

Following Jesus - The Life of a Disciple - Part 49

Lesson 49 – Instructions for The Future

Background:

In the previous lesson learned that Jesus promised to send His Holy Spirit to lead and guide the disciples.

In this lesson Jesus continues to talk about the Holy Spirit. He explains that He must leave so that the Holy Spirit can come and guide them in the truth. Jesus also prophesies that difficult times lie ahead, that they will be scattered but that they will overcome the world.

Read: [John 16:5-33](#)

Read the Following Quote

"If you look at the world, you'll be distressed. If you look within, you'll be depressed. If you look at God you'll be at rest." Corrie Ten Boom

Questions:

How does trusting in Jesus bring true peace or rest? Do you agree with the first 2 sentences? Why or why not?

Scripture Passage:

Now answer the questions based on [John 16:5-15](#)

The Spirit of Truth

1. Jesus says that they will be filled with grief when He goes away. Why would they feel that way if Jesus is promising to send the Holy Spirit? Where was Jesus planning to go? Would you prefer that Jesus still lived on the earth today? (v5-6)

2. Why does Jesus say it will be a good thing for Him to go away? (v 7) What title does Jesus give the Holy Spirit in this verse? What do you think this title means?

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3. Have you ever felt sadness when someone close to you left? How are our emotions affected if a friend moves a long distance away? How do we feel if one of our family members passes away? How do you cope with these types of losses?

4. Examine verses 8-11. What do these verses tell you about the role of the Holy Spirit? Describe what you think this means in the world today? Have you ever felt or sensed the Holy Spirit in your life? What happened? How did you respond?

5. Take a closer look at verses 12-15. How will the Holy Spirit guide the disciples? How has the Holy Spirit guided you? Have you ever felt that the Holy Spirit was guiding you when you were leading the Bible? Has the Holy Spirit ever spoken to you through the words of another Christian?

The World and the Disciples [John 16:16-33](#)

6. What did Jesus say would happen soon? Why were the disciples confused by Jesus? Do Jesus' words make sense to us today? (verses 16-18)

7. According to Jesus, how will people react when Jesus is gone? How do most people react when they hear the name of Jesus today? How will the disciples react? Why do you think Jesus uses the example of the pains a woman experiences when she is giving birth? How does a woman feel after she gives birth? How will the disciples feel after time? (verses 19-22)

8. In verses 23 and 24, who does Jesus tell the disciples to ask for things, and in whose name? (verse 23-24)

9. Jesus now explains that He has been speaking figuratively. Explain verses 25-28 in your own words. Why did Jesus come to the earth and then leave again? Why do

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you think Jesus spoke figuratively so often. Do you think there is a reason why Jesus did not speak more clearly?

10. Jesus tells the disciples that they “will have trouble” in this world. What do you think He means by that? Did they disciples “have trouble?” Do Christians have trouble today? How can we cope with troubles? What does Jesus mean when He says, “take heart”?

Suggested Prayer:

"Heavenly Father, we are so thankful for the comforting words of Jesus.

Lord, we know and understand that in this life we will face times of weeping and mourning while the world seems to rejoice. Despite our sorrow during these times remind us of your promise that our grief and sadness will eventually turn to joy, just as the pain of childbirth gives way to the joy of new life.

Thank you for the privilege that we have to come directly into your presence, asking for what we need in Jesus' name. Help us always to remember you love us even when we feel surrounded by troubles and worries. Please fill our hearts with your profound peace and give us the courage to be brave and take heart, trusting fully that Jesus has already overcome the world.

In His holy name we pray, Amen."

For Further Reading:

[Who is the Holy Spirit?](#)

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