

# BIBLE TEACHING AND WORSHIP GUIDE



## FOR THE HOME-BASED CHURCH

Produced Weekly

***Never Alone***  
**John 14:15-27; 15:26—16:15**

Copy this sheet for the Gathering Time, Bible Study, and Worship Experience leaders for the next meeting of the church.

## Leaders' Responsibilities:

**Important:** Each person who will be leading one of the three parts of a session during a series of sessions needs to have access to the "Introduction" article found at the beginning of each series (Bible Teaching #....). The weekly session "Background" located in the Teacher Preparation is much more specific to that day's study.

1. **The Gathering Time Leader** will gather all of the people together and help them prepare their minds and hearts for a wonderful worship experience before God. His/her responsibility is to introduce the congregation to the theme (content) and the Scripture that will be central to their worship experience for the day.

2. **The Bible Study Leader** will then help the people understand what the Scriptures have to say and teach us about the content of the study for the day. He/she will guide the people to make a general application of the study (ie: How does this Bible study apply to people today?)

3. **The Worship Time Leader** has the responsibility to use the theme and Scriptures to guide the congregation to make personal commitments to God's will for each one in regard to the study for the day. He/she will use others to lead in the music, taking the offering, ministry moment comments, and other activities and parts of the **Worship Time** that can aid in participatory worship.

## Prior to this Coming Session:

### Gathering Time Leader:

**Bible Study Leader:** Make copies of this verse for each participant. ***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.*** (John 14:27) You may copy the page given at the end of the worship time.

Have a white board or large piece of paper available for use during the Bible study and for the Youth Take Ten.

**Worship Time Leader:**

### **Music Sources:**

**Holy Spirit, Thou Art Welcome**, *The Worship Hymnal* #327; CCLI#12994

**Spirit Song**, *The Worship Hymnal* #329; CCLI #37824

**Because He Lives**, *The Worship Hymnal* #449; CCLI #16880

**Spirit of the Living God**, *The Worship Hymnal* #330; CCLI #23488

# 1

Copy this section for the Gathering Time leader.

## **Gathering Time:** (Suggested time: 15 minutes)

### ***Never Alone***

#### **Focal Text**

John 14:15-27; 15:26—16:15

#### **Background**

John 13:31—17:26

#### **Main Idea**

Jesus continues to provide encouragement and strength for Christian living to all who turn to him.

#### **Question to Explore**

How can you face challenges to and concerns about your faith?

#### **Teaching Aim**

To lead the church to describe implications for their lives of the sources of encouragement and strength for Christian living identified in these Scriptures.

#### **Gathering together:**

Sing both:

**Holy Spirit, Thou Art Welcome**, *The Worship Hymnal* #327; CCLI#12994

**Spirit Song**, *The Worship Hymnal* #329; CCLI #37824

#### **First thoughts:**

Thomas Kelly lived from 1893-1941. He was an outstanding scholar and determined to achieve excellence in truth in all areas. He drove himself to exhaustion until an experience with God led him to devote his efforts to develop an acquaintance with God, not merely acquiring knowledge about God. He wrote in the devotional book **A Testament of Devotion** these words:

“There is a way of ordering our mental life on more than one level at once. On one level we may be thinking, discussing, seeing, calculating; meeting all the demands of external

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**Never Alone – 16-43-11-en**

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affairs. But deep within, behind the scenes, at a profounder level, we may also be in prayer and adoration, song and worship and a gentle receptiveness to divine breathings” (Foster, R.J. & Smith, J.B., **Devotional Classics: Selected Readings for Individuals and Groups**. HarperSanFrancisco: A Renovare’ Resource for Spiritual Renewal, 1993, page 207).

Today we will consider Jesus’ telling of the coming of the Holy Spirit to comfort, advocate, help, and convict of sin. It is the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives which enables us to be in prayer and adoration, song and worship in the midst of our everyday affairs. It is the divine breathing of His Spirit which guides through the difficulties, grief, pain and confusion of life. It is the divine breathing of His Spirit which enhances our joy, causes us to be thankful, keeps us from poor decisions, and draws us close to the Father. Today we will rejoice in the promise which Jesus gave to His disciples and to us of the never-failing and never-ending presence of the Spirit.

### **Closing the Gathering Time:**

Take time at this point to mention items of prayer concern for the church, announcements of ministry or activities, and anything else that needs to be shared with or by the congregation. Pray for these needs. Remember to praise God in prayer.

Break time! Take five minutes between sessions. Encourage children to use the washroom so that they won’t need to leave during the Bible Study time.

Distribute youth/adult Bible study outlines or paper for note-taking, if available.

