



Week 26
Discussion Questions

Text: John 16:16-33

Icebreaker: If you have given birth or assisted, what do you remember about the birth process? OR, What have your parents told you about your birth?

1. Read this week's passage. What stands out from the text or sermon?
2. To what is Jesus referring in his riddle to the disciples in John 16:16-19?
It might seem that Jesus only means the "little while" between his death and resurrection, but in verse 17, Jesus references going to the Father. Jesus does not go to the Father after his death, but to hell for three days. Jesus goes to the Father upon his ascension. Jesus is talking about the time of his leaving to go to the Father.
3. Why will the world rejoice at Jesus' departure while the disciples experience sorrow?
The world, equated in these verses with the religious leaders who have called for Jesus' death, takes pride in finally crucifying Jesus, thinking they have done a service to God. The disciples will experience sorrow in being separated from Jesus and waiting for Jesus to come back once again.
4. Read Romans 8:18-25. How do these verses give insight to what Jesus' means when he compares his leaving to childbirth?
Childbirth is often long with increasing pain in waves. It's restless, excruciating, and seemingly endless. But amidst the pain is an anticipation of new life. Jesus' metaphor communicates a hope amidst suffering, that while we suffer in this world we can anticipate and expect new life on the other side. It will be worth it.
5. How do we define joy?
Joy is a deep gladness born out of trust in the eternal promises of God, it extends past our present circumstances and is rooted in God's faithfulness.
6. When was a time you experienced sorrow that later turned to joy or when have you experienced joy even amidst sorrow?
7. What does Jesus claim should bring peace to his followers?
Jesus' claims to be one with the Father, his acts of healing and miracles, and driving out of demons— He has shown them he already has overcome the world, but also foreshadows his impending victory over death when he is resurrected from the grave.
8. How do we define peace?
Peace is not an absence of conflict, but confidence and belief in the fact that Jesus has overcome death and paved the way for us to have eternal life (Romans 8:18).
9. What ways do you try to find peace that the world provides?
10. Read 1 John 5:4. How do we overcome the world?

We overcome the world when we believe in Christ, abide in him, and his Spirit works in us to produce the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control.

11. Share a time when you had to rely on Jesus' promises of peace and joy in order to overcome tribulation in this life.
12. As you go into this next week, what is one practice that will remind you of the peace and joy only Jesus can provide?