

John 14:15-31

CG Discussion Guide // Week of 10 September, 2023

INTRODUCTION

- Icebreaker: What is the best prank you've experienced or planned?
- Take some time to pray for one another's needs and requests (refer to Prayer Guide as needed)
- Pray for Harbor Network sister church: Sojourn Church Carlisle, Louisville, KY (Pastor: James A.P. Fields Jr.)
- Choose discussion questions, prayer guide, or abide time questions depending on your group's needs

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- *For CG Leaders: Discussions on the Holy Spirit and His ministry can get easily sidetracked by the controversies and debates on how He works among us, such as spiritual gifts, tongues, prophecies, dreams, visions, promptings, and supernatural miracles, and their place in the modern church. There is a time and place for them, but this passage is frankly not about those issues.*
 - *If the discussion is being sidetracked by these questions and not focusing on the actual points raised by John 14:15-31, feel free to offer a different time to discuss those issues and questions outside of the CG time, and invite them to chat with one of the elders if they so desire on these issues.*
 - *Summary of the Holy Spirit's ministry in John 14*
 - *He indwells us and unites us closer to Jesus (vv. 17-21)*
 - *He enables, energizes, and supports us to love Jesus and obey Jesus lovingly (vv.21-24)*
 - *He unites us to the living relationship of the Father, Son, and Spirit (v. 21 and 23)*
 - *He teaches us and reminds us of the words and teachings of Jesus (v. 26)*
 - *He imparts to us the peace of Jesus (v. 27)*
- What sticks out to you the most about Jesus' teaching on the Holy Spirit in this passage?
- Why do you think love for Jesus and obedience for Jesus are so intimately connected? How does the Holy Spirit empower us to do both?
- How has the Holy Spirit proven to be a Helper, Counselor, and Advocate to you? Please share!
- How has the Holy Spirit taught you more about Christ and His Word in your life?
- Jesus gives the promise of the Holy Spirit as a means of divine hope in the darkest moment of history: the impending death of the Son of God. How can we abide in the hope and power of the Holy Spirit in our dark times?
 - Could you share a time when the Holy Spirit imparted the peace of Jesus Christ in your life in a very tangible, memorable way?

Abide Time: Psalm 63

- What realities are you facing this week? What is occupying your thoughts? How do you feel?
- Read the passage and let God speak to you in you reality through his Word. Write down your reflections as God shepherds you:
 - What does the text say is true about God and his character?
 - What does it say about the world around you?
- How do your reflections above speak to your reality?
- What did you experience in your heart and soul as God spoke to you and your reality?
- What did you experience in your body, given your reflections and what you experienced in your heart and soul?
- How is God inviting you to live differently?
- What does all of what you shared above say about God and his relationship with you?

WEEKLY PRAYER GUIDE

The Bible promises that anything we ask for in Jesus' name – that is according to His will – shall be granted to us (John 14:13-14). In view of this great promise, the prayer requests are all grounded in Scripture. When we pray Scripture, we can be certain that we are praying according to God's will.

That does not mean God will grant our requests in our preferred time or according to our frail wisdom; but it does mean that we can pray confidently knowing that God delights to answer these requests, for they are His words.

Use the accompanying Scripture verses to shape and inform your prayers.

PRAY FOR YOURSELF & YOUR FAMILY:

- That your daily life will bring honor to the name of Jesus – (2 Thess. 1:11-12)
- That you will cast all of your anxieties on God – (1 Peter 5:6-7)
- That you will consider your trials as an opportunity for joy – (James 1:2-4)

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH:

- That the power of Christ will rest on our church and ministries [Worship Gathering, Community Groups, Men/Women, Youth, Children, etc.] – (2 Cor. 12:9-10)
- That God will give us the wisdom and faith that we desperately need to continue in faithful mission – (James 1:5-8)
- That God will make us fruitful in ministry – (John 15:1-2) – and bold in witness – (Eph. 6:18-20)

PRAY FOR OUR CITY:

- That God will give wisdom to our government (local, state, and national) that we may lead peaceful, godly lives – (1 Timothy 2:1-2)
- That the Lord will continue to provide open doors of gospel ministry in IU and the Bloomington community – (1 Corinthians 16:9)
- That the work of God will be displayed in the lives of the members of our sister churches – (John 9:3)

PRAY FOR OUR WORLD:

- That the persecuted church will find fellowship with Jesus as they share in his sufferings – (Philippians 3:10-11)
- That the Lord of the harvest will send out more workers to unreached people groups because they have been gripped by Paul's missionary logic in Romans 10:13-17 – (Matthew 9:37-38)
- That Christ will return bringing the fullness of salvation with him – (Revelation 22:20)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- September 13: Redeemer Women
- September 16: Membership Class
- September 24: B'Town Worship Night
- September 29-30: Gospel-Shaped Parenting Conference
- October 4: Redeemer Men
- October 15: Redeemer-in-10
- October 20: 16th Annual Chili Supper
- October 29: Child + Family Dedication

Reminder: All events are listed in the Events tab in our Redeemer app. You can RSVP for specific events by going to the Events tab, clicking on an event, and following the link to register.