



Week 14: John 16-18

Study Guide for the week of March 30 - April 5

Personal reflection / journaling exercise

This week, meditate upon John 18:12-27.

Imagine standing outside while Jesus is being questioned, abused, and beaten. What emotions rise when you see what is happening to the one you've been following, the one who is your friend? Are you angry? Confused? Afraid? How do you respond to the question, "Are you one of his disciples?"

At some time, we all have been angry, confused, or afraid as we followed Jesus, sometimes all at the same time. Which emotion do you experience most often? How do you deal with that emotion? Ask God to help you tame ungodly emotions and bring you to an emotional state that is undergirded with his abundant joy (John 10:10).

Each one of us has also denied knowing Jesus, either by answering the question by saying, "I do not know him" or by the way we live our lives. List those times and the ways you've denied Jesus. Now skip ahead and read John 21:15-17, the account of Jesus forgiving Peter. The same forgiveness is available for you; pray for God's forgiveness and the strength to grow in faith and hope.

Discussion starters

1. In John 16:31, Jesus acknowledged the disciples' faith and then immediately spoke to the time when the disciples would scatter; their faith needed to grow so their actions and lives matched their words. Where do your words and life match? Where is there a mismatch? Where are your growth areas?
2. Reread John 16:33. This verse is a good summary of Jesus' teaching during his last evening with his disciples before his arrest and crucifixion. What are his disciples facing in the world? What has Jesus done for his disciples? What is the result of Jesus' action for his disciples? What other contrasts between the world and Jesus' followers can you name?
3. When Jesus prayed about "glory" (John 17:1, 4, 5, 10) he was talking about the revelation of God's character and presence in the world. How is your life revealing God's presence and character? Is the character of a Christian important? Why or why not? Were you aware Gandhi was intrigued by Christ but repelled by the lives of the Christians he encountered?
4. John 17 is often called the High Priestly Prayer – did you know Jesus, in his last hours, prayed specifically for you (John 17:20)?!! What was Jesus' prayer for you (John 17:11, 15, 17)? How do you react to Jesus' prayer?
5. Pilate was really a post-modern man when he declared all truth is relative (John 18:38). Do you believe there is absolute truth or do you believe as Pilate did? Why? Which understanding of truth supports a basis for justice or a moral standard, absolute or relative? Why? What is the standard of truth for followers of Jesus?

Bible verse to memorize: John 16:33