Also hand out the activity sheets for preschool and younger children to use during Bible Study and/or worship.

# 2

Copy this section for the Bible Study leader.

**Note to the Bible Study Leader:** Suggested teaching time for the Bible study should be about 35 minutes. Use the “Teacher Preparation” for your personal study during the week before the session. Use the “Bible Study Plan” for the actual session.

## Teacher Preparation

### *Never Alone*

#### **Focal Text**

John 14:15-27; 15:26—16:15

#### **Background**

John 13:31—17:26

#### **Main Idea**

Jesus continues to provide encouragement and strength for Christian living to all who turn to him.

#### **Question to Explore**

How can you face challenges to and concerns about your faith?

#### **Teaching Aim**

To lead the church to describe implications for their lives of the sources of encouragement and strength for Christian living identified in these Scriptures.

### **Introduction to your personal study:**

Thomas Kelly also wrote “Begin now, as you read these words, as you sit in your chair, to offer your whole selves, utterly and in joyful abandon, in quiet, glad surrender to him who is within. In secret bursts (Kelly used the word ejaculations) of praise, turn in humble wonder to the Light, faint though it may be. Keep contact with the outer world of sense and meanings. Here is no discipline in absentmindedness. Walk and talk and work and laugh with your friends. But behind the scenes, keep up the life of simple prayer and inward worship. Let inward prayer be your last act before you fall asleep and the first act when you awake” (page, 207).

## Background:

Please ask for and read the information contained in the “**Introduction**” article found at the beginning of this series (Bible Teaching #....) of Bible Study and Worship sessions. Whoever downloaded this session for you should have that material for you, as well.

## Focusing on the Meaning:

### John 14:15-27; 15:26—16:15

#### John 14: 15-21

***“If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever – the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. 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.” (NIV)***

In verse 15 and again in verse 21, Jesus states that loving him demands obedience. John emphasizes this teaching again and again. “The prayers that Christ prayed on earth were the prayers of One whose chief characteristic was obedience to His Father. Prayers that are offered ‘in Christ’s name’ must therefore be the prayers of those who are obedient to His commandments; and such obedience will be made possible, not by the cold exercise of the will, but by the warm love of the disciple for his Lord. This love will be fully reciprocated, and as a result the Father will send at the request of the Son another Advocate, the Spirit who reveals the truth and abides forever in the heart of the believer” (Tasker, R.V.G. **The Gospel According to St. John.** Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1977, page 166).

The reality of the three persons of the Godhead is clearly expressed in these verses. **Jesus** is speaking. He says he will ask the **Father** for a **Counselor** to be with the believers forever.

***And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever;*** (King James Version)

***And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever;*** (New American Standard Version)

***I will talk to the Father, and he'll provide you another Friend so that you will always have someone with you.*** (The Message)

***I will ask the Father, and he will give you another to be your Advocate, who will be with you forever.*** (The New English Bible)

"Counselor", "Comforter", "Helper", "Friend", "Advocate" are words used to interpret the Greek word "paraklētos". The Greek word used in verse 14 means in adjective form "called to the side of" (for the purpose of helping). It is used, in noun form, as a legal term indicating the counsel for the defense. Christ is thought of as pleading His people's cause before the Father.

The dictionary definition for paraclete in English "Noun Christianity the Holy Spirit as advocate or counsellor ...Greek paraklētos called in aid (as Para) kletos from kaleo call)" (Canadian Oxford Dictionary, Don Mills, Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2004, page 1126).

That it has been translated in different ways indicates the difficulty of one word expressing the functions of the Spirit. Most Christians could identify each one of these words – counselor, comforter, helper, friend, and advocate - as having been descriptive of their relationship with the Holy Spirit at some point in their Christian experience.

Barclay calls it "an untranslatable word". "It is only when we examine this word *paraklētos* in detail that we catch something of the riches of the doctrine of the Holy Spirit. The word *paraklētos* really means *someone who is called in*; but it is the reason *why* the person is called in which gives the word its distinctive associations. The Greeks used the word in a wide variety of ways. A *paraklētos* might be a person *called in* to give witness in a law court in someone's favor; he might be an advocate *called in* to plead someone's cause when someone was under a charge which would issue in serious penalty; he might be an expert *called in* to give advice in some difficult situation. He might be a person *called in* when, for example, a company of soldiers were depressed and dispirited to put new courage into their minds and hearts. Always a *paraklētos* is someone *called in* to help when the person who calls him is in trouble or distress or doubt or bewilderment" (Barclay, Wm. **The Gospel of John**, Volume 2, Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1956, page 194).

