



## One Hope Community Church Suggested Reading Plan & Guide Book of John: Chapter 16 part 1

Spiritual transformation happens when we purposefully spend time with God each day. God created you and is waiting to be known by you.

Always begin in prayer, start the conversation with God by asking Him to use His Holy Spirit to reveal whatever wisdom and insights He wants you to learn. Open your Bible, reflect on what you have read, perhaps take notes. The questions below are designed to help you examine the scriptures for both cultural context and personal application, to engage with the Holy Spirit for relational growth with God and to review with your small group if you are in one. This is your space for your time with God, learning and experiencing spiritual transformation. The plan is laid out for five days of reading and reflecting.

We know small groups meet on various days. You may find it helpful to read all of the verses and begin working through the questions before you meet so that you are ready to discuss them with your small group whenever it meets. The discussion with your small group is meant to help you learn from each other and grow deeper in community.

Song for the week: Graves into Gardens - Elevation Worship

Song links: <https://youtu.be/KwX1f2gYKZ4?si=gEnSgBNO4Sf6d7mQ>

### **John 16 (February 25 - March 2)**

#### **2/25 message on John 16: Jesus teaches about the Holy Spirit**

Day 1: John 16:1-6

Day 2: John 16:7-11

Day 3: John 16:12-15

Day 4: John 16:16-22

Day 5: John 16:23-24

### **Lent**

This is the third week of Lent. The practices of Lent are a form of self-discipline as we remember that Jesus gave up His life for us and that He made a way for us to become adopted into His family. Galatians 4:4-5 says, "But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship."

In the time of Jesus, deep purples were a sign of royalty. Violet used during Lent represents mourning and suffering. In Mark 15 and John 19 it says that the soldiers clothed Him in a purple cloth and tortured Him.

Putting it into practice: As you complete your chosen discipline, are you remembering why you are doing it? Consider adding to the giving up or the adding in by saying a prayer of thanks to Jesus each day for what He went through for you.

Notice purple this week - in flowers, paintings, clothing. Each time you see it, pause and thank Jesus.

Resolutions focus on us. Lent practices have us focusing on Jesus. 2 Corinthians 12:9 says, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me." When you are challenged to continue with what you have determined to give up or add in, use this verse to pray something like "Jesus thank you for what you have done for me. I am giving up / adding in to remember You this season. When it is hard for me to continue, help me remember You and why I am doing this. Rest on me in my weakness. Amen."

### **John 16:1-6**

Jesus told the disciples that they would experience hatred in the world so that when they did, they would not doubt, be discouraged or turn away. Their first experience was only hours away as they were approaching the Garden of Gethsemane. The hatred would continue when their apostleship began. He was lovingly preparing them even as He was comforting them about His leaving them soon.

What do you remember from John 9 about what it meant to be put out of the synagogue? How would this affect the disciples?

We no longer need to be concerned about being put out of the synagogue. Where might you be unwelcomed because of your belief in Jesus? How does this affect you? What truths do you hold on to to encourage you to remain true to your belief in Jesus?

In the disciples' day, some Jews thought they were doing God's work by killing believers in Jesus. What parallels can you name today where people think they are doing God's calling by being against believers of Jesus? If you were to encounter this, how might you respond? How will you know when it's time to stay and when it's time to go (the balance that Jesus had)?

### **John 16:7-11**

Just as Jesus is present since the beginning of time and is found in the Old Testament, so too is the Holy Spirit. In the past, one way the Holy Spirit worked was through the prophets to tell people about God (Nehemiah 9:30-31). He would also indwell people for a certain time and task (examples such as in Numbers 27:18 and 1 Samuel 16:12-13).

Who do you remember the Holy Spirit indwelling in the Old Testament? What was the purpose for His indwelling? What other ways do you know the Holy Spirit was present in the Old Testament?

Jesus would soon be sending the Holy Spirit (the Advocate) to His disciples. Jesus had to go back to heaven so that the Father would send the Holy Spirit. The disciples may have initially thought that the Holy Spirit would be for a certain time and task, as was true in the Old Testament. But the Holy Spirit is now the "guarantee of our inheritance" (Ephesians 1:13-14) and He resides in those who believe permanently.

