



THE PROMISE OF THE GOSPEL

If you have a pattern of having someone in your group share their *Story of Faith* (life before Jesus, encountering Jesus, life since/late with Jesus) and/or sharing *Evidences of God's grace*, begin with that, followed by a time of thankful prayer for Christ's work in the individual's life and/or the grace in your lives.

OPENING COMMENT

Jesus has told his disciples the truth of who he is, and he has foretold his death on a few occasions, but the disciples sitting in the upper room have completely missed it. They miss the truth of the promised messiah, which seemed to be their pattern. It seems to be our pattern as well. Jesus' desire is that we, like the disciples, would turn our ears, hearts and minds to Him; that we may understand and experience the Love of the Father, the Peace of the Son, and the Hope of the Cross.

What stood out to you from Sunday's text and sermon?

READ THE TEXT: John 16:25-33

²⁵"I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father. ²⁶In that day you will ask in my name, and I do not say to you that I will ask the Father on your behalf; ²⁷for the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. ²⁸I came from the Father and have come into the world, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father." ²⁹His disciples said, "Ah, now you are speaking plainly and not using figurative speech! ³⁰Now we know that you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God." ³¹Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe? ³²Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. ³³I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In this passage Jesus was giving a summary of the upper room discourse. What was the first reminder that Jesus chose to highlight?
2. Do people need to feel loved? Do we need to feel Jesus/God's love? Why?
3. How did Jesus explain this deep affection that His Father had for the disciples/us? What was the disciples' part in this relationship? What is our part in our relationship with Jesus/God?
4. In order to live life and life abundantly everyone was created with a basic need to feel loved, have a desire to believe in something or someone bigger than themselves, as well as believe there is always hope. Why are these important? And where can we find them?
5. How does putting our faith and trust in Jesus, over and above all other people or things, give us peace and hope? The Gospel is the rescue plan for humanity ... (v. 28) Jesus was on a mission; Sent from heaven to earth and now he is about to return with the mission complete. Why is this two-fold movement of Jesus important to believe?
6. The disciples faith (appearing weak and inadequate) would ultimately deliver them to glory because of the cross. Do you have confidence in, or struggle with, your faith in Jesus and the cross? Do you believe that even in your weakness and inadequacy you can know the love of God, experience the peace of Jesus and have hope because of the cross?

CONCLUSION

As Jesus sat with His disciples, his eyes, mind and heart were set to the cross. Jesus knew why he was going to die. It was out of love for His people that he willingly laid down His life. He took to the cross so that they, and we, could be forgiven. It is through the cross that we can have hope. God's solution for humanity's brokenness is the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus.

SHARE & PRAY

- Share how you can pray for each other in light of what this text has impressed upon you.
- Pray that regardless of trial or hardship we would experience the love of the God, the peace of Jesus and the hope of the cross. Pray that during easy seasons of life we do not become complacent with our desire to know and grow deeper in Christ.
- Ask the group how they intend to get involved in the planting of new campuses in the coming months (going, staying, serving, giving, etc) and pray that God would give us much grace as a church to fulfill the work He has called us to together.



- Conclude by spending some time praying for one another, for the areas of growth and grace you are seeking, and the needs among you.

