SMITH FOR CHRIST · TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

GROUP WORKSHEET · OBSERVE · INTERPRET · APPLY

John 16

Sorrow Turned into Joy

NAME _____ DATE _____

KEY VERSE · JOHN 16:33 · NASB

"These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."

The last words of the farewell before Jesus prays. He warns, promises the Spirit, speaks of "a little while," and ends with courage. For the first time since chapter 14, the disciples speak.

BEFORE YOU ANSWER

1. Read John 16 straight through, then a second time slowly with a pen.
2. Mark what you see: God · commands · repeated words · sin / warnings · promises · time / place.
3. Answer from the text first. Write the verse number beside every answer.

COUNT THE KEY WORDS

Find each word in John 16. Tally it and note the verses. What does John keep coming back to?

WORD	HOW MANY?	VERSES
little while		
grief		
joy		
ask		
Father		
world		

JOHN 16:1–6 The Warning

1 OBSERVE

What does Jesus warn will happen to His disciples (16:2)? Why will people do it (16:3)?

JOHN 16:7–11 The Helper and the World

2 OBSERVE

Why does Jesus say it is to their advantage that He goes away (16:7)?

3 WEIGH THE TEACHERS

Henry: Christ in the flesh was in one place; "his Spirit is every where, in all places, at all times." Sproul: "What sounds like an absolute disadvantage, Jesus promises will turn into an advantage." How is the Spirit's coming better than Jesus' bodily presence?

4 OBSERVE

Of what three things will the Helper convict the world, and why each one (16:8–11)?

5 INTERPRET

Guzik: "It is unbelief, the rejection of Jesus, which ultimately proves one to be guilty." Why is unbelief the sin the Spirit presses first?

JOHN 16:12–15 The Helper and the Disciples

6 OBSERVE

What will the Spirit of truth do for the disciples (16:13–14)?

7 INTERPRET

How does this promise give us confidence in the New Testament? How do you test whether something is from the Spirit?

JOHN 16:16–24 A Little While

8 OBSERVE

What does Jesus say about "a little while" (16:16), and what will the disciples and the world feel (16:20)?

9 INTERPRET

Guzik: "God's work was not to replace their sorrow with joy, but to turn sorrow into joy." How does the woman in labor (16:21) picture that?

10 APPLY

What grief are you carrying that you need to bring to Jesus, trusting Him to turn it, not just remove it?

11 OBSERVE

What will no one take away, and what does Jesus tell them to do (16:22, 24)?

JOHN 16:25–33 Plainly

12 OBSERVE

What does Jesus say about the Father's love in 16:27?

13 OBSERVE

The disciples say, "we believe" (16:30). What does Jesus answer (16:31–32)?

14 OBSERVE

What does Jesus promise in the world and in Himself, and why can they take courage (16:33)?

15 APPLY

Guzik: "Peace is offered to us, but tribulation is promised." What tribulation are you in now, and what does "I have overcome the world" mean for it?

WORD STUDY The Greek behind the English

16 WORD *elenchō* · G1651 · to expose, to prove guilty

The same verb is used in 3:20 and 8:46. Why is the Spirit's conviction a mercy?

17 WORD *nikaō* · G3528 · to conquer, to overcome

"I have overcome" (16:33) is perfect tense, spoken the night before the cross. Why is that striking?

PUT IT TOGETHER — The chapter as a whole

The theme. In one or two sentences of your own, what is John 16 about?

Jesus. What does this chapter show you about who Jesus is that you want to remember?

This week. What one thing will you do because of this chapter, and which brother will you tell?

Around the table. Prayer requests and what the other men saw that you missed.