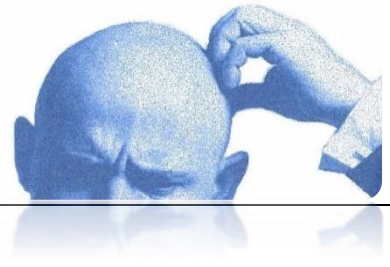


Grief Will Turn to Joy

Small Group Questions



The following questions are intended to start conversations. Use only the ones your group finds helpful. Explore others as they come up.

*Our preaching series during the season of Lent will pick up stories in John 15-19 (Light in Dark Places). Questions will be provided each week to help you think about these stories **BEFORE** you listen to the sermon. It is our hope that this will encourage your own study and prepare you for the upcoming sermon.*

- Read **John 16:16-33**. What stands out for you in this text?
- Jesus says, “A little while, and you will see me no more.” Why would God intentionally allow his followers to experience his absence? Does this challenge the idea of a God who desires to be known?
- Jesus compares the disciples’ grief to a woman in labor whose pain turns to joy (v.21). What does this metaphor suggest about the place of suffering?
- How do you understand joy?
- Jesus promises that the Father will give whatever is asked in His name (v. 23). How should we reconcile this with prayers that seem to go unanswered? What does it mean to pray in Jesus’ name?
- Although Jesus predicts his followers will abandon Him, he still entrusts them with his mission (see **John 20:21-23**). What does that tell us about human failure? What does that tell us about God?
- Jesus locates peace “in me,” not in the removal of trouble (v.33). How does this challenge the assumption that spiritual maturity leads to easier circumstances?
- How do you experience peace in troubled times?
- If Jesus has already overcome the world (v.33), why does injustice and evil continue?