

THE GOSPEL OF

JOHN

STUDENT LESSON

FINAL
INSTRUCTIONS
AND PROMISES
FROM JESUS

Open it

1. What are three things on your “Bucket List”? (A bucket list is things you want to do or experience before you die.)

Daily Devotions

Day 1 — Today’s Theme: Explore It

Read **John 16:16–33**. What do we know from reading the passage?

2. What are the phrases Jesus is using that seem to be confusing the disciples? (16–18)
3. What are they going to be grieving and then rejoicing about? (19–23)

Bonus question (verse 24): What have they never done before?

4. Where is Jesus going? (25–28)
5. What do the disciples say they now believe? (29–31)
6. A few things are about to happen. If you haven’t heard this story before, write down your observations of what you think Jesus might be talking about. (31–33)

If you know the rest of the story, to what is Jesus referring in these verses? Note the verses in your answer.

7. What final promise did Jesus leave with the disciples?

Day 2 — Today's Theme: Wait, What's Happening?

Read John 16:16–23.

Have you ever been in class and not known what was going on? The teacher starts talking about a book, other students are discussing with them and then you think, “Wait, What’s happening? This doesn’t make sense. Did I read the wrong book?” Truth be told, this did happen to me in class. I showed up for class, fully prepared to participate in discussion. However, as the discussion was happening around me, I had no idea what the entire class was talking about. For a little bit I thought, “I think I read the wrong book!” I double checked the books on the other students’ desks. They were looking at the SAME book I was looking at, but NOTHING sounded like what I’d read! As I sat there listening, I realized the book was filled with figurative language. It was beautiful but on my own I had seen it completely differently. I hadn’t read the wrong book. I just needed others to help me understand. I had not understood the book as the author intended.

Reading John 16:16–33 may feel a bit like that: “Wait, what’s happening?” It’s because this passage is in a bigger context (which starts in chapter 13 and goes through 17). Jesus is in Jerusalem with His disciples at the time of Passover. After three years of being with them constantly, He knows things are about to change. Within days He will be arrested, tried, condemned, crucified, and resurrected. This larger passage is basically Jesus’ final instructions, last words to His closest friends. Yet, the disciples are clearly confused, They think the plan is that Jesus will take over and set up His new kingdom on earth, right now. I imagine they pictured being a part of taking over the Romans! They were going to fight and bring great victory, freeing all the people from oppression! They were going to be heroes!

They had misunderstood the plan, which is why they are asking, “Wait, what’s happening?” Jesus WAS sticking with HIS plan. He hadn’t changed anything. The disciples had just not understood the “plan” from the author’s perspective. Jesus wants to help them understand, but His figurative language is difficult for them—leaving them wondering, “Wait! What’s happening?”

8. Like the disciples, sometimes we are confused by what is happening. Why do you think God allows us to be confused?

9. What are ways you try to solve your confusion?

10. What does the Bible tell you to do when you are confused? (Please feel free to use other verses. HINT: look in the Psalms for ideas!)

Day 3 — Today's Theme: It's the Start of Something New

Read John 16:24–28.

Summer is coming! WAHOO! Things are about to look different! We get to put the finished work of the school year behind us and look forward to a fresh schedule. Summer is usually filled with more freedom, later nights lounging around, and playing outside. It usually includes vacation, camp, and ice cream runs! The start of summer is exciting! There's an anticipation of what is to come and a refreshment. Things are about to look different! I can hardly wait!

This was about to happen to the disciples too. It wasn't summer break, but new things were coming. (Remember, these are Jesus' last moments to teach, instruct, and help them understand who He was). As we discussed in yesterday's lesson, things weren't going as the disciples thought they would but that didn't mean they were up a creek without a paddle. Jesus was starting something new.

One new thing He was revealing was that even though He was leaving them, they could use His name to pray.

Have you ever heard or said, "In Jesus' name, Amen"?

What's the big deal? Jesus' name is powerful. One of the ten commandments in Exodus 20:7, "You shall not take the name of the Lord in vain, for the Lord will not leave him unpunished who takes his name in vain." (NASB1995). The people didn't even whisper God's name because it was holy, reverent, powerful!

