



**Read John 16:1 -7**

What does Jesus warn his disciples about?

Would the physical presence of Jesus help the disciples deal with trials, persecution, and in understanding God's purpose and plan? If so, how?

Have you ever wished you could have walked and talked with Jesus as one of his disciples?

In verse 7, Jesus tells the disciples that it is an advantage to them that he goes away. How is it an advantage to them?

What happens as a result of Jesus going away?

Is having the Holy Spirit better than walking and talking with Jesus in his physical bodily form? If so, how is having the Holy Spirit better?

What do the following verses teach us about the person and/or work of the Holy Spirit? o John 4:24 o Matthew 3:16 o John 15:26 o Psalm 139:7-8 o Ephesians 1:13-14 o 2 Corinthians 3:17 o Galatians 5:16-25

Read Ephesians 5:18 -21. What does it mean to "filled with the Spirit"? Do you think this is a one-time occurrence or something that can happen repeatedly? What do the scriptures tell us are some of the results of being filled with the Spirit? Do you think it is would be right to seek an experience of filling with the Holy Spirit in your own life now? How might someone go about doing this?

Often, Christians try to use their own power and authority to persuade others to follow Christ. But sharing God's message should not involve slick debate or manipulation. Instead, we should share what God has done for us through the power of the Holy Spirit. Then we should depend on the Spirit for the results.

Take a few minutes to think back on what God has done in your life and how He has been continually sanctifying you.

Make a list of the pivotal changes God has made in your life that demonstrate his transforming love, grace, holiness, power, healing, forgiveness, peace, etc.

Then practice sharing with one another what God has done for you through the power of the Holy Spirit. (Use the list that you just created to help guide you if you get stuck.)

After a few of you have shared, take some time to pray and praise the Lord for the amazing transformation He has done and continues to do in you, ask the Holy Spirit to help you be more bold in sharing what He has done in your life and to use your witness and testimony to bring others to Christ.