

Applying It In My LifeGroup time - 25 minutes

1. Jesus says that the disciples were not asking questions because they were too filled with grief. (vv. 5-6) Can you think of a time when you could not concentrate on what Jesus was saying to you because of your personal situation? How did you overcome such distractions and focus on Jesus' work in your life?

2. In what ways do we see the Spirit of God advocating on behalf of those who suffer from oppression and injustice in the world today? How does the Spirit work in our lives to grow our passion for those suffering from injustice? What areas of injustice are important to you? How could any of these areas of passion become an opportunity for your group to get involved in a community service project.

3. One of the roles of the Holy Spirit is to lead the followers of Christ into a truth and knowledge of the things of Christ. How have you experienced this work of the Spirit? How has this role of the Spirit been vital to your growth and maturity as a Christ follower? Where would you like to continue to grow in this area of knowledge?

Prayer TimeGroup time - 15 minutes

Give thanks to the Father, the Son and Spirit for the unique way they work together to demonstrate the greatest kind of love to us. Give thanks to the Spirit for His advocacy and guidance in your life. Ask the Spirit to lead you daily into truth and knowledge.

Finish your prayer time by praying for the needs of those in your *Growth Group*. Take a few minutes to share prayer requests. Ask someone in the group to record your prayers so that in future weeks

BEFORE I GO
The Advantage He Gives

- Jesus' words gave the disciples some ANXIETY.

- The disciples were not THINKING about Jesus and the fulfillment of His mission.

The Advantage of the Holy Spirit

John 16:8-15

- The Holy Spirit will be IN you.

- The Holy Spirit comes into your life the MOMENT you invite Jesus to be your Savior.

- The Holy Spirit will CONVICT the world.

- The Holy Spirit GUIDES the believer.

GROWTH GROUP HOMEWORK

Week of February 1-5, 2016

Getting StartedGroup time - 10 minutes

1. We desire *Growth Groups* to be serving the body of Christ together. Discuss as group a **community service project** you could get involved in together between now and Easter. It could be a project like the SC Pregnancy Resource Center, the Easter Faire at San Juan, or Eggstravaganza at DP campus. Or, it could be something you as a group have a passion and heart for.
2. Describe a time in your life when you had to give something up you dearly loved for something new and unknown. (a job, house, or relationship) What was your initial reaction to this loss? In what ways over time did the loss lessen and you actually came to recognize the advantage of the new thing?

FOR GROWTH GROUP TIME

Getting Into God's WordGroup time - 40 minutes

Read **John 16:1-15** (In preparation to answer questions)

1. The earlier verses of this section of John's gospel are linked with the preceding section (John 15) about persecution, repeating many ideas that were stated before. What was repeated here? What new emphases are found here in verses 1-4?

2. In what ways would the Spirit of God, acting as our Advocate, prove the world to be incorrect in their assumptions and accusations regarding Jesus and His followers? (vv. 8-11)
3. Jesus says the Holy Spirit will convict the world concerning righteousness and judgment. (vv. 8-11) What do people in the world need to be convicted about concerning righteousness? How is this different than our attempts to persuade the world of their error?
4. Getting our arms around all the roles of the Holy Spirit is a challenge. One commentator, speaking about the many functions of the Spirit says – *“The Spirit is a witness in defense of Jesus and a spokesman for Jesus in the context of His trial before His enemies; the Spirit is a consoler of the disciples for the Spirit takes Jesus place amongst them; and the Spirit is a teacher and guide of the disciples and thus their helper.”* Discuss what this passage says about each of these vital roles of the Spirit?
5. How can it be that it is to the disciples (and our) advantage that Jesus goes away and the Spirit comes? In what ways was it better for the disciples to have the Holy Spirit than to have Jesus in the flesh? What does the Spirit's presence in us signify? How does the Spirit of God work to grow and mature us?