

GROWING IN FAITH



John 16:29-33

²⁹ His disciples said, “Yes, now you are speaking plainly, not in any figure of speech! ³⁰ Now we know that you know all things, and do not need to have anyone question you; by this we believe that you came from God.” ³¹ Jesus answered them, “Do you now believe? ³² The hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each one to his home, and you will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone because the Father is with me. ³³ I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world!”

For More Information Contact:
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STARTING OUT

Begin with a prayer. You can offer your own prayer or use the one below.

Dear God, sometimes in life we can become overwhelmed facing adversity and obstacles. We give you thanks for the opportunity to be together in community and find strength from one another. Lift us up today and give us peace as we come into this time so that we might encounter the goodness of your grace today. Amen.

Read the scripture verse for the day – John 16:29-33. Remind everyone that we are reading through the last 12 chapters of John’s Gospel. This lesson covers chapters 16 and 17.

PLAY THE VIDEO

GOING DEEPER

Josh told the story of Dietrich Bonhoeffer and his book *The Cost of Discipleship*. In the book, Bonhoeffer says, “Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession... Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate.”

How do you think Bonhoeffer’s life experiences shaped his understanding of discipleship and grace?

Why is it important to have repentance, discipline, confession, discipleship, etc. in order to fully experience the gift of grace?

How can God’s grace still be at work in our lives without those disciplines?

Bonhoeffer’s life shows that following God’s will is not always going to be easy.

Have you ever experienced challenges in your life from doing what you felt God wanted you to do? Share your experience.

How did your faith help you through those times?

Jesus knew that his disciples were going to face persecution and adversity in the early Church.

How does hearing Jesus say that he has already conquered the world help you face adversity?

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GOING DEEPER

Josh talked about realized versus future eschatology. Read 1 Corinthians 15:21-26 together.

²¹ For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; ²² for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. ²³ But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴ Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death.”

What is future eschatology?

How does this scripture from 1 Corinthians depict a future eschatology?

What is a realized eschatology? How does John 16:33 show a realized eschatology?

Why is understanding eschatology as future helpful?

Why is understanding eschatology as realized helpful?

Jesus was teaching his disciples that the life of following Jesus will not always be easy and will sometimes require sacrifice.

What have you had to sacrifice in order to follow Jesus?

What do you think you might need to sacrifice in order to follow Jesus going forward?

How does finding peace in Christ rather than the world help us make the necessary sacrifices?

Remind the group that they may want to read John 18-19 before next week.

Closing

Take time to lift up joys and concerns in your group before closing in prayer. You can offer your own prayer or use the one below.

Jesus, thank you for the gift of your sacrifice. Thank you for setting us an example of what it means to give our whole lives to something greater than ourselves. Continue to strengthen us that we might find our peace in you. Help us find the places where we can sacrifice in order to truly follow you so that we might experience your grace even more fully. Amen.