

SAC Small Groups Discussion Guide – Feb. 8th, 2026

This guide comes with the expectation that even if someone has missed the Sunday service, they have watched the sermon before coming to their small group.

Fellowship Time

Make sure to have time where people can chat and catch up. This section could include a dinner together, having a potluck, preparing snacks, etc. The key to this section is make people feel welcomed and seen.

Read the Scripture & Overview Aloud Together

This section contains the text and a brief summary of the sermon that was preached on Sunday. It will have the main point explained as a way to help those remember the sermon. This is not an in-depth overview because the expectation is that everyone will take the time to listen to the sermon. Make sure to read this aloud for everyone to hear.

Text

John 16:16-33

16 Jesus went on to say, "In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me." 17 At this, some of his disciples said to one another, "What does he mean by saying, 'In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me,' and 'Because I am going to the Father'?" 18 They kept asking, "What does he mean by 'a little while'? We don't understand what he is saying." 19 Jesus saw that they wanted to ask him about this, so he said to them, "Are you asking one another what I meant when I said, 'In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me'? 20 Very truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. 21 A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world. 22 So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy. 23 In that day you will no longer ask me anything. Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. 24 Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete. 25 "Though I have been speaking figuratively, a time is coming when I will no longer use this kind of language but will tell you plainly about my Father. 26 In that day you will ask in my name. I am not saying that I will ask the Father on your behalf. 27 No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. 28 I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father." 29 Then Jesus' disciples said, "Now you are speaking clearly and without figures of speech. 30 Now we can see that you know all things and that you do not even need to have anyone ask you questions. This makes us believe that you came from God." 31 "Do you now believe?" Jesus replied. 32 "A time is coming and in fact has come when you will be scattered, each to your own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me. 33 "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Overview of Sermon

This week we continued our series in the book of John and leaned into the theme from the text of the Holy Spirit, the promised and present one. In this last section of chapter 16, Jesus leans into the grief the disciples will experience because of His death and also the peace that the Holy Spirit will bring. The disciples were struggling to understand Jesus because they had no picture of what it could look like for the Messiah to die and then be raised from the dead three days later. Jesus acknowledges the pain and grief they would experience with his death, but directs their attention to a future hope. Just as a woman giving birth experiences pain in the process, that pain is quickly turned to joy once the newborn is lying in her arms.

Jesus highlights that they will no longer ask him anything, but instead will have direct access to the Father through the intercessory work of Jesus' death and resurrection. Throughout this discourse, Jesus has highlighted numerous promises in regard to prayer that remind us of the depth of relationship we will have with the Christ and therefore in unity with the Father. Jesus told the disciples all of this not to trouble their hearts, but that they may have peace instead. What an encouragement these words are to us in our current day that is full of chaos and disorder. Jesus' words can be an anchor for us to be rooted in His love and peace.

Discussion Questions

These questions are prompts to help the group have meaningful dialogue over the sermon this past weekend. Do not feel the need to ask all these questions. You are more than welcome to create your own questions or mix the questions together.

Connection to Other (Icebreaker/Light)

- When was the last time you changed your mind?

Connection to Head (Study/Knowledge Questions)

- Read the passages in John 14:12-14; 15:7-8, 15-17; 16:23-24. What does this passage teach us about God and prayer?
- Read John 16:16-33. What does this passage teach us about our relationship with God?

Connection to Heart (Deeper Engagement)

- Jesus says we will have both peace and trouble simultaneously in this world. How do you reconcile these two realities in your daily life, and what does it mean to experience peace amid chaos?
- Review the three titles for the Holy Spirit: Comforter, Advocate, and Counselor. Which of these roles do you need most right now?
 - o "Jesus calls the Holy Spirit by three revealing names: Comforter, Advocate, and Counselor. In the long and unpredictable race of the spiritual life, we've been given a Comforter to draw near, never leaving us alone in our pain; an Advocate

to defend us against the harassing constancy of the deceiver's lies; a Counselor to listen, prodding us along with pointed questions, aiding us in interpreting the complex plot points of our individual stories into puzzle pieces that fit coherently into the whole." – Quote from *Familiar Stranger* by Tyler Staton

Reflect and Discuss the Practice and Prayer.

This is an opportunity for accountability and formation in your group. Accountability to ensure people are practicing the practices and formation because we believe that these practices will shape and form us into the people that God intended us to be. Take time to practice this together and reflect on each person's experience of these practices.

Practice: Set aside time to prayerfully reflect & journal these three questions.

- Identify: What is the chaos in my life?
- Inquire: Why does this chaos exist in my life?
- Invite: How does Jesus desire to address this chaos?

Prayer: Father God, what a beautiful truth to know that we can speak directly to You! Holy Spirit, identify the chaos in my life. Allow me to experience the peace of Jesus in the midst of trouble, grief, anguish, chaos, and disorder. Holy Spirit, bring comfort. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

Prayer Together.

Take some time to pray with each other. This is not a time for gossip or to be cynical, this is an opportunity to share with each other our burdens, to celebrate and praise God together, and to pray expectantly that God would move.