***Lesson 7: John 16***

***“The Counselor”***

**Review:**

1. What word picture did Jesus use to describe his relationship with his people?
	* + *Jesus used the word picture of a vine and branches—the symbol for Israel.*

2. What two things does the vinedresser (God the Father) do to ensure

 that there is a fruitful yield?

* + - *He removes unfruitful branches, and he prunes all the others.*

3. What is the only way for a believer to bear good fruit? What does it

 mean to “abide” in the vine?

* + - *Believers must abide in Christ in order to bear good fruit.*
		- *This means to continue in a daily, personal relationship with Jesus, characterized by trust, prayer, and obedience.*

4. What is the source of the believers joy (v. 11)?

* + - *Joyful obedience to Jesus’ commands—abiding in his love and loving others—is the source of joy. Jesus also delighted to do his Father’s will, for he trusted his Father completely.*

5. Why does the world hate believers? See vs. 18-21.

* + - *The world hates believers because they are not of the world, but have been chosen by Christ to belong to him. The world does not know the Father who sent Jesus into the world, therefore the world hates Jesus and his followers.*

6. How did Jesus comfort his disciples in view of the world’s hostility?

* + - *Jesus promised to send the Helper, the Spirit of truth, from the Father to bear witness to their message. The Holy Spirit will be working silently through the disciples’ words.*

**Introduction p. 37.**

**John 16:1-4.**

1. What will soon happen to the disciples, and why does Jesus tell

 them this? Why will the religious leaders do such things?

* + - *The disciples will be kicked out of the synagogue; some of them will be killed by extremists who think that they are serving God by killing them. See Acts 7:54-8:3; 9:1-2 for examples. They will do these things because they do not know the Father or Jesus.*
		- *Jesus is telling them this ahead of time so they will be forewarned and not be tempted to go astray when they face these struggles.*
		- *As long as Jesus is with them, they are under his protection (v.4), even as Jesus is being arrested he protects his disciples (18:4-9). But they need to be prepared for a time when people will think persecuting Christians is the right thing to do, and even a service to God.*

**John 16:5-11.**

2a. Why will Jesus’ leaving be good for his followers?

* + - *After Jesus’ death and resurrection the Holy Spirit will come to live in them and help them understand all that Jesus has taught them (14:26). While Jesus was on earth, he could only be in one place at a time, but now the Holy Spirit will carry on Jesus’ ministry all over the world at all times.*

***Note: Jesus said in verse 5 that none of the disciples asked him***

 ***where he was going? Recall 13:36 that Peter asked Jesus this***

 ***question. The verb “asks” is present tense, and may indicate that at***

 ***the present time no one asked him this question. Or, this was***

 ***the proper time for the disciples to ask him this question, but none***

 ***of them did. They are self-absorbed with the thought of Jesus’***

 ***leaving them.***

2b. In what ways will the Counselor (Helper) influence the world?

 See vs. 8-11.

* + - *The Helper will convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. All people who have yet to hear the good news and believe will be subject to the work of the Spirit—that includes us. Recall that the Spirit was poured out at Pentecost (Acts2).*

How and why does the Spirit do these things?

* + - *The Spirit needs to convict us of our sin and need of a Savior. Then the Spirit moves in us to show us that Jesus is God’s provision for our sins. Those who believe in Jesus receive the forgiveness of their sins.*
		- *The Spirit also convinces men that Jesus is the Righteous One who perfectly obeyed the Law and finished the work the Father gave him to do for our salvation. The Spirit then carries on that work through the words of believers who bear witness to the gospel. and his or her false righteousness is revealed.*
		- *The Spirit convicts the world concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. At the cross we became free from Satan’s rule and have become free to follow Christ’s rule—the life of true righteousness. We show that we believe Satan is defeated by carrying the gospel message to our world.*

**John 16:12-16.**

3. What will the Spirit of truth do for Jesus’ followers? How will he

 accomplish this?

* + - *The Spirit will guide them into all truth. When Jesus has left them, their source of truth will have departed, but the Spirit will come to live in them and help them understand all the truth Jesus has been teaching them.*
		- *The Spirit will speak only what he hears from the Father and the Son (15:26). The Spirit will also tell them “what is to come (v.13)” in the future. For example, the book of Revelations is about John’s vision concerning the return of Jesus. See Rev. 19:11-22:5. Also Acts 2-4; 8:26-40…*

How will the Spirit bring glory to Jesus?

* + - *“he will take what is mine and declare it to you (v. 14).” The Spirit is focused intensely on the person and work of Christ—especially his sin-atoning death on the cross.*

What does Jesus mean when he says, “All that the Father has is

 mine.”

