

## 28. John 16

### Getting started

Who keeps you going to church? *[Don't accept one or two word answers, e.g. 'the Holy Spirit. Try and explore the experience of thinking about going to church each week.]*

### Observations

1. As a reminder of the last study, what has Jesus just told his disciples?
2. What is the role of the Counsellor/the Holy Spirit? *[See not only verses 8-11, but also verses 13-15]*
3. Why does the Father love Jesus' disciples?

### Interpretation

1. When did the disciples weep and mourn and when did the world rejoice?
2. In verse 4, why did it matter that Jesus was with the disciples 'at first'? *[Because he could give them protection]*
3. Why is it good that Jesus was going away?
4. Does the Holy Spirit still have the role Jesus describes here? How does he 'convict the world of guilt'?
5. Why was the prince of the world 'condemned' when Jesus spoke the words in verse 11? *[Jesus had resolved to go to the Cross, and there was nothing Satan could do about it.]*
6. How does the Holy Spirit bring glory to Jesus?
7. How can Jesus say that he has overcome the world, when the Cross still lay ahead of him?

## **Implications**

1. Jesus appears to be saying there will be a day when his disciples will need to know no more, and their joy will be great? Do you feel you need to know more for your joy to be great? *[Note: there is a difference between knowing that there is more that we can know, and needing to know more.]*
2. How should we honour the work of the Holy Spirit?
3. How does it help you to know that Jesus was totally confident that he had overcome the world?
4. How have chapters 13-16 (the 'Upper Room Discourse') contributed to John's stated purpose in 20:31?

## **Prayer suggestions**

1. Ask that our joy never diminish our dependence on the love of Jesus, and that our awareness of Jesus' sacrifice never diminish our joy.
2. Ask that we take confidence from Jesus' words of assurance here.