

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of January 29, 2017

This Week's Focus: Jesus' victory over sin, Satan, and death is our future hope as well as our present source of peace, joy, and confidence as we live on mission amidst the troubles and pains of this life.

This Week's Text: John 16:25-33

"Make the whole Christ your Christ; for nothing less than the whole Christ, 'conceived of the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, crucified, dead, and buried ascended into Heaven, and sitting at the right hand of God,' is strong enough to help your infirmities, vast enough to satisfy your desires, loving enough to love you as you need, or able to deliver you from your sins, and to lift you to the glories of His own Throne." **Alexander Maclaren**

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What are your general impressions about this week's passage of Scripture?
- Why have the disciples up to this point in the narrative been unable to precisely understand all of Jesus' teachings? What is the "coming hour" when Jesus will tell his disciples plainly about the Father? How are we today guided into God's truth? Reference John 16:12-15, 1 Corinthians 2:10-14. Do you take the time to study God's Word and depend on the Holy Spirit to guide you into greater understanding and love for God?
- Read verses 26-27. What does it mean to pray "in Jesus name" and why is it important? Reference John 14:12-14, 15:7-8, 16:23, and 1 Timothy 2:5. How has Jesus' atoning death, resurrection, and ascension to God the Father given us direct access to God? Discuss the doctrine of "Priesthood of all believers" that was rediscovered during the Protestant Reformation. Reference Galatians 3:28 and 1 Peter 2:9-10.
- What kind of love does Jesus say that God has for those who believe in him? What has made our love for and obedience to God possible? Reference 1 John 4:9. Do you rest in the unchanging truth that when you approach God in prayer, you are approaching your Heavenly Father who loves you (verse 27)?

- Read verses 29-32. Discuss how Jesus affirms his disciples' faith. Discuss how Jesus also reveals the immaturity of their faith. Are there times when you, like the disciples, think more highly of yourself (and the strength of your faith) than you ought to (Romans 12:3)? How does the gospel keep us humble as well as overcome our insecurities and fears?
- Why could Jesus say he has victory over the world before he went to the cross? Discuss how we can "take heart" as Jesus commanded. How does Jesus' victory give us peace and joy in Christ even when the circumstances of this world bring us trouble and pain?
- How does this passage encourage you to live on mission in your communities and spheres of influence?