

# king's chapel

## *Community Group Discussion Guide*

Week of January 22, 2017

**This Week's Focus:** The cross is our source of joy because by it Jesus purchased our redemption, brought us into relationship with God, and empowers us to glorify God.

**This Week's Text:** John 16:16-24

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God."

**Hebrews 12:1-2**

### **Observations and Questions for Discussion:**

- What are your general impressions about this week's passage of Scripture?
- Explain what Jesus means by his statement in verse 16. What event was Jesus preparing his disciples for? Reference John 7:33, 12:33-36.
- Put yourself in the disciples' shoes. Why were they confused and sorrowful at Jesus' words? Reference Luke 5:11 and John 16:2-4.
- How does Jesus respond to his disciples' sorrow and confusion? What illustration did he use to communicate the transition from sorrow to joy? How was this illustration used by the prophets in the Old Testament? Reference Isaiah 26:17-19 and Micah 4:9-10.
- How has the cross provided us access to God in a way never experienced before? Reference Matthew 27:51. Is the cross of Jesus Christ your source of joy?
- Does Jesus promise to give us anything we ask for if we ask in his name? How does prayer increase our joy? How can we pray in ways that simultaneously glorify God and give us joy?
- How does this passage encourage you to live on mission in your communities and spheres of influence?