Just as Jesus meant the Holy Spirit's arrival for the disciples' good and comfort, the same is true for you. Have you ever thought of the Holy Spirit this way? How does this truth affect your thinking or your feeling or your faith?

As a believer, the Holy Spirit is always present with you and in you. He never leaves. He will always be true to Who He is in the Bible but also, and as you are a unique creation of God, His relationship with you will be unique. Some of the many ways people hear Him / receive answers are in music, in messages at church, as they read their Bible and some hear His voice. How does He communicate with you?

Jesus said when the Holy Spirit comes, He will prove (or convict) about sin, righteousness and judgment.

Contextually, Jesus had been telling His disciples about the specific sin of unbelief (John 15:22), the rejection of belief in Jesus as the Messiah. He reiterates this when He said, "about sin, because people do not believe in me (verse 9)." One of the Holy Spirit's jobs is to prove to / convict people of their sin of unbelief and another is to prove to people that Jesus is the righteousness they need, the only One capable of keeping the law and Who was without any sin. As Jesus was going to return to heaven, the Holy Spirit would continue to show people the truth of Who Jesus is. This is the Holy Spirit being an Advocate for Jesus.

It is the Holy Spirit's job to prove the truth of Who Jesus is and it is your job to simply tell people about Jesus. Does this influence how you think about - or pray about - witnessing? Is there anything that you find daunting about witnessing? What can you ask God for to alleviate anything that blocks you from witnessing?

The third thing Jesus mentions is that the Holy Spirit will prove judgment has been made over the ruler of this world, Satan. By proving the righteousness of Jesus, He also proves the nature of Satan.

"It was an evident arrangement in the great plan of redemption that each of the persons of the Trinity should perform a part. As it was not the work of the Spirit to make an atonement, so it was not the work of the Saviour to apply it. And until the Lord Jesus had performed this great work, the way was not open for the Holy Spirit to descend to perform his part of the great plan; yet, when the Saviour had completed his portion of the work and had left the earth, the Spirit would carry forward the same plan and apply it to men (Barnes Notes on the Bible)."

Putting it into practice: Learning about God helps you to know Him. Spending time in conversation with Him builds your relationship with Him. 1 Peter 3:12 says, "For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer ..." Spend some time in prayer incorporating the three persons of God in the Trinity. Thank Jesus for His gift of salvation and for sending the Holy Spirit. Thank the Holy Spirit for proving to you that Jesus is Who He said He is and for proving to you your need for a Savior. Romans 4:3-9 says, "to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness." Thank God the Father for the righteousness that He gives you based on your faith, that He has made you right with Him. Is there anything else you want to thank any person of the Trinity for?

### **John 16:12-15**

When Jesus said "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear (verse 12)." It is much like a parent to a child. There are things a parent wishes to tell a child, but the child may not be ready. The same with a teacher and student - or Jesus and His disciples. Benson Commentary paraphrases Jesus' words this way, "But the weakness of your understanding, your desire and expectation of my erecting a temporal kingdom, your prejudices in favor of your own nation and law, and your aversion to the Gentiles, are so great, that you cannot yet bear the discovery. For which reason I judge it more prudent to be silent for the present."

There is kindness in not revealing things before a person is ready to understand. Just as Jesus waited to tell His disciples some things, God sometimes waits to tell you things. He chooses “to be silent for the present.” What is your thinking and feeling when God is silent? How do you practice patience and trust in the waiting? What would you say to someone else if they asked you why does God seem silent?

Putting it into practice: God invites you to come and talk with Him. In Psalm 27:8 the New Living Translation says, “My heart has heard you say, “Come and talk with me.” And my heart responds, “LORD, I am coming.”” What things do you want to talk with God about? Carve out time today and let God know, “Lord, I am coming.” then keep your time with Him. Go on a walk, a run, a drive, grab a cup of coffee, head to the gym ... however you would want to spend time talking with a friend, spend time with God who is waiting for you.

Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would guide the disciples “into all truth.” This does not mean into a new truth, but that He would guide them into the “fullness of truth” so that they would understand all that Jesus had been teaching them. The Greek word translated “guide” is hodēgēsei. It means to lead, guide, instruct, teach and show the way. It is the same word used in Revelation 7:17, “For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; ‘He will lead (hodēgēsei) them to springs of living water.’ ‘And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.’”

