



Personal Bible Study Program 2007

John 14-16

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

Colossians 3:16

To help you get the most out of bible talks on Sunday we have designed a daily bible reading program that will help you to read and apply each bible passage during the week before the bible talk. This can be a supplement to your existing bible reading program if you already have one.

We hope that you will make the most of this Bible reading program by setting aside the time to "let the word of Christ dwell in you richly".

How to use the readings:

- Print the studies out double-sided and staple the pages as a booklet
- Set aside time
- Pray for understanding
- Read the passage
- Answer the questions
- Meditate on what you learn
- Apply what you learn
- Pray in response

**This Bible reading guide is available for download
from the 'Resources' page at www.bpc.org.au**

**Please note that we are open to feedback on how to improve this resource.
Please email your comments to office@bpc.org.au**

Introduction to John 14-16

It is Jesus' last night with the disciples.

They sit reclined, enjoying each other's company. Eating together in the upper room. But this is more than just a meal amongst friends.

Much to the surprise of the disciples, Jesus, their Teacher washes each of their feet in a shocking and unexpected display of love and humility. The disciples don't realize it yet, but Jesus points them to the cross where they will see the full extent of his love and his glory.

And then comes the bad news from Jesus...

Jesus is going to leave them and they can't follow him.

The disciples are distressed and troubled.

But the words that come from the mouth of Jesus provide the disciples with comfort and conviction.

But these words are not only for them, but also for us when we are tempted to despair in this life.

So how can we really have confidence and conviction in troubling times?

How can we be assured that we really know God the Father?

Can we be certain of our future when we don't see Jesus face to face like the disciples did?

Read on and find the answers in John 14-16.



Set aside time to read the section this week. If you are using these for group discussion please make sure that you have read the section prior to the study.

Day 1 (Read 14:1-4) Troubled or Trusting?

1. The disciples are deeply troubled because Jesus has said to them that he is leaving them (13:36). Jesus reassures them to “Trust” in him? Why should they trust in him?
2. What is Jesus describing in the promises in verses 1-4?
3. How can these verses encourage you to keep trusting Jesus when you feel troubled?

Day 2 (Read 14:5-7) Recipe or Relationship?

1. Thomas said “how can we know they way”? Think of a time in your life when you did not know the way to God. How did you feel?
2. Jesus answers not by saying that he *knows* the way but that he *IS* the way, truth and life. What does He mean? How can this be true of Him?
3. In your own life, what does it mean for Jesus to be: the *way*, the *truth*, and the *life*?

Day 3 (Read 14:6) All roads lead to God?

1. Commit John 14:6 to your memory today.
2. What does this verse say to the idea that “all religions lead to the same God”?
3. This verse from Jesus is often seen as arrogant because of its exclusiveness. But Jesus is trying to reassure and comfort his disciples. Why is it not arrogant for Jesus to say this? How does this verse reassure and comfort you?

Day 4 (Read 14:7-11) Knowing the Father

1. Philip makes a genuine request of Jesus (v.9). Why does Jesus’ initial response (v.9) express surprise and disappointment at this request?
2. What do you think this means: “I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me” (v.10)
3. The disciples knew Jesus and had seen his miracles. Yet they didn’t really *know* Jesus. What prevented them from realising the truth about Jesus? What prevents us from thinking that Jesus is who he says he is?

Day 5 (Read 14:12-14) In Son’s name for the Father’s glory

1. In this book we have seen Jesus raise the dead, give sight to the blind, feed 5,000 and do many other extraordinary things. What work that His followers do can be greater than these?
2. What does it mean to ask ‘in Jesus’ name’? What is the purpose of Jesus’ answering our prayers? How does understanding this affect how you pray and what you pray for?



Please use this section to make notes, reflections, prayer points in both personal and group use.

Suggested launch questions for group bible study:

1. “As far as I’m concerned, all religions are really all the same – they all lead to God”. How would you respond?
2. Share a time in your life when you’ve been troubled in life. How did God comfort you?



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Day 1 Father, Son, Spirit

1. Read the passage and spend time writing down all the words and phrases that describe the intimate relationship between Jesus, God the Father and the Holy Spirit.
2. Spend time writing down the words and phrases describing the intimate relationship between Father, Son, Spirit and someone who loves Jesus. (Dig: Ezekiel 36:26,27)

Day 2 (Read 14:16-20) The Holy Spirit (part 1)

1. Jesus' departure filled the disciples with anxiety. The word translated "Counsellor" is *paraclete*. The sense is someone who comes to your aid to assist you in your defence is a court. Who is the first *paraclete*? (See 1 Jn 2:1-2).
2. What is the Spirit promised to do to that justifies his description as the "other" *paraclete*?

