



John 16:16-33 Small Group Discussion Questions

- Have someone read John 16:16-33. Have someone remind the group where we are in the Gospel of John. What's come before? How does what has come before relate to this text? What stands out to you about this text? What strikes you as important?
- What does it seem like Jesus is saying in verses 16-19? What is the crux of the disciples' misunderstanding? What is it that they don't understand about Jesus' message?
- In verse 20, Jesus tells the disciples that their sorrow is going to turn into joy. Why is this? Why is their sorrow going to turn into joy? Why does Jesus speak so confidently about this?
 - How would you define joy?
 - What is the relationship of joy to happiness?
 - What would you say is the relationship of joy to sorrow? How does verse 21 help us think about the connection between joy and sorrow?
 - Michael said that joy is a crucial tool that enables us to take heart in a world that opposes us. What kinds of things do we learn about Christian joy in verses 21-24?
 - Why does Jesus tell the disciples that no one will take their joy from them in verse 22? What is this assurance based on?

- Michael said that Christian joy is irrevocable when it is placed on Jesus. What does it look like practically to attach our joy to Jesus?
- What might happen if our joy is attached to something else? Again, how might we practically move our joy from the things of the world to the death and resurrection of Jesus?
- Michael also said that verses 23-24 show that joy can be replenished in prayer. How does prayer replenish our joy? What might this tell us about how God answers our prayers?
- What are some things in your life that prevent you from praying in a way that restores your joy?
- What are some concrete steps we can take this week to ensure that prayer doesn't take a backseat to the other demands of our life?
- Why does Jesus talk about using figures of speech in verse 25? What do you think He's saying?
- Have someone read 1 John 2:1. How do we square the fact that Jesus is our advocate with the fact that in verse 26, Jesus will not ask the Father on our behalf? What's the difference?
- What does verse 27 say about *why* Jesus will not have to ask the Father on our behalf? What is the reason why?
 - How has Jesus changed our relationship with the Father so that we can say that the Father Himself loves us?
 - Many of us have heard that the Father loves us for a long time; how does this truth lead to practical changes in the way that we live? How should Christians live different lives as a result of the Father's love?
 - Michael also said that knowing that the Father loves us helps us to take heart in a world that opposes us. How does knowing this fact enable us to take heart?

- The disciples offer an odd response in verses 29-30. After reading their response, do you think they understand what Jesus has told them? Why or why not? How does Jesus respond in the following verse?
- In verse 33, Jesus says that He has told the disciples “these things” so that “in me you may have peace.” What is peace? How would you define it?
 - How would you say Christian peace differs from worldly peace?
 - Michael said that Christian peace is related to perspective: its view of history is broad enough to see that Christ has overcome in the past so that the future is sure. How does this broad perspective lead to greater peace?
 - What causes our hearts to feel worry, anxiety, or fear instead of peace?
 - How have you cultivated peace in your life? In seasons of busyness and hurry, especially, how do you allow the peace of Christ to take hold of you?
 - Michael said that peace is a third gift that enables us to take heart in the world. How does peace equip Christians to take heart?
- As Jesus ends this passage, He tells His disciples to “take heart.” Given everything we have discussed so far, what does it mean to “take heart”? How can we take heart in this world? How can we practically take heart this week in our homes, our work, and our friendships?