Putting it into practice: The Holy Spirit is also your hodegesei, leading you to understand what God’s Word means, guiding you to the “fullness of truth.” God will never contradict Himself. If you read something that you don’t understand, try reading it in other Bible translations, reading it in context of the Bible’s chapter - or chapters - or looking where else the Bible talked about the subject in question.

Another way to help you understand what you are reading in the Bible is to use the 5Ws and 1H method - Who was the message for? What did it mean to them (cultural relevance)? When did this take place? Where did it take place? Why was this said or written? How does it apply to you or what does God want you to learn from the passage?

## **John 16:16-22**

While it may have been confusing to the disciples, Jesus was giving them hope. He knew they would not see Him while He was in the grave, but they would see Him again when He rose. When Jesus heard them asking questions, He first replied by repeating the question. His doing so indicated to His disciples that He heard them. That their questions mattered to Him.

Do you ever identify with the disciples and ask “What does He mean by saying...?” The disciples lived with Jesus for three years and still did not always understand what He did, why He did it, what He meant or what was happening. When you are confused by something in the Bible, remember questions help us dig deeper for answers and understanding. Yet we need to be careful where we seek answers from. Start with the Bible as it will confirm itself. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you in understanding.

Two good websites to learn more are Got Questions and Answers in Genesis. The You Version Bible App is free and on it you can read Bible passages in different versions, which often helps with understanding. They also have a wide variety of individual Bible studies that are short and helpful.

This week, or the next time you wonder “what does God mean by saying / doing ... ?” ask God to help you understand. Try one or more of these ways to seek understanding. If you still do not understand, remember Jesus’ kindness with the disciples. Your questions matter to God.

Keep engaging with Him about the topic and seeking understanding. Remember Matthew 7:7-8, ““Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.”

Jesus did not suggest to erase one emotion and apply another, or that one emotion would pass but rather that the one emotion would BECOME a new emotion. “Sorrow not merely shall beget joy; but shall itself be turned into joy, as the water into the wine. This very thing, which now seems sorrowful to you, shall be perceived to be matter for joy (Bengel’s Gnomens).” Another commentary paraphrases Jesus’ words, “You will not only rejoice at my resurrection, but even my death, now the object of so much grief to you, will be to you a source of unspeakable joy. It will procure for you peace and pardon in this life, and eternal joy in the world to come (Barnes’ Notes on the Bible).”

Putting it into practice: We are in the season of Lent, looking ahead towards Jesus’ crucifixion and resurrection. As you participate in communion this week, remember Jesus turning water into wine, death into life and thank Him for forgiveness, peace and being part of His family.

### **John 16:23-24**

The disciples would soon not be able to directly ask Jesus for their needs to be met nor for clarification on questions, teachings or anything else as He would be going to the Father. A shift would have to take place since Jesus would not be with them in the same way. When Jesus goes to heaven, He becomes the Mediator so that the disciples (and believers) could ask the Father for their needs to be met in Jesus’ name. This has both a sense of their physical and spiritual needs, just as Jesus met these when He was here on earth. Asking in Jesus’ name is admitting we are unworthy to ask for favors but we are fully dependent on Jesus as “the Lord our righteous Savior (Jeremiah 23:6).” By the influence of the Holy Spirit, wisdom and understanding would be given, just as Jesus would do if He were present.

What needs or what understanding do you want to ask God the Father for? Are some asks easier for you to pray for than others? What is the cause of that? Take time to talk with God the Father, bring your requests to Him and ask for them in Jesus’ name, asking for His will to be done on earth as it is in heaven. Thank Him for the blessings He provides you.

### **Consider:**

I’ve been praying that we all would be more and more undone - letting go of the things that prevent us from living a “with God life” every moment of everyday. - Shannon Swift

...deepen your walk with Jesus, so that you are being transformed by spending time with Him. - Frank Vandy

Putting it into practice: Set an alarm for 2:42pm. When your alarm goes off, pray something like this: Jesus, you are the Lord of my life. I know you have purposes for me today; please make me aware of what you are inviting me to do. I fully submit to you.