

# MEN'S BREAKFAST - GRIEF TO JOY?

1. Tell about a time when you asked for something in the authority of another person. (Why were you chosen to do the asking? What was the response of the person or persons being asked?)
2. When might you use a figure of speech to explain something? Why?
3. When have you enthusiastically anticipated someone's return or arrival?

**John 16:17-33 (NIV)** 16 "In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me." 17 Some of his disciples said to one another, "What does he mean by saying, 'In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me,' and 'Because I am going to the Father'?" 18 They kept asking, "What does he mean by 'a little while'? We don't understand what he is saying."

19 Jesus saw that they wanted to ask him about this, so he said to them, "Are you asking one another what I meant when I said, 'In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me'?" 20 I tell you the truth, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. 21 A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world. 22 So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy. 23 In that day you will no longer ask me anything. I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. 24 Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.

25 "Though I have been speaking figuratively, a time is coming when I will no longer use this kind of language but will tell you plainly about my Father. 26 In that day you will ask in my name. I am not saying that I will ask the Father on your behalf. 27 No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. 28 I came from the Father and entered the world; now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father."

29 Then Jesus' disciples said, "Now you are speaking clearly and without figures of speech. 30 Now we can see that you know all things and that you do not even need to have anyone ask you questions. This makes us believe that you came from God."

31 "You believe at last!" Jesus answered. 32 "But a time is coming, and has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me. 33 "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

## Discussion:

1. How did the disciples react to Jesus' "in a little while" statement? ([16:17-18](#))

2. It is obvious that the disciples are confused and concerned about Jesus' statements ([John 16:16-18](#)). Why do you think they are confused?

3. What did Jesus tell His disciples would happen to them? ([16:19-20](#))

4. To what did Jesus compare His disciples' response to His departure and return? ([16:21-22](#)) Why is childbirth a good example to this all male audience/

5. What event is Jesus referring to in verses 20—22? In what ways does the world's "joy" (v. 20) contrast with the joy the disciples will experience (v. 22)?

6. Jesus answers their questions, not by giving them an explanation but by making

them a promise ([John 16:19-22](#)). What was the promise? Why would it bring them joy in the midst of their grief and confusion?

7. What did Jesus tell His disciples they would do when they saw Him again? ([16:23](#))

8. What hadn't the disciples done up until this point? ([16:24](#)) Why is joy a logical result?

9. What kind of language did Jesus use to speak to His disciples? ([16:25](#))

10. Why did the Father love the disciples? ([16:26-27](#))

11. Jesus made it clear that asking in his name does not mean he will ask the Father on our behalf ([v16:26-27](#)). It no doubt means more than just ending a prayer with the words "in Jesus' name, amen." What do you think he means by "ask in my name"?

12. What characterizes the relationship we can have with the Father because of Jesus (w. 23—27)?

13. From where did Jesus come and to where was He going? ([16:28](#))

14. Why did the disciples say that they believed Jesus had come from God? ([16:29-30](#))

15. What did Jesus predict the disciples would do? ([16:31-32](#)) So will Jesus be left alone?

16. What did Jesus want for His disciples? ([16:33](#))

17. Why did Jesus tell the disciples to take heart? ([16:33](#))

**Romans 6:8-10 (NIV)** 8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9 For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. 10 The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

**Hebrews 7:24-25 (NIV)** 24 but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. 25 Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

**1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 (NIV)** 16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the

archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. 18 Therefore encourage each other with these words.

**Romans 10:2-4 (NIV)** 2 For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge. 3 Since they did not know the righteousness that comes from God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. 4 Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.

**Ephesians 2:4-9 (NIV)** 4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions--it is by grace you have been saved. 6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. 8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- 9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

### **Reflection:**

Both Jesus and the world offer a form of peace (14:27; 16:33), by (15:11; 16:22—24) and love (13:34—35; 15:9—19). How have you experienced each of these? What is different between them?

2. How do you deal with change? Moves? Job transfers? Transitions from one stage of your life to another? How has pain helped you to grow?

3. From your experience, how could you comfort someone going through change?

4. How do you desire joy? How do you experience it?

5. How would you have responded to Jesus' words had you been there with His disciples?

6. What grief or sorrow in your life has God turned to joy?

7. For what can we ask the Father?

8. How has God made your joy complete?

9. How does the knowledge of Jesus' return make you joyful?

10.. What figures of speech have helped you better understand spiritual truths?

11. What relationship do we have with the Father today?

12. What trouble do we have in the world as followers of Christ?

13. How does the fact that Jesus has overcome the world encourage you?

