



## Northland Christian Church

### Group Discussion Guide For the Week of August 7, 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

- How are you at “goodbyes”? Is it easier for you to be the one leaving or the one staying? Explain.
- What are some of the characteristics of close relationships?

### Context

In our passage for today, Jesus continues to prepare His disciples for His impending death - and His eventual ascension to Heaven. Notice that this conversation is happening as they were walking between the upper room and Gethsemane. It's another picture of something Jesus will share with His disciples (including all of us) right before He ascends to the Father ([Matthew 28:18-20](#)). In essence, as you are going through your normal day-to-day life, make disciples, teaching them what I have taught you. Jesus is modeling for all of His disciples (including us) how to leverage those daily moments for Kingdom work. Not only that, but He also elaborates on how they will be able to do this effectively; and why it is good that He will be leaving soon. We often think we would do so much better in our lives if we had Jesus physically right beside us; however, Jesus doesn't seem to agree with that assessment in our passage. How could that be? Let's dive in and find out more about our Help; Comfort; Teacher; Advocate; and Counselor that makes life in Jesus and His Kingdom possible for us all.

### Engage the Bible

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

#### **John 15:18-27** NIV

"If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. 19 If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. 20 Remember what I told you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. 21 They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the one who sent me. 22 If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin; but now they have no excuse for their sin. 23 Whoever hates me hates my Father as well. 24 If I had not done among them the works no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. As it is, they have seen, and yet they have hated both me and my Father. 25 But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: 'They hated me without reason.' When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father--the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father--he will testify about me. 27 And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning."

## **John 16:1-33** NIV

"All this I have told you so that you will not fall away. 2 They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, the time is coming when anyone who kills you will think they are offering a service to God. 3 They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me. 4 I have told you this, so that when their time comes you will remember that I warned you about them. I did not tell you this from the beginning because I was with you, 5 but now I am going to him who sent me. None of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' 6 Rather, you are filled with grief because I have said these things. 7 But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. 8 When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: 9 about sin, because people do not believe in me; 10 about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; 11 and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned. 12 "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. 13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. 14 He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. 15 All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you. 16 Jesus went on to say, "In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me." 17 At this, some of his disciples said to one another, "What does he mean by saying, 'In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me,' and 'Because I am going to the Father'?" 18 They kept asking, "What does he mean by 'a little while'? We don't understand what he is saying." 19 Jesus saw that they wanted to ask him about this, so he said to them, "Are you asking one another what I meant when I said, 'In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me'?" 20 Very truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. 21 A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world. 22 So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy. 23 In that day you will no longer ask me anything. Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. 24 Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete. 25 "Though I have been speaking figuratively, a time is coming when I will no longer use this kind of language but will tell you plainly about my Father. 26 In that day you will ask in my name. I am not saying that I will ask the Father on your behalf. 27 No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. 28 I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father." 29 Then Jesus' disciples said, "Now you are speaking clearly and without figures of speech. 30 Now we can see that you know all things and that you do not even need to have anyone ask you questions. This makes us believe that you came from God." 31 "Do you now believe?" Jesus replied. 32 "A time is coming and in fact has come when you will be scattered, each to your own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me. 33 "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

## **Discuss**

1. What does Jesus say will be part of the disciples' story in the future? How is it still relevant today?

2. How would you paraphrase the Spirit's work (see verses 8-11)?
3. What other roles does the Spirit play? (see [John 14:16-17, 14:26-27, John 16:7-15](#))
4. Why was it good that Jesus went away physically? What advantages are there now?
5. Of the various roles of the Holy Spirit described here, which one have you come to appreciate recently? How so? What great assurance do these verses give us as we live on mission with Jesus?
6. Read [2 Corinthians 1:21-22](#). What does this teach about the Holy Spirit? Is this comforting? Why?
7. Where can we be a testimony for Jesus this week?
8. If you were one of Jesus' twelve disciples, how would you have responded to His warning about the world's hatred? How are you responding to this now on the inside?
9. What is the first reason that the world hates us, according to verse 19, and what is the great encouragement that comes with it? Share some personal experiences of where you felt pressure from the world to fit in.

### **Weekly Challenge**

10. Who is someone in your daily circles that you could share a Jesus story with this week? Pray over them and then find some time to lovingly and gently share with them sometime in the next week.

### **End Your Group Time in Prayer**

