

Discussion Guide

Use this guide by yourself, with a friend, or in a group to help you pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus this week!

Open

In this week's message, Dr. Bill Jones walks us through Jesus' teaching in John 16:23-27 as He tells the disciples that their relationship with both Him and the Father will change after His upcoming death and resurrection. While Jesus has already been teaching them about the Holy Spirit in the preceding chapters, in today's passage specifically we see that He wants them to understand that the Spirit's presence after His resurrection will create access to God the Father that they've never experienced before. To begin your group time, let everyone tell about a person who started out as an acquaintance but eventually became a close friend - what new things did you learn about him or her as the relationship grew closer?

BIG THOUGHT

Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, God chooses to relate to us directly through prayer to hear our requests and meet our needs.

1. To understand the wider context of the conversation, read John 16:5-15 - does it sound like Jesus is going to continue to be with them? (see v. 5-7) Now read v. 16-18. What do you think is leading to the disciples' confusion? What do you think would have been your thoughts if you had been in the room?
2. Read v. 19-22. How does v. 19 demonstrate Jesus' compassion for the disciples? And if you're familiar with the story of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, how accurate is Jesus' description in v. 20-22 of what the disciples will experience? How can this bring you comfort when going through your own tough times?

3. Now read v. 23-24. Knowing that the disciples realized it was Jesus' connection with the Father which made His ministry possible (see Luke 11:1), how do you think they felt when Jesus made the statement that they would no longer need to ask Him but could talk to God on their own? (v. 23) How would you have felt? How was this going to be different and what would the results be? (v. 24)
4. Read v. 25-27. As a disciple, what would you have felt when you heard Jesus say that He would start explaining things more clearly - relieved? Angry? Confused? Something else? What does Jesus assure the disciples? (v. 27)
5. To conclude, read v. 28. What does Jesus want the disciples to clearly understand? After He finished this conversation with them, Jesus prayed and the group went out to where He was arrested - why do you think these were His final instructions to them? Explain your thoughts.

Take it Further

Talk with God and thank Him for creating a way through Jesus for us to talk with Him directly in prayer - and then let Him know your concerns!

Daily Verse Readings

Day 1: 1 John 5:14

Day 4: Psalm 17:6

Day 2: Philippians 4:6

Day 5: 1 Peter 5:7

Day 3: Psalm 34:17

Day 6: 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Memory Verse: John 16:23



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