



## One Hope Community Church Suggested Reading Plan & Guide Book of John: Chapter 16 part 2

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: Touch of Heaven

Song links: [https://youtu.be/sWwHBZm3HIA?si=H3ebS\\_3PGhPhh1Xh](https://youtu.be/sWwHBZm3HIA?si=H3ebS_3PGhPhh1Xh)

### **John 16 (March 3- March 9)**

Day 1: John 16:25

Day 2: John 16:26-28

Day 3: John 16:29-30

Day 4: John 16:31-32

Day 5: John 16:33

### **Lent**

This is the fourth week of Lent. During Lent, Christians often participate in almsgiving as a way to deepen their connection with God and to reflect on the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. Almsgiving is the practice of giving to those in need. It is a form of a prayer as it is giving to God, not just out of philanthropy, but out of obedience. It is a form of fasting as it requires not just giving but giving up to the point it is felt by both the giver and the receiver.

Matthew 6:2-3 says, “So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing.” The early church practiced this kind of giving “that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the

money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need (Acts 4:34-35)."

Putting it into practice: Practicing almsgiving this week. Begin by asking God what He would have you give up for another. Consider is there a family you can bless in some way? Is there someone in your small group who you can bless?

If you are being led by God to give something specifically, please let Shannon and Frank know as they may be aware of people in our congregation or community who would be blessed by your giving. This may be a gift of something besides finances such as helping with a meal, fixing something around a person's home or their car, giving someone a ride to church / an appointment / the store or treating someone to coffee.

God knows each of us - both how He has gifted us and what our needs are. He will use us to all be givers and all be receivers as the body of Christ. When we give, we give from what we have - finances, talents and time. All can be used to bless others.

If you are in need, please let Shannon or Frank know. They would stand along with you in prayer and may have tangible ideas and help.

### **John 16:25**

Jesus said He had been speaking figuratively to His disciples. The Greek word used for "figuratively" is paraoimia means parable, allegory or proverb. Jesus used figurative speech to help people understand.

Which parables that Jesus told do you remember from the book of John? How did the story He told help you understand or remember? How might you use either Jesus' parables or one of your own to help others understand things in the Bible?

One of the reasons Jesus would no longer use figurative language is that his human voice would be silent when He ascended and His heavenly voice would be present in the Holy Spirit. The things the disciples would soon know "plainly about the Father," were about the will and plan for the establishment of the Church and the spreading of the gospel.

Consider that just as the disciples HEARD Jesus' words, so can you as a believer with the Holy Spirit living in you. Is there something God has been communicating with you during Lent? How are you responding to what He may be impressing on you?

Putting it into practice: We also know plainly about the Father's plan for establishing the church and spreading the gospel. The plan has not changed - He intends to use you in the church and outside of it.

How is God inviting you to be part of establishing the church in our community? How has He gifted you, what talents has He given you, what passions has He ignited in you that can be used in the church? Is there a place you would like to begin volunteering at church?

Outside of the church, how are you spreading the gospel? When those who know you think of you, do they notice the overflow of Jesus in your life? If not, what changes might you welcome the Holy Spirit to make in you so that your witness of Jesus shines? Ask the Holy Spirit to show you who this week He wants you to witness to, either by word or action, then follow through on His prompting!

### **John 16:26-28**

“In that day” refers to when the Holy Spirit comes and resides in Jesus’ disciples. While Jesus would no longer be on earth, asking in His name for their spiritual wants and spiritual blessings would show their continued dependence on Christ alone.

As believers, we are still dependent on Jesus’ sacrifice for our relationship with God. What are some spiritual blessings or spiritual wants? Which ones are you longing for today?

When we are guided by the Holy Spirit, our will is obedient to the will of Jesus. What is hard for you to let go of in order to have your will match His (control, bitterness, independence, ...)?

When Jesus said, “I am not saying that I will ask the Father on your behalf,” He communicated that through the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, His disciples (and believers) would soon have direct access to God the Father because they loved Jesus, believed in Him.

Jesus remains the Savior Mediator / Advocate between God and man when our lives are interrupted by sin. 1 John 2:1 says, “My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.” Romans 8:34 echoes the same, “Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.”

Putting it into practice: Take a moment thanking God for His Spirit in you, asking Him to help you let go of the things you need to in order to make room for your will to match His. Then ask Him for the spiritual things you are longing for. End by thanking Him for completing His work in you.

### **John 16:29-30**

When the disciples said “Now you are speaking clearly ... Now we can see...” the “now” is emphatic.

Do you relate to the paraphrased “Now I understand! Finally!” when learning? How do you think the disciples were feeling when they grasped what Jesus was saying? How might it have affected both their thoughts and their faith?

We know what is about to happen to Jesus but the disciples did not yet understand that part. Just as Jesus was patient with the disciples as they slowly learned and understood, God is patient with you as you learn, grasping near understanding now and greater understanding as

you learn or listen to Him or watch Him reveal answers to your requests. How is your learning and seeking answers impacted by the knowledge of God's patience? What complicates or gets in the way of experiencing His patience? How can you show that same overflow of patience that the Holy Spirit is growing in you when you talk with others?

