

Word of Life Lutheran Brethren Church  
Community Group Bible Study – week of March 22<sup>nd</sup>  
John 15:26 – 16:15

*Open with prayer as you begin. Pray specifically for the Holy Spirit to open your heart and mind in order to understand God's Word.*

If you were about to go through something that would be difficult and even painful, would you want to be warned? Could you be better prepared for it if it were not a surprise?

If everything happened just like the warning, would the person who warned you gain credibility? Would that person's promise of help give you hope?

Read John 15:26 – 16:15

What are the 2 names for the Holy Spirit that Jesus uses at the end of chapter 15?

What is Jesus preparing his disciples for in the first few verses of chapter 16?

Was Jesus' warning the truth?

Why didn't the disciples ask where Jesus was going? Was their grief for Jesus or for themselves?

Why does Jesus say that it's good for him to go away? Who will he send?

Look closely at verses 8 thru 15. What will the Holy Spirit do when he comes?

He will convict (instruct) the world of guilt:

- with regard to sin – because men do not believe in me.
- with regard to righteousness – because I am going to the Father.
- with regard to judgment – because the prince of this world (Satan) now stands condemned.

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The Holy Spirit works to reveal sin and teach us the truth about our spiritual condition (Spirit of Truth). He then teaches us about righteousness. This is not simple law, telling us what righteousness is. That would only serve to condemn us more! What righteousness is Jesus talking about? See Romans 3:19-24.

When the Holy Spirit instructs the world with regard to righteousness, he is teaching about the righteousness that is earned by Jesus and received through faith. The Holy Spirit is truly a welcome Counselor to the person who knows the depth of sin!

The judgment that Jesus talks about is the defeat of Satan. He talks about it as if it has already occurred, but the cross was still a day away. But when God promises something, it is as good as complete, so God the Son talks about the judgment of the “prince of this world” as if he were already dethroned.

Have you ever been so overwhelmed by a situation that you couldn't hear about it anymore? Or maybe you studied for a test so much that you could fit anything more into your brain? Jesus knew that the disciples couldn't bear any more, but he promises that the Holy Spirit will guide them into all truth when he comes. Many people have the Holy Spirit doing a lot of things that seem odd. In many churches the Holy Spirit has become the “star” of the show. But does this fit with what Jesus describes in verses 13 thru 15? Who does the Holy Spirit lead people to?

As we prepare for Easter, I encourage you to spend time reading John 14:1-17:26. These four chapters detail Jesus' last words to his disciples as he prepares them for what is about to happen. He speaks of comfort and concern, he warns them about what is to come and promises help through the Holy Spirit. Before you break these four chapters down read them all in one sitting to get a feel for what Jesus says in its full context. Understand that the same promises Jesus made to the disciples include believers today.

*Close in prayer.*