



Connect Group Discussion Guide
Sunday Message - 8/2/20 | Keith Ehresman | John 16:1-15

NEW Redeems Our Story: New Source - I Once Was... Now I Am...

Key Scriptures:

Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged...When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth...therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

- John 16:7-11,13,15

I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

- Philippians 4:13

Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

- 1 John 4:4

For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior.

- Titus 3:3-6

For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

- Philippians 3:18-21

Message Highlights:

- We can't live a Christian life in the "natural". The only way we can live the spiritual life is in the supernatural = Christ in me.

- We are not able to live the supernatural life of God on our own strength. We have the capacity for it but not the power to accomplish it on our own.
- We were created for Kingdom work, but we are incapable of doing it without the living Spirit of God within us to empower us.
- God reveals to us portions of Truth as we are prepared to receive it.
- We are challenged not to fall back into the “natural” when the “supernatural” is in us.

Conversation Starter:

- Think of the stories you know from the Bible about some of the things Jesus’ disciples got to see and experience as they walked alongside him. If you could pick one of those experiences and somehow be there yourself with him for a day, which one would you pick?

Discuss the Message:

1. What do you imagine it must have been like for those who had waked with Jesus when he told them that it would be better for them if he went away? Do you think they understood, or do you think they might have been confused? Explain.
2. How is it to our advantage to have the presence of the Holy Spirit rather than the bodily presence of Jesus?
3. Jesus said that the Holy Spirit will convict us of sin and lead us in truth. Have you experienced this in your own life? Would you be willing to share about that with the group?
4. Jesus indicates that we could not bear to receive all that he has to teach us at once. Does this help you in terms of developing patience in the journey? Can you look back over your life and see where he has revealed various truths to you over time as your heart was prepared? How might this help us be more patient with ourselves and others as we grow spiritually as followers of Jesus?
5. Go back to the conversation starter question... It would be amazing to walk with Jesus for a day, right? Yet, as his followers, we have his Holy Spirit living within us right now. Jesus himself said that is even better! How might the week ahead look different for you if you really lean into the truth that Jesus is living in and through you?

Pray:

- Pray for one another.

Father, Thank You for knowing us so well that You know our needs before we could ask. You know what we need in spite of what we think we want. Jesus, you have sacrificed everything for our advantage. You left us in bodily form and the Holy Spirit came to us. In this way, it is possible for us to be filled with your presence, empowered with your strength, and equipped to follow the Father’s good and perfect will for our lives. Strengthen our faith, help us to face these challenging times with boldness and yet in love. Help us to use our gifts to advance Your Kingdom in the face of growing opposition. Let us not be surprised—but prepared for the battle. May our work glorify You as we respond to Your message with deepest gratitude. Amen.