

DISCUSSION GUIDE

The Follower's Trail Guide

NAVIGATING THE PATH OF JESUS

OPENING UP



What event have you participated in that took a lot of preparation? How much time and money did you spend to ensure you had everything you needed? Did it pay off?

TEXT



Walking in the Way | 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."

MESSAGE OUTLINE



Big Idea: Jesus' victory provides us everything we need to follow him.

1. Access (v. 25-28)
2. Clarity (v. 29-32)
3. Peace (v. 33)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



- With some of Jesus' last words he assures his disciples that he will give them everything they need to follow in his way. Is there anything you feel you're lacking in your spiritual journey? What does it look or feel like when we try to meet our own spiritual needs instead of asking Jesus to meet them?
- In verse 26, Jesus tells his disciples that they can bring their requests directly to the father in his name. How does having unhindered access to the Father in Christ help us walk through this life? What does this practically look like?
- Jesus predicts that the disciples will abandon him in verse 32, but his secure relationship with the Father gave Jesus confidence that he would never be alone. How does the gospel—what Jesus accomplished for us through his death and resurrection and the fact that he is coming again—provide clarity for our everyday lives? How can that change the way we react to people and situations?
- Jesus told his disciples that he would soon tell them plainly about the Father so they could understand his ways (v. 25). As modern disciples we have these “plain teachings” in the completed Scriptures. How does the Word of God provide clarity for us? What keeps us from engaging his Word? (NOTE: While there are certainly areas of Scripture that are not as clear as others, the central doctrines and realities of the gospel are not vague.)
- Jesus has secured ultimate victory for us, even though we will still face tribulations in this world. Revisit John 16:33. How do Jesus's words in this passage shape and encourage your life? How can you receive peace in the victory that he has already won for you instead of striving for it?

LIFE CHALLENGE



Jesus took the time to prepare his disciples for their journey of faith. Is there someone in your life who has acted as a spiritual guide and helped you in your journey of following Jesus? What did they do that was so impactful? Take time to thank God for them.

How can we point others to the tools that Jesus gave his disciples in John 16:25-33 (Access, Clarity, Peace)? Take the time to discuss practical ways we can help others talk to God, understand the gospel, go to God's word for clarity, or receive the peace of Jesus in uncertain times.

We are not meant to be anyone's savior. Jesus has that covered! But we can point people to our Savior and all he provides for us. Commit to sharing one of these tools Jesus offers with someone in your life who trusts you to point them to the Father.

CLOSING PRAYER



Father, thank you that you give us everything we need to follow you in this world. We know that we will face our share of troubles but teach us to receive our peace and victory from Jesus instead of seeking peace in our own ways. We are so grateful that Jesus gives us direct access to know you and talk with you. Thank you for opening our eyes to your plan for the world through Jesus. Please use us to point fellow travelers to Jesus and all that you provide through his victory on the cross. Amen.