

MEN'S BREAKFAST - The COMFORTER PROMISED

1. What people, things, or experiences in life bring you comfort and peace of mind?
2. How do the people you love (whether close friends, spouse, or family members) know that you love them?
3. What relationship in life brings you the most satisfaction? Why?
4. Who was the best counselor you ever had? Why was this person so special?

Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit John 14:15 "If you love me, you will obey what I command. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever-- 17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. 18 I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19 Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. 20 On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. 21 Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him."

22 Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, "But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?"

23 Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. 24 He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

25 "All this I have spoken while still with you. 26 But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. 27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

28 "You heard me say, 'I am going away and I am coming back to you.' If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. 29 I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe. 30 I will not speak with you much longer, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold on me, 31 but the world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me.

"Come now; let us leave.

Discussion:

1. What did Jesus say His disciples would do if they loved Him? (14:15)
2. What did Jesus say He would ask God to give His disciples? (14:16)
3. Does verse 16 say "another" comforter? Who was the other comforter?
4. Is the counselor/Spirit with you until you sin? How long is the counselor with you?
5. Why could the world not accept the Spirit of Truth? (14:17)
6. What did Jesus promise the disciples? (14:18) How is Jesus still talking to the disciples like a father to his Children?
7. Why did Jesus tell His disciples that they would live? (14:19)

8. How is Jesus related to the Father and to His disciples? (14:20)

9. What is the relationship between our love and obedience to Jesus and his love and presence in our lives (John 14:15-24)?

10. How is this different from legalism—earning Christ's love and presence through our good works? How are we to interpret grace with these passages?

11. What did Jesus say the Counselor would do? (14:25-26) Why might verse 26 have importance to the Gospel writers?

12. What did Jesus leave with His disciples? (14:27)

13. According to Jesus, how will the Spirit bring comfort and help to his followers

14. What is the difference between how *Jesus* gives peace and how the *world* does?

15. What do you learn about the Holy Spirit in verses 16–17 and 25–27? What is the relationship of the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit to the believer? To each other?

16. Why were the disciples to be glad that Jesus was leaving them? (14:28)

17. Why did Jesus tell His disciples about the future? (14:29)

18. Why did Jesus say He wouldn't speak much longer? (14:30)

19. What did Jesus intend to show the world? (14:31)

Luke 6:12-16 (NLT) 12 One day soon afterward Jesus went up on a mountain to pray, and he prayed to God all night. 13 At daybreak he called together all of his disciples and chose twelve of them to be apostles. Here are their names: 14 Simon (whom he named Peter), Andrew (Peter's brother), James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, 15 Matthew, Thomas, James (son of Alphaeus), Simon (who was called the zealot), 16 Judas (son of James), Judas Iscariot (who later betrayed him).

1 Corinthians 2:14 (NIV) 14 The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.

1 Corinthians 3:16 (NIV) Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?

REFLECTION:

1. How at home are the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in your life? Are they more like owners, or temporary guests?
2. On a scale from 1 (smooth sailing) to 10 (furious storm), what is your peace quotient? Why? Where do you need Jesus' peace? Where can you find hope in this passage?
3. How has the holy spirit revealed Jesus in your life?
4. Of all the promises made here which one means the most to you? Why?
5. How can we show Jesus that we love Him?
6. What are the commands of Jesus that we should obey?
7. How are we taught by the Holy Spirit?
8. When have you been comforted by the Holy Spirit?

2 Timothy 1:14 (NIV) Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you--guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

1 John 5:1-4 (NIV) 1 Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. 2 This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. 3 This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, 4 for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.

SATAN DEFEATED

Colossians 2:13-15 (NLT) 13 You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins. 14 He canceled the record of the charges against

us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. 15 In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross.

PEACE

Romans 5:1-2 (NIV) 1 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.

Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV) 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.



PRAYERS

9. What is the peace that Jesus has given us?
10. How can we experience the peace Jesus has given us?
11. What concerns trouble you or cause you to fear?
12. How should we deal with the fear in our lives?
13. What example has Jesus set for us in His relationship with God?
14. In what specific way can you show Jesus that you love Him today?
15. What can you do today to experience and enjoy the peace Jesus has given you?
16. What troubling problem or fear do you need to turn over to God?
17. In what specific ways has the Spirit brought comfort or help in your life?