Day 3 (Read 14:25,26) The Holy Spirit (part 2)

1. What are common ideas of the work of the Holy Spirit today? How does that relate to what the work of the Spirit is in this passage?
2. Jesus distinguishes between his disciples and the world? Why do you think the world won't receive the Spirit?
3. What does the Spirit promise to do in verses 25 and 26? To whom is this promise given first of all? How do we experience the fulfilment of this promise?
4. How have you seen the work of the Holy Spirit in your life doing what Jesus promises?

Day 4 (Read 14:15, 20-21, 23-24) Love and obedience

1. Obedying Jesus is a theme of this passage. Why do you think the test of love is obedience to Jesus?
2. What comes first, obedience to Jesus or his love for you? (Reflect also on Jn 13:34, 1 Jn 4:9-11; 1 Jn 5:3,4)
3. To those who are obedient, Jesus promises an intimate union with him and his Father (v.23). What parts of your life do you need to submit to Jesus' teaching in obedience to him? Thank God for the Holy Spirit to make clear to you Jesus' teaching. Make a plan to do something about obeying Jesus.

Day 5 (Read 14:27-31) The source of peace in strife

1. The disciples faced the hostility of the world and the attacks of Satan just as Christians do today. How is it possible for Jesus to promise comfort and peace in such strife?
1. Jesus himself was troubled by the prospect of the cross (12:27). Why did he go through with it?
2. These words of Jesus are meant to be incredibly comforting to the disciples. In what way are they comforting to you in your life situation?



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Suggested launch questions for group bible study:

1. The work of the Holy Spirit today is..... (finish the sentence)
2. "In these days of uncertainty, it is impossible to feel any real peace". Comment
3. "If only Jesus was here today, then it would be so easy to have a relationship with him. Most of the time he seems so remote". Comment



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Day 1 (Read 15:1-10) The True Vine

Jesus uses an interesting metaphor to describe himself. Dig into the Old Testament to get an idea of why he might be describing himself in this way.

1. Read Isaiah 5:1-7. Who is the vineyard and the owner of the vineyard?
2. Read Ps 80:8-19. What has happened to the vineyard?
3. Based on these OT texts, what is the significance of Jesus saying "I am the true vine"?

Day 2 (Read 15:3-10) The Vine and the Branches

1. Using the passage, describe who the branches are and what their purpose is?
2. The phrase "remain in me" occurs lots of time. What do you think Jesus means by this? (hint: how were the disciples included into Christ)
3. What do you think is the 'fruit' Jesus talks about? 'Bearing fruit' is the main aim of God's people in order to bring glory to God. How does this compare with your main aim in life?
4. When we're discouraged in bearing fruit and praying for fruit, how do Jesus' words bring encouragement? (hint: v.16)

Day 3 (Read 15:5-8) Remaining in the Vine

1. Commit John 15:5 to your memory today.
2. A good definition of a Christian is: someone who *remains in Christ*. What warning does Jesus give us in verse 6?
3. What should we do to prevent us from making Jesus marginal in our lives?

Day 4 (Read 15:9-14) The Vine at work – part 1

1. What is that Jesus commands us to do? How does Jesus show us that he is already "practicing what he preaches"?
2. Jesus has been talking about loving him and showing that love in obedience. How do we love Jesus and who do we turn to when we find little love for Jesus in our lives? Where does the initiative lie in Jesus work?
3. Some would describe the Christian life as a 'burdensome and boring duty'. Why is this so far from the truth? What is your current experience of life as a Christian?

Day 5 (Read 15:12-17) The Vine at work – part 2

1. Just as it is love that connects Jesus, God and us, it is also love that connects us to other followers of Christ. What is the most stunning example of such love?
2. When we think of obedience we normally think of slave. But for Jesus, obedience is the mark of Christian friendship. Why can Jesus call us his friends? In what ways do you have the experience of knowing Jesus as your friend?
3. In what ways can you love others in the same way Jesus has loved you?



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Suggested launch questions for group bible study:

1. "The real proof of a Christian is the fruit he or she produces". What do you think?
2. The purpose of life is to.....(finish the sentence)

John 15:18-16:4

for bible talk on 18 Mar



Set aside time to read the section this week. If you are using these for group discussion please make sure that you have read the section prior to the study.

Day 1 (Read John 15:18-16:4)

1. Skim over chapter 15. What characterises the disciples' response to each other? What characterises the world's response to the disciples?
2. Why does the disciples' relationship to Jesus result in them being hated? Are all Christians to expect this treatment?
3. Should we be surprised when people mistreat us for being Christians? What should our response be? (Matt 5:43-48; Luke 6:27-36)

Day 2 (Read John 15:18-21)

1. What does it mean to belong to the world? Who is the "world"?
2. Why would the world hate someone who doesn't belong to the world? (vv.18, 21) Check out John 3:19-20
3. When are you tempted to hide your Christian beliefs so people won't reject you?

