

# BRMC Small Group Study: John 15:26-16:33

## Leaders Guide

Please note that the suggestions below are not model answers but to help guide your study. Feel free to adapt the questions for your group.

### **Leader's Notes:**

#### Context:

We have come to our last study in the first half of our John study series. This series will resume again at the start of 2019. In the meantime, do join us as we explore the book of Acts.

In this passage, Jesus continues to give his last words to his disciples during the last supper in what is known as the farewell discourse.

#### Introduction:

In John 16, Jesus explains who the Holy Spirit is and what he will do. Jesus also reassures and comforts the disciples that they may not feel sorrow at his impending departure.

#### Lesson Objectives:

- To understand the role of the Holy Spirit.
- To see Jesus' reassurance for us.

### **Observation**

1. According to this passage, what is the work of the Holy Spirit?

- *He will bear witness about Jesus - this is the overarching work of the Holy Spirit (John 15:26).*
- *Particularly he will:*
  - *Convict the world of sin, righteousness and judgment (John 16:8-11).*
  - *Guide us to the real truth (John 16:13).*
  - *Glorify Jesus (John 16:14).*

2. Describe the sorrow that Jesus mentions when he has to leave.

- *Compared with when a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because "her hour has come" but once the baby is delivered, she "no longer remembers the anguish", because she is overcome with joy at the birth of a human being (John 16:20-22).*
- *Likewise, Jesus felt the pain of going to the cross but He also knew what lay on the other side of the cross - He gave us new life.*

### **Interpretation**

3. How does this passage prove the divinity of the Holy Spirit?

- *In John 16:13 it says "for he will not speak of his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak".*
- *The Holy Spirit is a person and not a force, because Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit in personal terms (John 15:26-27 & 16:7-15).*
- *The Holy Spirit possesses a quality that only God does, "he will guide [us] into all the truth." (John 16:13). It suggests that the Holy Spirit knows all things, or is omniscient. This is a quality that in Scripture, only God possesses. See 1 Corinthians 2:11 and also earlier John passages about the Spirit of truth.*

4. What does it mean for Jesus to convict the world concerning sin, righteousness and judgment (John 16:9-11)?

- *Sin: “because they do not believe in me” (John 16:9)*
  - *Convicting the world of the root of sin being an unbelief in Jesus.*
  - *The prompting of our individual consciences to sin.*
- *Righteousness: “because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer” (John 16:10)*
  - *Jesus being the only perfect model of righteousness.*
  - *Convicting people of the fact that there is no righteousness apart from that which comes from Jesus. So, all our works do not bring us any closer to righteousness because the only criteria for that is Jesus’s atonement.*
- *Judgment: “because the ruler of this world is judged” (John 16:11)*
  - *The conviction of the “ruler of this world” i.e. he and those who follow him will be judged and condemned forever.*

5. Why did Jesus compare the disciples’ anguish to a woman’s labour pains? Further, why did Jesus compare the disciples seeing him again to a woman seeing her new-born for the first time?

- *Read Isaiah 26:16-19. The concept of painful childbirth and resurrection are present in that passage. It talks about the birth/resurrection of a new Israel after a period of birth pangs.*
- *Many in Israel during Jesus’ time believed that the Messiah would only come after a period of birth pangs. However, Jesus is implying that these pangs would come after he leaves.*
- *On one level, the anguish of labour pains reflect the grief that the disciples would have when they found out that Jesus left them.*
- *On a deeper level, Jesus is explaining that when the Holy Spirit comes, that would usher in a new age of Israel where God’s people are now whoever follows Christ. It will also be a time of anguish and pain. But when the followers of Jesus would see him again, there would be great rejoicing.*

6. How does God give us “whatever we ask if the Father in Jesus’ name”?

- *When Jesus returns to the Father after his death and resurrection, we would have access to the Father through Jesus. This means that we can ask of things directly from him.*
- *However, just like the previous chapter, the condition is that we must believe and abide in him for us to receive from him.*
- *God wouldn’t give our whims and fancies. He would want to give the best to us. From the Bible, we know that what is good and best for us is to honour and love him. With this in mind, we can be assured that whatever we ask for that truly glorifies him, will be given.*

7. What are the implications of Jesus having overcome the world?

- *Jesus again affirms that he is not the warrior-ruler that the Jews were originally hoping for. He will not overcome the world through force but instead through love and peace. These are the antitheses of what the world is.*
- *We know that Jesus will eventually be executed on the cross and then come back through his resurrection. This defeat of death is the overcoming of the world because death is an earthly phenomenon.*
- *Jesus’ power to overcome the world comes from the Father. It is when he with the Father (John 16:32) that the disciples do not need to worry about tribulations because Jesus would then have overcome the world.*

## **Application**

8. How can we be more aware of the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives today?

- *Be open to each other and recognise that the Holy Spirit speaks in many ways.*
- *We can discern what is truly from the Holy Spirit by turning to the Word. If anything contradicts the Bible, you may safely assume that it is not from God.*

9. Share a personal experience where a time of spiritual hopelessness was followed by triumph.

- *There may be times where we lose sight of Jesus and hope and enter into despair, but the promise of Calvary means that Jesus will prevail.*