"The word is always in this Gospel used by Jesus, who speaks of the Spirit as sent to supply the need of His followers after His departure. The spirit is to be with the disciples continually, and, indeed, to be in them (14:16f). He is to be their teacher, and to remind them of all that Jesus has said (14:26). He bears witness to Christ (15:26). He has one work to do in unbelievers, namely to convict the world of sin, righteousness and judgment (16:8). He can come only when Jesus goes away (16:7). This appears to mean that the work of the Spirit in the believers is a consequence of the saving work of Christ and not something separate from it. The same truth may be implied in the statement that the Spirit is sent in the name of Jesus (14:26). It is only because Christ



has died for us and put away our sin that the Holy Spirit can be found at work within our hearts” (Morris, L. **The Gospel According to John**. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1971, page 663).

“The eternal God of the universe has called us into fellowship-friendship, companionship, close and intimate communion with Him, with His Son. That’s why His spirit lives in us so we can be totally and intimately connected with him” (Rev. Jack Conner, online daily devotional comment, February 21, 2014).

“In John 20:22 we read that Jesus said to His disciples, ‘Begin to receive the Holy Spirit.’ We must have this breath (wind) of Christ to live. If God’s Spirit does not breathe into our lives, a day is wasted. Constant renewal is our constant need” (Conner, Feb. 26, 2014).

**“I will not leave you desolate.”** The word translated “desolate” means “like orphans.” By this promise Jesus recognizes that the disciples will feel as if they have been left alone in the world, but he contradicts their feelings, and the promise answers their fear. As the Holy Spirit comes to them, it will be Christ who comes: **‘I will come to you.’** Jesus affirms his ultimate victory over death in the context of this promise. **‘Because I live, you will live also.’** We are identified with the victory of Christ as surely as we are identified with his death. It will be the Holy Spirit who will assure us of that identification” (Palmer E.F. **The Intimate Gospel**. Waco, Texas: Word Publications, 1978, page 127).

## **John 14:22-27**

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

***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. 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.***

***All this I have spoken while still with you. 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.***

***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.”***

Judas asks why Jesus would not reveal himself to all people. But Jesus knew that an unbeliever would not respond positively to such a revelation. They would not believe though one rose from the dead (see Luke 16:19-31). The heart that does not love

Jesus with the love that is expressed in obedience cannot be an abiding place for Jesus or for his Father” (Tasker, page 169).

“...Jesus went on to say that the world cannot recognize the Spirit. By the world John meant that section of men who live as if there was no God, those people who, when they organize their lives, leave God out of the reckoning altogether as irrelevant” (Barclay, page 195).

“Jesus could have written His name in the stars if He had wanted. Instead He chose to show Himself to the world through the love and obedience of His followers. That would be the most convincing proof He could offer. People who ask for signs never believe them when they come, but who can deny the convicting power of a changed life? Jesus would write His name across their lives and the lives of all who would come to follow Him” (Card, M. **The Parable of Joy**. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Discovery House Publishers, 2007, page 192).

There is again the emphasis on obedience. “This obedient, trusting love leads to two things. First, it leads to ultimate safety. On the day of the triumph of Christ those who have been obedient lovers of Christ will be safe in a crashing world. Second, this obedient, trusting love leads to a fuller and a fuller revelation. It is to the man who loves Him that Jesus reveals Himself ever more fully. The knowledge of God, the revelation of God is a costly thing. There is always a moral basis for revelation. It is to the man who keeps His commandments that Christ reveals Himself. No evil man can ever receive the revelation of God. He can be used by God, but he can have no fellowship with God. It is only to the man who is looking for Him that God reveals Himself; and it is only to the man who, in spite of failure, is reaching up that God reaches down. Fellowship with God, the revelation of God, are dependent on love; and love is dependent on obedience. The more we obey God, the more we understand God; and the man who walks in God’s way inevitably walks with God” (Barclay, pages 197-198).

***“We will come to him and make our home with him”.*** Other translations say ***“Make our abode with him”***. The Message states ***“If anyone loves me, he will carefully keep my word and my Father will love him – we’ll move right into the neighborhood.”*** Making a home with someone involves real togetherness – real intimacy. It should denote pleasure in one another’s company; comfort and security in having another person close by. It implies conversation – at the dinner table, before bedtime, when one is troubled. This beautiful statement gives us a glimpse into the relationship which we have with the Father and the Son through the Spirit – “We will come and make **our** home with him.”

Jesus did not live a peaceful life. He was constantly on the move; he had no permanent home; he was criticized and questioned and the threat to his life was always present. Yet He lived with the inner peace which His Father gave to him. And Jesus promises that same peace to his disciples at this very difficult time of separation and his approaching crucifixion.