* + - *Between the Father and the Son is a mutual sharing of love, grace, knowledge, lordship, and everything else that makes up their one being. The Holy Spirit shares in this unity.*

 What does verse 16 mean?

* + - *Jesus is referring to his death and burial and then to his appear-*

 *ances after his resurrection (20:10-21:14).*

**John 16:17-24.**

4a. What are the disciples wondering about here? Why do you think

 they are confused?

* + - *They seem to be confused by Jesus’ references to “going to the Father” and being seen again “in a little while.” Jesus’ words can be hard to understand, and at this point the disciples may be completely overwhelmed by his teachings.*

4b. How does Jesus respond to their confusion?

* + - *Jesus sees that they do not understand him, so he makes a comparison between their situation and that of a woman giving birth to a child. While the process is extremely painful, the joy that a human being has been born into the world helps the mother forget the anguish she has been experiencing. The loss of Jesus’ presence will also be painful, bu the gain that comes through his death and resurrection will give them such great joy that they will forget their anguish over losing him.*

 Why will the disciples weep and lament while the world rejoices?

* + - *When they become aware of his suffering and cruel death, the disciples will weep and mourn, but the unbelieving world will rejoice that Jesus is dead.*

 Read verse 23a. What day is Jesus talking about? Why will the

 disciples not ask anything of him?

* + - *Jesus is referring to his resurrection day. On that day the disciples will understand the meaning of his death and resurrection and will not need to ask him about this.*
		- *This verse seems to refer to asking for information.*

Why does Jesus want his disciples to ask the Father in his name?

 How will this result in their joyfulness?

* + - *As the disciples pray to the Father in line with Jesus’ message and God’s will and in honor of all he has done, they will experience great joy as they see God actively at work in the world in answer to their Christ-honoring prayers.*
		- *While Jesus was on earth, the disciples had not prayed to the Father in Jesus’ name. But now that he will be returning to his Father, Jesus wants them to pray in his name. They now have access to the Father because their sins have been taken away.*

**John 16:25-33.**

5a. Why has Jesus been speaking figuratively to his disciples? When

 will he speak plainly to them? See Luke 24:44-49.

* + - *Until the disciples’ eyes are opened through the teaching of the Spirit, they won’t grasp what he is saying. Even if he spoke plainly to them all the time, they wouldn't grasp his meaning. Although he explained some of the parables to them, the full meaning wouldn’t be clear until after his mission was complete.*
		- *When Jesus says in v. 25 that “The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father,” he is probably referring to the teaching he will do for 40 day after his resurrection and before his ascension. At that time they grasped the meaning of his death and resurrection, and his command to preach the gospel to all nations. See Luke 24:44-49.*

5b. What relationship do the disciples have with the Father?

* + - *Because the disciples have loved Jesus and believed in him, the Father himself loves them. Jesus will not need to ask the Father on their behalf, since the disciples now have access to the Father through the blood of Christ.*

What does Jesus say about his relationship with the Father?

* + - *Jesus testifies that he came from the Father and now is returning to the Father.*

5c. How do the disciples respond to Jesus’ explanation?

* + - *They seem to be relieved that Jesus is now speaking plainly and not using figurative speech. They seem to have a fresh insight into Jesus’ identity—“you know all things and do not need anyone to question you; this is why we believe that you came from God (30).*

5d. What does Jesus say next, and what does this mean? Hasn’t he

 already stated that they believe in him? How would the disciples’

 belief be challenged? How should believers prepare for challenges

 to their faith? See Matthew 6:13.

* + - *Jesus questioned whether they really did believe now. Although the disciples had spoken of their belief in him before (see Matt. 16:15-19; John 6:69-70), their belief will be challenged by Jesus’ arrest, trial, and execution. Jesus says that they will all be scattered to their homes, leaving him alone.*
		- *Believers must earnestly pray, “And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.” Believers must abide in the True Vine by reading his word, praying, and worshiping him.*

Will Jesus really be all alone at that time?

* + - *No, Jesus notes that the Father will be with him during this time of severe distress and suffering.*

5e. What assurance does Jesus give in these parting words to his

 disciples?

* + - *Jesus says he has told the disciples these things so that they will have peace. This is the ‘shalom’ of God that he spoke of earlier (14:27). It is a peace that will sustain them in the near and distant future—“In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world (33).”*

What does it mean that Jesus has overcome the world? How can

 we take heart from these words? See Romans 8:35-39.

* + - *Whatever is happening in the world, Jesus is in control and will still give us true peace.*
		- *Nothing will be able to separate us from God’s love for us. With Jesus, we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.*

***Questions for Reflection***

In what ways has Jesus prepared his followers for the challenges they will be facing?

How do his words prepare us as well?