



Northland Christian Church

Group Discussion Guide For the Week of July 17, 2022

Use the questions below as a springboard for discussion. You do not have to answer every question. Pick the ones you think will be helpful. Remember, Ultimately we want God's answers, not man's opinions. Always land where God lands. (ex: Where do we see that in the Bible?) Give grace. Give time for growth. Don't force it. Growth takes time, love, good questions, & patient, humble support.

Connect

- Who was the best counselor or advisor you've ever had? What made them so special?
- Who has been your favorite teacher in your life (in or out of schooling)? Why?

Context

In the passages leading up to our passage in John 14, Jesus announced at several points that He was departing and that He was returning to the Father. This naturally caused anxiety and fear in the disciples. They spent years walking and talking with Jesus and now feared being left alone. With the promise of Jesus' departure and with fear in their hearts, the disciples wonder how they will carry on. How will they face the turmoil and trials of the future? How will they know what to say? They have been accustomed to walking with Jesus and running to Him with their questions. Now, where will they run?

In light of that context, and knowing the fear in their hearts, Jesus promised, "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you" (John 14:18). In other words, Jesus announced that He was leaving, but He is not abandoning them. Instead, He will come to them. And how does He promise He will come to them and be known to them? It is through the intimate, inward work of the Holy Spirit.

Engage the Bible

Read the passage and share Observations, Surprises, and Takeaways from:

John 14:15-31 NIV

"If you love me, keep my commands. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever-- 17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. 18 I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19 Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. 20 On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. 21 Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them." 22 Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, "But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?" 23 Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. 24 Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me. 25 "All this I have spoken while still with you. 26 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. 27 Peace I leave with

you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. 28 "You heard me say, 'I am going away and I am coming back to you.' If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. 29 I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe. 30 I will not say much more to you, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold over me, 31 but he comes so that the world may learn that I love the Father and do exactly what my Father has commanded me. "Come now; let us leave."

Discuss

1. What do you think the disciples are experiencing in this passage? What would you be thinking or feeling if you were in this situation? (not knowing the rest of the story)
2. How do you normally experience, react, and deal with the unknowns of life?
3. How are disciples of Jesus to show love for Him (14:15)? Why is this idea repeated four times in verses 15, 21, 23, and 24?
4. What do we learn about the Holy Spirit in verses 16-17 and 25-27?
5. The Holy Spirit is called 'paraklete' in verse 16, which literally means 'one called alongside'. There is no exact English equivalent so various translations use the words 'Helper', 'Counselor', 'Advocate', 'Comforter' etc. Spend some time discussing how the Holy Spirit living in us does all these things for us.
6. Look closely at what the Spirit will do in verse 25-27. If we want to be a spirit-filled and spirit-led church, what must we focus on?
7. What is the difference between how Jesus gives peace and how the world does?
8. How "at home" are the Father, Son, and Spirit in your life? Are they more like owners or temporary guests in your life?
9. On a scale from 1 ("smooth sailing") to 10 ("furious storm"), what is your "peace quotient" right now? Why? Where do you need Jesus' peace?
10. Where can you find hope in this passage?
11. Of all the promises made in this passage (verses 16-18, 21, 23, 26-27), which one means the most to you right now? Why?

End Your Group Time in Prayer