Jesus' disciples understood "You believe in me and love me. God loves you. I came from God the Father to earth and am leaving earth to go be with God the Father again (paraphrased)." They had believed this before and with the new understanding, their faith had grown.

Remember a time when your faith grew and perhaps felt new again. What were you experiencing at that time? How were you engaging with God? How might you replicate that season of growing in faith?

Jesus had been explaining the future to His disciples. In John 16:17-18 the disciples were asking each other "What does He mean?" In John 16:19-28 Jesus answered them, understanding their doubts without their asking Him directly. They said to Jesus, "You know all things ... and don't need anyone to ask You questions ..." as Jesus knew what they asked each other without their asking Him, He proved to them yet again that He was (is) God.

Putting it into practice: Read Psalms 139:1-4 and Luke 12:7. Based on these verses, what does God know about you? Read Romans 5:8 and Ephesians 2:4-5. What do you need to do to be loved by God? Read Proverbs 16:9 and Psalms 119:105. What does this teach you about God's involvement in your daily life?

As you make plans for your day, invite God, who knows you and loves you, to show you what He has prepared for you today. At the end of the day, talk with Him about your experience of walking out His daily plan for you. Consider sharing this experience and what you noticed with a friend or your small group.

### **John 16:31-32**

Jesus asked His disciples "Do you now believe?" Knowing Jesus had been patient and kind, this can be read with that same kindness. He knew them and that they had been growing in their faith and belief. Maybe this question helped them build the faith they would need during the next three days; He knew they would need their confidence in God.

Think of a time your faith felt strong. What helped it grow to the point of being strong? Did it remain strong or was it shaken? If it was shaken, what happened? How has God used your faith to help you through trials or complacency?

Read Matthew 7:24-27. How does the parable of The Wise and Foolish Builders apply to your relationship with God?

Jesus followed His question of "now" with a pronouncement for the future. He knew that when the guards came, when the trial began, they would be scattered.

Without racing ahead to what you know is about to happen, if you were one of the disciples, how might you have felt and what might you have thought hearing your loved teacher say that you would leave Him alone?

We are also sometimes tempted to hide that we know and love Jesus. Naming what tempts us can bring it from the hidden darkness to the light. What tempts you to hide or deny your loving Jesus? While this might feel a certain way, or make you want to hide the reasons, remember how Jesus spoke to His disciples. Knowing how He was then, imagine Him responding to you the same way. What might He say to you?

Jesus knew His disciples were going to leave Him. In His humanness, Jesus would have experienced the aloneness that we sometimes feel. He also knew He would not be completely alone, His Heavenly Father would remain with Him.

Putting it into practice: As a believer, you are also never alone; you have the same Heavenly Father and have the same never failing connection with Him. How do you engage with God to increase your sense of connection with Him? What verses can you use to remind yourself of His presence? If someone were to ask you how do you know God is present and with you, what would you say?

### **John 16:33**

Comparison was used by Jesus when He said peace is found in Him while there will be trouble in this world.

Sometimes people will assume that because of their relationship with God, there will be no troubles in their lives. Then when they encounter troubles, they blame God. Other people think that their faith must be lacking or they sinned and one of these things caused the trouble. Based on what Jesus said, how could you explain His words to people so that they understand the comparison and both existing at once?

There are many troubles in this world. Some include sin, health issues, addictions, betrayals. Other troubles are hearing Satan's voice reminding you of your brokenness or causing you to fear or tempting you. When these troubles come, what practices do you engage in to experience the peace found in Jesus? The Holy Spirit's gift includes peace; where or how do you feel the inward peace from Him?

Jesus said, "But take heart! I have overcome the world." In the Greek, the word used for "take heart" is tharseite. It can also be translated as "courage, courageous, good cheer."

How does Jesus' overcoming the world give you courage? How does it provide you with good cheer?

Putting it into practice: As we read Jesus' words, we know what He knows. Good Friday is coming. But so is Easter. And because of what He will do on both days, because of His extending us grace, by believing in Him, we have the good news of both salvation and of living

this life on earth WITH JESUS. Spend some time talking to God about the troubles you are experiencing. Ask Him to guide you and give you wisdom. Thank Him for how He will provide for you in these troubles and for how He will grow you in them.

Consider:

Prayer is just a conversation...We may not get an immediate answer, but we can be confident that He is at work on our behalf! - Shannon Swift

(need a quote still) - Frank Vandy

Putting it into practice: Set an alarm for 2:42pm. When your alarm goes off pray specifically for the ways God is using you and One Hope this season. In addition pray for:

ONEderland Family Easter Event, Saturday March 23, 10 am - Noon

Good Friday Services, Friday March 29, 7 pm

Easter Services, Sunday March 31, 9 & 11 am