

Peace in a Time of Trouble

John 16:16-33

Purpose: Purpose: to prepare us to face crisis situations we don't understand.

Group Discussion: Think back on a difficult season in your life. In what ways did you see God's hand at work, helping you through it?

Verses 16-24

1. The disciples seem troubled by Jesus' words (vv. 16-18). What might have made this so hard for them to hear, and why would His promise of joy be meaningful in the middle of their uncertainty?
2. (Verses 19-22) Rather than answering their questions directly, Jesus offers His disciples a promise of hope. What is that promise, and why do you think it would give them joy despite their sorrow?
3. Jesus shifts the focus to prayer in verses 23–24. What new promise or privilege does He reveal to His followers?
4. In what way would this promise make their joy whole or complete?
5. When you think about your own experiences, how have seasons of struggle, prayer, and joy been linked?

Verses 25-33

6. In the difficult days ahead of the disciples, how would Jesus' reminder of the Father's love strengthen or comfort them?
7. In verse 32, Jesus warns that His followers will leave Him, yet in verse 33 He offers peace and victory. How can that same promise encourage you when you've experienced failure or weakness?
8. Of all the promises Jesus makes in this chapter, which one stands out to you the most, or has made the deepest impression on you? Why?
9. How could the promises Jesus gives in this passage help you encourage a friend who is struggling or feeling discouraged?

What to pray for: Ask God to lift the weight of your sorrow so that your heart can receive the peace the Holy Spirit offers.