



SDG Discussion Guide

John 16:5-16

March 24, 2019

For Starters:

What is a highlight of your last week?

What is a lowlight of your last week?

How are you at saying "goodbye"? Is it harder for you to be the one leaving, or the one left behind? Elaborate.

Guideline: The following is meant to provide an approach for further interaction with the respective sermon text and surrounding passage. Feel free to forward to your small group members ahead of the respective Sunday. Group members may also find this write up in print on that Sunday.

First, as you can, read aloud the selected passage in your group. If you have time, read it aloud a second time - from a different Bible translation.

Before you begin your discussion, pray and ask God to speak to your group. Notice, what may God be highlighting for your discussion and learning?

Now that you have read the text together and prayed, what points and questions arise? Spend plenty of time in your group to address these points and questions. Explore and see how God may steer the discussion. The following are further questions you may use to guide your interaction with the text.

1. What are the disciples feeling now? What is their grief keeping them from understanding (v 17)?
2. How would you paraphrase the three goals of the Spirit's work (vv 8-11)? Therefore, why is it good that Jesus goes away?
3. If you were a disciple, how would you feel after hearing verse 16?
4. Of the various roles of the Holy Spirit described here, which one have you come to appreciate recently?
5. Has Jesus ever said things to you that you could hardly bear (v 12)? What happened?
6. Reading a bit wider than the selected passage... Both Jesus and the world offer a form of peace (14:27; 16:33), joy (15:11; 16:22-24) and love (13:34-35; 15:9-19). How have you experienced each of these? What is different between them?
7. How do you deal with change? Moves? Job transfers? Transitions from one stage of your life to another? How has discomfort or even pain helped you to grow?
8. From your experience, how could you comfort someone going through change?

Take some time to pray in your group. For this time, perhaps divide your group in half, having each half pray together as a smaller group. Ask God to reawaken you to what changes in your life have brought you to a place of being able to rejoice. Listen carefully for these reasons to be revealed to you, and go forth this week sharing with others what you have learned. Share with someone new the reason for your rejoicing, as well as the reason... for the hope you have.

*These questions were adapted from *The Serendipity Bible for Groups* (Zondervan, 1998).