



Small Group Study Guide for May 18, 2025

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School

Theme: In John 16:12-22 Jesus told his disciples that they would see him no longer and would be sorrowful, but that their sorrow would turn into joy. He was speaking directly to them about his death and resurrection. Though Jesus does not speak these words directly to us, we know that when we see Jesus face to face, we too will no longer be sorrowful but will have pure joy in His presence.

Getting Started: (sharing with each other)

1. Why can saying goodbyes to people be so hard?
2. How would you define joy? Is there a time in your life when you felt overjoyed about something?

In the Word: John 16:12-22

3. It is important to consider the context of John 16 and the conversation between Jesus and His disciples. In John 16, Jesus and His disciples are in the Upper room shortly before Jesus would be handed over. In fact from chapters 13 to 17, John records the events and conversations of the upper room. Looking back briefly through the different events in the upper room, what stands out to you the most?
4. In verse 13, Jesus says, "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth." What event would happen for the disciples in which the *Spirit of Truth* would come and make his presence known? Read Acts 2:1-14. Which disciple speaks up for the group?
5. In verse 16 when Jesus says, "A little while, and you will see me no longer, and again in a little while, and you will see me." What is Jesus referring to?
6. "But your sorrow will turn into joy." Can there be joy in the midst of sorrow?

7. What illustration does Jesus use to show how sorrow turns into joy? Can you relate to this illustration?

Putting it all Together (what do we believe or do as disciples?)

8. It is probably not hard for you to think of times in which you have been sorrowful. In what areas of life do we have sorrow? Over our past, our relationships, death?
9. When will our joy be complete in Jesus? How does this shape the way you will live this week?
10. The appointed Epistle reading for the 5th Sunday in Easter this year is Revelation 21:1-7. Read Revelation 21:1-7. How do you see that fitting together with John 16:12-22?
11. Sometimes in life it can be easy to be joyful. I think we often view joy as someone who always has a smile on their face. While this can certainly be the case of someone who is filled with joy, what might it look like for someone to have joy even in the midst of sorrow? Have you ever been sorrowful while still having joy?

Prayer: Pray that God the Father would fill you with His joy in both the good times of life and also the more difficult times of life. Ask Jesus to help keep your eyes fixed on Him and the hope He brings when He will come back on the clouds. Ask the Holy Spirit to strengthen your faith so that you would be guided into all truth.