In John 16:24, Jesus is doing a new thing. He's giving them a fresh start! He's telling the disciples they can come to the Father in His name. They can pray in His name. They don't have to approach God through the old ways (the sacrifices, the priest, etc.). They can come directly to God, and they can use the name of Jesus to do this. This new way to pray is part of what Jesus' death & resurrection will change. This new way gives everyone access to the Father through Jesus. This new way is a way to a relationship with God. This new way is personal. It is a step to restoring what God originally planned in the Garden of Eden. This new way is a way to walk and talk with God in prayer through the name of Jesus. This new way is something they haven't done before (v.24). This new way is part of what is called The New Covenant. It's a fresh start. Things are about to look different!

11. What kinds of things do you talk about when you pray?

12. What prayers have you had answered recently?

13. What difference does the name of Jesus make in praying?

14. In what ways have you seen prayer be powerful? Or miraculous?

Day 4 — Today's Theme: Now You're Alone in the Universe...or Not?

Read John 16:29–32.

I did NOT like working in a group. Whenever group projects were assigned in school, I loathed them. I did not like the idea of having to work with people who didn't get their work done. I did not like the idea that I would have to work on other people's timelines or else I would have to do all the work, and others would still get the credit based on MY hard work! It wasn't fair. I did not want to rely on others to accomplish the work and I did not want to do it ALONE!

Today's lesson says the disciples are going to scatter, go their own ways, and leave Jesus alone. Even though they've been together for three years they are going to leave Him high and dry. This is a compassionate message because Jesus knows they will desert Him. He knows they won't understand. But He also knows, one day they will look back and understand. He wants to reassure them: He wasn't alone;, though they left, God did not leave Him. And God will not leave them.

Jesus had a big assignment. After three years with His disciples, it may have appeared to be a group assignment but it wasn't. It was meant for Him to finish the greatest assignment ever given on His own, with His Father. He tells the disciples that even though they are going to leave Him alone that he is NOT alone because His Father will be with him. The job wasn't something the disciples could accomplish. ONLY JESUS could do this with His Father.

The best part: He will accomplish His mission. He reassures them that though they are going to leave Him alone, He is not alone. He has His Father with Him.

As I grew up, I learned working in a group wasn't as awful as I had experienced in my younger years. It all depends on with whom I am working. When I work with people who are like-minded, even in the most difficult task, we can accomplish great things. I have also learned that when I feel alone in a task, I may not be surrounded by lots of people, but if I have faith in what I know from the Bible and trust in those words, through prayer and lots of reciting of the verses that promise those things, when I start working on a project He's assigned, powerful, amazing things happen! A lot can be accomplished through prayer and the strengths and gifts from God! Just like Jesus wasn't alone, we are not alone!

God wants to hear from you about everything and Jesus made that possible by dying for you and me. We can come to God and talk to Him about anything. Nothing is too small or too bothersome or too uninteresting for God. He cares about all.the.things!

15. What have you worked on and felt like you were the only one who cared?

16. What situations make you ask God to help you?

17. What situations are you in when you don't think to ask God for His guidance or help?

18. Choose one verse that you can memorize to help you remember you are never alone. Write it below so you can share it with the group since it might encourage others to hear what verses have helped you.

19. Practice praying that verse the next time you need help!

Day 5 — Today's Theme: PEACE!

Read John 16:33.

This week we learned that this passage contains some of Jesus' last instructions to His disciples. First, he wanted them to know there's a plan, but it might not look like what THEY had planned. Then He mentioned that something new was coming, and because of it they were going to be able to pray in His name! Finally, Jesus told them that even though they deserted Him, He was not alone which reminds us we are not alone. Today is quick, but I had to set it apart because these words from Jesus are quite powerful.

"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33 ESV).

Remember, these are some of the last instructions Jesus gives His disciples! What an amazing promise to keep in front of them and now YOU. Things are going to be difficult, but JESUS has overcome the world—all the things in the world, all of the sin! Praise His Name!

PRAYER: Spend time praising God in worship telling Him how amazed you are How he overcame sin! Take time to pray the verse you are memorizing to remind you that you are not alone.