

## Sticky Group Discussion Questions for Sunday, March 29, 2015

### Christ's Victory Commands

Part 4 : "These things I have spoken to you, that in me you might have peace. In the world you shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

This week's discussion questions will be more reflective in nature and will not only focus on the themes of Sunday's sermon but on other themes raised in the conversations and prayers that took place in the Upper Room on the night of Jesus' arrest.

Chapters 13-17 of the Gospel of John go together. They take us from the Passover meal and the washing of the disciples' feet, through to Jesus' priestly prayer to the Father prior to the group's departure for the Mount of Olives where Jesus would be arrested.

Three themes crop up several times in these four chapters. Take time to examine each theme below and to read the verses that correspond with each theme. Use the questions to discuss these themes as a group.

#### **Theme # 1 : going away & returning**

**13:1 / 13:33**

**14:1-3 / 14:18-20 / 14:28-29**

**16:5-7 / 16:16-18 / 16:19-20 / 16:28**

- What does the fact that Jesus so carefully and intentionally told his disciples about what was going to happen tell us about him as a person, ... as a teacher, ... as a Savior ?
- What impact do you think this information had on the disciples ... immediately, and after the resurrection ?
- When in your life have you enthusiastically awaited someone's arrival or return ?
- Is there anything within you that is eagerly awaiting the Lord's return now ? What impact does his return have on you personally ?

#### **Theme # 2 : approaching the Lord with questions ; the Lord's sometimes plain, sometimes hidden, answers**

**13:6-7 / 13:21-25 / 13:36-37**

**14:5 / 14:14 / 14:22-23 / 15:7**

**16:17-18 / 16:19-21 / 16:23-24 / 16:25-26 / 16:28-30**

- What do the disciples' many questions tell us about them, about their state of mind, about their understanding ?
- What do Jesus' answers, and his handling of the disciples' questions, tell us about him ?
- What figures of speech, or parables, have helped you better understand spiritual truths ?
- What questions do you have for the Lord ?
- What does it mean to you to ask for things in Jesus' name ?

#### **Theme # 3 : grief / sorrow / doubt ... vs. joy**

**14:1 / 14:27**

**15:11 / 15:18-21**

**16:1-3 / 16:21-22 / 16:24 / 16:33 / 17:13**

- What trouble do we have in the world as followers of Jesus Christ ?
- What is the "world" ? (Use Matthew 13:22 and 1 John 2:15-17 as helps.)
- What painful experiences in your life have ultimately ended in joy ?
- How has God made your joy complete ? (Or, how is he presently making your joy complete ?)

**Three recipes for peace were given in Sunday's sermon. Reflect on the two shorter recipes of the three, Philippians 4:6-7, and Psalm 37:1-4.**

- What within these recipes for peace helps you ? What within them do you struggle with ?

- If you were to hear the voice of the Lord Jesus himself saying to you personally at this moment, “Be of good cheer ; I have overcome the world,” would it make a difference to you ?