability to pray to Him in Jesus' name to you? When you read "ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full," what does that mean to you?
3. ***Who are you?*** Pastor Derek took us through some amazing truths about who we are in Christ. Which one resonated with you the most? Which one do you struggle to accept? Here are a few examples:
 - You are Loved by God: 1 John 3:3*
 - You are Accepted by God: Ephesians 1:6*
 - You are a Child of God: John 1:12*
 - A Friend of Jesus: John 15:14*

A Joint Heir with Jesus: Romans 8:17

Redeemed and Forgiven: Colossians 1:14

Free from Condemnation: Romans 8:1

New Creation: 2 Corinthians 5:17

Chosen by God: Colossians 3:12

Seated in Heavenly places with Christ: Ephesians 2:6

Have direct access to God: Ephesians 2:18

We get to spend eternity with Him and each other in Heaven:

Revelation 21: 1-4

4. ***What are you to do?*** Which of the above truths do you sometimes take for granted? What can you do to remind yourself of who God is and who you are in Him?

Abide Together

Pray as a group over what came up during your discussion. Ask the Holy Spirit to move in your DNA and MC and in your individual lives to draw you closer to Him.