

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

GOD BECAME MAN

WEEK 26

March 28 & 29

Trusting God When Life Doesn't Make Any Sense

This sermon study is designed to be used the week after the sermon it supplements. Before using the study in your life group, it might be helpful to work through the questions on your own before your group meets. The purpose of this guide is to help facilitate discussion and to help your group, collectively and individually, grow closer to Jesus.

SERIES RECAP

Back in August, we started going through the gospel of John and left off in chapter 9. John's gospel is unique from Matthew, Mark and Luke in that John was one of Jesus' first followers and closest friends, and was written around A.D. 85. In his writing, John's primary aim is to persuade skeptics that Jesus is the Christ and the Son of God (20:30-31).

SERMON SUMMARY

As we come to John 16, we are moments away from Jesus' arrest, trial, and crucifixion. For the past several weeks, we've been in chapters 13-15, which records one of the longest conversations that Jesus had with His disciples, preparing them for His departure. Here, Jesus is talking to the disciples about how the world has been altered by sin, and what He is going to do about it.

MAIN TEXT

John 16:16-33

GETTING STARTED

Did your family celebrate Easter when you were a child? If so, how did you celebrate? What are your plans for this year?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Read John 16:16-33 out loud as a group. At the beginning of this passage, what were the disciples struggling to comprehend? What specific events was Jesus referring to in verse 20?
2. At some point in our lives, we will encounter unexpected trouble. Share with the group an

example of difficulty or hardship that you faced as a child. What were the circumstances surrounding it and what was the result?

3. In this passage, Jesus tells His disciples that their sorrow and grief will turn to joy. What is the difference between happiness and joy? Do you think grieving and sorrow are necessary in order to experience joy?
4. This weekend, we were reminded of Jesus' promise that even though difficulties in this life are inevitable, we will never lose our joy. Have you ever felt that you were exempt from trouble because of your relationship with Christ? What is wrong with that mindset? What kind of confidence/reassurance does this promise give you?
5. In times of suffering, it's important to remember that our perspective is limited and incomplete. Share an example of suffering that you've endured that has strengthened your faith. What positive characteristics can come from experiencing hardship?

NEXT STEPS

Divide the passages below amongst your group, and individually read them out loud.

James 1:2-4
Nahum 1:7
Romans 8:35-37
2 Corinthians 4:16-18
Psalm 34:18-19

As a group, pray for the people in your lives who are struggling and in need of spiritual reassurance. Pray that they would gain that perspective.

Before you leave, have everyone in the group commit to inviting at least one person to an Easter service this weekend, and hold each other accountable to it.