“The peace which Jesus offers His disciples...is *His* peace. *My peace*, He tells them, *I give unto you*. He Himself enjoyed this peace, for He was never for one moment unmindful of His Father’s will, and was ready in obedience to it to drink the cup of suffering and endure a penal death for man’s salvation....He had come to know the divine peace, the peace of inward quiet which no distress of mind or body was able to destroy. And now He would bequeath that same peace to those who, refusing to compromise with the world, are willing to accept the sacrifice He is making on their behalf; to enjoy the assurance of forgiveness that of necessity accompanies such acceptance; and to follow Him along the same road of loving obedience and service” (Tasker, pages 168-169).

One of the basic functions of the Spirit is that of teacher. “The Holy Spirit will teach us all things. To the end of the day the Christian must be a learner, for to the end of the day the Holy Spirit will be leading him deeper and deeper into the truth of God. There is never any time in life when the Christian can say that he knows the whole truth. There is never any excuse in the Christian faith for the shut mind. The Christian who feels that he has nothing more to learn is the Christian who had not even begun to understand what the doctrine of the Holy Spirit means” (Barclay, pages 198-199).

## **John 15: 26-16:4**

***“All this I have told you so that you will not go astray. They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, a time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering a service to God. They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me. I have told you this, so that when the time comes you will remember that I warned you. I did not tell you this at first because I was with you.”***

“Jesus is telling the disciples, in effect, that it is not just that individuals out in the world will hate them, every element of the world will be hostile to them” (Card, page 201). We can understand this when we seem to be so out of step with what the world considers of supreme importance – its emphasis on wealth and power; its love of violence; injustice on so many fronts and war in so many areas. It is even true that some feel that killing believers is a service to God.

The tension here is to remember that we can be criticized or disliked as Christians, not because of Godly beliefs or actions, but because of our own attitudes and actions. We need to be sure when we are criticized by the world that we have exhibited Christ-like behavior in every situation.

In the passage above, Jesus is helping the disciples prepare for the reality of his death and the reality of their life of ministry and service after He has gone back to the Father. As long as Jesus was alive, He was busy about His earthly ministry and they were

followers and learners. After his death and resurrection, the disciples would be the ones chosen to carry the message to the rest of the world.

***“Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”*** This was both an admonition to the disciples and a promise. And the admonition and the promise are just as relevant to us today. We must consciously claim this reality and determine to not be troubled and afraid. But it also a promise of God for it is ultimately only with the presence of the Holy Spirit that we can overcome fear and troubled hearts. This statement carries the disciples back to His promise of the Comforter to come.

“The peace which his people have in him is not only the peace which he gives (cf. John 14:27); it is the peace which he himself enjoys and which he shares with them. It is theirs as they remain in him, participating in his life. The world which inflicts tribulation on them is his enemy as well as theirs (cf. John 15:18-25). But it is a beaten enemy: the cross which the Lord in spirit has already embraced marked his triumph and the world’s downfall. His triumph, like his peace, is shared by his people. The ‘victory that overcomes the world’, it is affirmed in 1 John 5:4 f., is ‘our faith’ – the faith that ‘believes that Jesus is the Son of God’. It is this faith that unites his people to him, so that his victory becomes theirs also” (Bruce, F.F. **The Gospel of John**. Grand Rapids: Michigan: Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1983, page 326).

## **John 16: 5-15**

***“Now I am going to him who sent me, yet none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ Because I have said these things, you are filled with grief. But I tell you the truth; It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.***

***When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.***

***I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you.”***

The disciples are grieving because Jesus is going away. Yet they are not asking where he is going and not understanding that he is returning to the Father. We cannot criticize the disciples for we would have been just as confused had we been there. Jesus wants them to understand that his earthly presence had limitations. Jesus the Man could only

be in one place at a time; there were times when he went away for prayer and renewal. Every night he needed to sleep. The Spirit will be with them at all times and places. When they awake and are afraid in the night, the Spirit will be there to comfort and guide. That would be true for the disciples and it is true for us today.

Verse 7 - "Jesus told the disciples the Spirit would: (1) Guide us to all truth. (2) Speak only what He hears, as Jesus did. (3) Tell us what is to come. (4) Bring glory to Jesus by taking from the things that belong to Jesus and the Father and showing them to us" (Card, page 210).

Verse 8 - "The Spirit bears witness to the world (not least through the witness of Jesus' followers, as affirmed by John 15:26f.) that Jesus rejected, condemned and put to death by the world, has been vindicated and exalted by God. His rejection, condemnation and execution expressed in violent clarity the world's refusal to believe in him; that unbelief is now exposed as sin." (Bruce, page 319).

