

## Home group questions on John 16:16-33

*By Phil Bailey*

**Theme:** Through the grief of the cross, the disciples will discover the lasting joy and peace of seeing Jesus risen and enjoying a new relationship with the Father.

### **Aims:**

- Press into the truth that Jesus is risen and find joy there
- Rejoice that the Father loves us and wants to answer our prayers
- Press into the character and teaching of Jesus and let them shape our prayers, so our joy will be complete

### **Questions**

- 1) In the sermon, our situation was said to be similar to the original disciples: we must pass through a moment of intense pain to enter into lasting joy. Lasting joy is impossible in a fallen world, where sin, suffering and death put an end to all joy sooner or later. Similarly, lasting joy is impossible without intimacy with God, who alone is eternal and unchanging. So our vain hopes of finding joy in a fallen world must be smashed and the pride that keeps us from confessing our sin must be crushed, before we can discover lasting joy in relationship with God.

Where do you need to push through another 'moment of pain' in order to experience renewed or joy?

- 2) In v.22, the disciples will experience lasting joy because they will see the risen Jesus. We too can see him, though not physically, and the Spirit helps us (N.B. Jesus comes to us and shows himself to us by the Spirit, who he sends in his place as another Advocate, 14:15-20).
  - What helps you to fix your eyes on his resurrection victory and rejoice in it?
  - How can you help each other with that?
  - If the Spirit is essential to seeing Jesus and having joy, how should that truth shape our prayers?
- 3) What encouragements are there to prayer in vv.23-27?
- 4) What does it look like to 'pray in Jesus' name'? Think of some examples of prayers that would be more or less 'Jesus shaped' to help you ground it practically.
- 5) What things could you focus your prayers on this week that would be more 'Jesus shaped'?
- 6) When we pray 'Jesus shaped prayers' the Father is only too glad to answer. As we see him answer, how will that deepen our assurance that Jesus is risen?