

GROWTH GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

JESUS' LAST NIGHT

SERIES THEME//

In the lead up to Easter Sunday, this sermon series will spend time learning from Jesus' final words to his disciples in John 13-20. Jesus, ever the creative and engaging teacher, uses several rich images to help his disciples understand who He is, how He gives life, and why He will never leave them. We will explore each of these images. This Lenten series will give us a chance to see what was most important to Jesus as he spent his final night on earth, culminating in Holy Week. Each image He calls us to behold reveals the kind of people He's helping us to become.

SERMON; ADOPTED | JOHN 14:15-26

SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 2017

SERMON THEME//

The Holy Spirit helps us to live like God's adopted children.

LEADER// A note about this sermon

Jesus makes us part of the family. Jesus' sacrifice makes us part of the Father's family. His gift of the Holy Spirit helps us have true assurance that we've been adopted. The Spirit also helps us act like we're part of the family. We are not orphans!

OPENING UP// *Start with prayer*

1. What do you think when you hear about the word, "Adoption?"
2. Do you know anyone who has adopted, or been adopted?
3. If an adoption were to go "perfectly," what would it look like for a child to become part of a family to which they are not biologically linked?
4. Do you ever think about adoption as a term for Christian salvation?
5. Changing gears a little bit, describe what you know now after the sermon about the person of the Holy Spirit.

DIGGING DEEPER//

- o As we read this passage, consider this question for later discussion: How do Jesus' words about love contrast with the world's understanding about love?

LEADER//

While a fair amount of processing of the sermon maybe necessary and often helpful, remember that the point of this discussion it to take the word *preached* and consider how to make it the word *lived*.

Practically, this means taking the questions, discussion and ideas from "What do you think about this?" to "What does this mean for your life?"



John 14:15-26 (ESV)

Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit

¹⁵ "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper,^[a] to be with you forever, ¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be^[b] in you.

¹⁸ "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him." ²² Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?" ²³ Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. ²⁴ Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.

²⁵ "These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. ²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

Footnotes:

1. [John 14:16](#) Or *Advocate*, or *Counselor*; also [14:26](#); [15:26](#); [16:7](#)
2. [John 14:17](#) Some manuscripts *and is*

- o Take a moment to pray over this text, asking God to use this text to further deepen our relationship with him, our passion for the lost, and our love for the church.
- o Before we watch the sermon video, what would be one question you have for Pastor Adam following the sermon?

SERMON DISCUSSION VIDEO//

- o As you watch the sermon discussion video, take note of what you found intriguing, insightful, and challenging as you consider how to take the *word preached* and make it the *word lived*.



THE WORD PREACHED//

- How do Jesus' words about love contrast with the world's understanding?
- What is the relationship between obedience and love, according to Jesus?
- How does Jesus model what loving obedience looks like for us?
- How does the Holy Spirit help us live into loving obedience?
- As a group, have each person try to list at least one of the activities of the Holy Spirit highlighted in the passage.

THE WORD LIVED//

- Pastor Adam ended the sermon with two points under the 'Become' section of the sermon. *Become Secure* and *Become Yielded*. First, *Become Secure*.
 - o When in life would being utterly secure in Christ be vitally important?
- As we close looking at the section called *Become Yielded*, let's revisit these words from the sermon: *"Have a heart that is yielded. To the Word. To the Holy Spirit. A heart that is yielded can do anything! Jesus tells his disciples they can ask anything and he will do that (14:12-14). The premise of this is that they're operating in a context of yieldedness to his will and desires for them, as manifested in the word."*
 - o What would Peace feel like during a worship service if everyone were totally yielded to the Holy Spirit?
 - o What would your family be like if everyone was totally yielded to the Holy Spirit?
 - o What would your life be if you were totally yielded to the moving of the Holy Spirit?
 - o As you think about your own life, what is one area where you would long to see more of the Holy Spirit at work? How can your group be praying for you in this area?

LEADER//

Now that the #ShareHope campaign is underway, the next number of Growth Groups will end with discussion of this initiative and the piece we all play in it.

It is your job as the leader to hold this candle in front of your group so the mission of #ShareHope burns brightly in the minds and hearts of your group.

The primary goal of this #ShareHope campaign as we lead up to Easter is this: With whom can you share the hope of the gospel, and will you extend an invite to that person to join us for one of our Easter services?

There will be profession of focus each week leading up to Easter that will help the people of Peace grow into this challenge and mission we are all undertaking.



#SHAREHOPE//

- o Okay everyone – how are you doing with investing in the #ShareHope initiative that is leading up to Easter?
 - o Where have you shared hope?
 - o Where have you posted that 'hashtag'? Those without technology get a pass....this time.
 - o This #ShareHope is meant to be just that: A time where the people of Peace Church share the hope they've been born into – this is meant to serve as a opportunity to invite at least on other person to join us on Easter and hear the gospel!
- o The call of #ShareHope is a challenge to us to pray for a deeper passion of the lost and to increase our awareness of their need for Jesus. During the #ShareHope initiative, we are going to close every growth group by spending time in prayer asking God to do just that: give us a deeper passion for the lost and increase our awareness of their need of Jesus.

CLOSE IN PRAYER//

LEADER//

As you close in prayer, take some time to receive prayer requests from your group. Try to gather a number of these.

Then take the time to pray over two specific areas (and to facilitate a deeper sense of community, encourage everyone to pray.)

1. First, your time of prayer should be a time of lifting up each other's needs and prayer requests to the Lord.
2. Second, your growth group should pray to thank God for his Word and ask for his help as you seek to be *doers* of the word and not hearers only.

PRAYER REQUEST//