Day 3 (Read John 15:22-25)

1. The people are guilty of what sin in verses 22-24?
2. How does John 20:30-31 shed light on this passage? What is the consequence for those who reject the evidence of Jesus' miracles?
3. When people reject Jesus, who are they ultimately rejecting? What does this mean for those who want to say all religions are equal?

Day 4 (Read John 15:26-27)

1. The picture that Jesus paints is of a court case where "the world" is attacking us. Who will come to our defence and how will he do it?
2. Are the disciples passive in this defence? And what qualifies them to testify?
3. What is the relationship of the Spirit's testimony to the disciples' testimony?

Day 5 (Read John 16:1-4)

1. Why is Jesus telling the disciples all these things?
2. Do you think you could be convinced that you were pleasing God when you were doing the exact opposite? What could prevent you from doing this?
3. As Christians, what things do we have to help us stand up against persecution and ridicule from non-Christians?

Notes for prayer and application



Please use this section to make notes, reflections, prayer points in both personal and group use.

Suggested launch questions for group bible study:

1. Have you ever been left out of a group because you're different? How did it make you feel?

John 16:5-16

for bible talk on 25 Mar



Set aside time to read the section this week. If you are using these for group discussion please make sure that you have read the section prior to the study.

Day 1 (read John 16:5-16)

1. Why are Jesus' disciples sorrowful? (cf. 16:5, 14:3, 14:19)
2. Give reasons why it's better for Jesus to leave than to stay?

Day 2

The *paraclete* will convict the world regarding sin, righteousness and judgement. The language again picks up the image of a legal court and the idea of the Spirit being a "legal advocate" who is now convicting the world.

1. How is "the world" wrong concerning:
 - Sin
 - Righteousness
 - Judgement(think of how Jesus was treated)
2. Reflecting on what you looked at above and also 15:26, what role will the disciples play in the Spirit's work?
3. What role do we play today?

Day 3 (Read John 16:12-13)

1. Why doesn't Jesus tell them all things now?
2. How will Jesus continue to teach the disciples? How do we learn about Jesus?
3. What confidence can we have that the gospels are accurate?

Day 4 (Read John 16:12-15)

1. What promises are made here to the apostles?
2. How do we experience the same promises through the *paraclete*? (Read and reflect on 1 Corinthians 2)

Day 5 (Read John 16:5-15)

1. What is the relationship between the:
 - Spirit and the world
 - Spirit and the disciples
 - Spirit and Jesus
2. Summary:
 - What is the Spirit's purpose here? (vv.13-15)
 - What should our role be in the Spirit's work?

Notes for prayer and application



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Set aside time to read the section this week. If you are using these for group discussion please make sure that you have read the section prior to the study.

Introduction: All of this is spoken on the last night of Jesus' life. He has stopped speaking in parables and uses 'theological language' of a plain nature. He speaks more plainly about the events that are about to unfold. Eg "...now I am leaving this world and going back to the Father."(vs.28). This discourse is about his suffering, death and ultimate victory.

Day 1 or Question 1.

Why is it necessary for Jesus to tell his disciples that there is both grief and joy ahead? Is it because he thinks that they will find it almost impossible to believe that he has died and come back to life again, or is it because he yearns for their prayerful support in these last few hours of his life as he contemplates the horror of what is to come?

Day 2 or Question 2

When Jesus likens future events to the experience of a woman giving birth to a child, is he referring to the disciples' experience, or his own? In what senses might it apply to both? Compare the words of verses 20 and 21 with the words of Simeon to Mary the mother of Jesus (Lk 2:33-35. How are they similar and why?) Why do you think Jesus uses the analogy of childbirth? Have you experienced times of grief and the feeling that all is lost? How does the resurrection of Jesus help you to put your experience in the big picture?

Day 3 or Question 3

When Jesus says, that after his departure, "...My Father will give you anything you ask in my name." (v.23.) Is he emphasizing the fact that God will give them ANYTHING that they ask in Jesus name, or is he simply drawing attention to the fact that after his departure they can go directly to the Father in prayer in Jesus Christ's name? In the context of this passage what might the ANYTHING be that Jesus is talking about? (John 16:12-14)

Day 4 or Question 4

In reading the disciples' response and Jesus reaction : " You believe at last!" in verses 29 to 32, do you think that Jesus words are a rebuke or a compliment? Why do you think that the disciples were so slow in believing what Jesus told them? How readily do you accept what the Scriptures teach? Can you remember a time in your life when the words of Scripture became living and active?

Day 5 or Question 5

How is it possible to have 'peace' and 'trouble' at the same time? (v.33) And how can Jesus say "I have overcome the world" when he is about to be carted off and killed? If Jesus has the cross in mind when he says this, in what sense does the cross overcome the world?

"In the cross of Christ I glory, towering o'er the wrecks of time,
All the light of sacred story, gathered 'round its Head sublime" (from the Hymn)



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