"When the Spirit comes, He will prove the world is wrong about three things: (1) Sin – the world says it is an offense against the status quo. The Spirit defines it as not believing in Jesus. (2) Righteousness – Jesus' return to the Father will be the final demonstration that He was truly righteous. (3) Judgment – Jesus will define judgment on the cross. That is where judgment of the world takes place" (Card, page 210).

## **Your Goal as the Leader of this Bible Study:**

To lead the group to understand what Jesus taught was to be the role of the Spirit in our lives.

To lead the group to describe implications for their lives as they consider the importance of the Spirit in their lives.

To lead the group to understand and experience the peace which Jesus offers.

To memorize the following: ***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.*** (John 14:27)

## **For Personal Reflection:**

### **Verse 13**

"Even as Jesus repeatedly stated that He only spoke the things He heard from the Father, so now the Spirit will only speak what He hears (See Deut. 18). Meditate on what it means to only speak what you have heard from the Father" (Card, page 210).

**What have I learned from this study?**

**What personal experience does this lesson bring to mind?**

**What is one action I will take this week to apply this Scripture passage to my life?**

## **Bible Study Plan** (Suggested time: 35 minutes)

### ***Never Alone***

Regroup the church after the Gathering Time and break by singing a chorus that young children can relate to—or another praise chorus if your congregation does not have children. Children who go to their own Bible teaching session should stay with the group until after this song. Have the preschoolers and children accompany the hymn with rhythm sticks, maracas, bells, etc.

**Begin by helping the group locate the Focal Text in their Bibles. Also, share with them the Main Idea to be learned from the Scriptures, and the Questions to be Explored by the group.**

#### **Focal Text**

John 14:15-27; 15:26—16:15

#### **Background**

John 13:31—17:26

#### **Main Idea**

Jesus continues to provide encouragement and strength for Christian living to all who turn to him.

#### **Question to Explore**

How can you face challenges to and concerns about your faith?

#### **Teaching Aim**

To lead the church to describe implications for their lives of the sources of encouragement and strength for Christian living identified in these Scriptures.

#### **Connect with Life:**

State: Understanding the role of the Holy Spirit is not always easy. There is misunderstanding in the Christian world. Our aim today is to study what Jesus said the role of the Spirit was to be in our lives and in the world. The title for today's lesson is "Never Alone". The sending of the Spirit is the Father's assurance that we will never be alone.



## Guide the Study:

Have someone read John 14: 15-21.

Ask that person to reread verse 15.

Seek answers: What is the basic teaching which Jesus gives here? Also, What does that mean for our lives today? (Being obedient to Christ's teaching is how we show our love for Him.)

Ask someone to reread verses 16-17.

Follow with this question: How do you see the three persons of the Godhead expresses in these verses? (**Jesus** is speaking. He says he will ask the **Father** for a **Counselor** to be with the believers forever).

Inquire: What is the name given to the Spirit here? (The Spirit of truth)

Write the word *paraklētos* on the white board or large piece of paper. From the background material explain what it means. You can read the following if that is best for you.

Barclay calls it "an untranslatable word". He says: "It is only when we examine this word *paraklētos* in detail that we catch something of the riches of the doctrine of the Holy Spirit. The word *paraklētos* really means someone who is called in; but it is the reason why the person is called in which gives the word its distinctive associations.

The Greeks used the word in a wide variety of ways. A *paraklētos* might be a person called in to give witness in a law court in someone's favor; he might be an advocate called in to plead someone's cause when someone was under a charge which would issue in serious penalty; he might be an expert called in to give advice in some difficult situation. He might be a person called in when, for example, a company of soldiers were depressed and dispirited to put new courage into their minds and hearts. Always a *paraklētos* is someone called in to help when the person who calls him is in trouble or distress or doubt or bewilderment" (Barclay, Wm. **The Gospel of John**, Volume 2, Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1956, page 194).

On the white board have someone write the following:

**Counselor**

**Comforter**

**Helper**

**Friend**

**Advocate**



Discuss the meaning of these words and have the group share which aspect seems most real to them.

Remind the group: “Always a *paraklētos* is someone *called in* to help when the person who calls him is in trouble or distress or doubt or bewilderment”.

Have someone read verses 18-21.

Consider with the group: How were the disciples feeling? (desolate, like orphans).

Comment on the promise of Jesus that ***“Because I live, you also will live.”***

Have someone read John 14:22-27.

Remind the participants: Among the twelve disciples, there were two men named Judas. The faithful Judas has no second name recorded, except “the son of James”. In the Gospel of Mark, he is referred to as Thaddaeus and as Lebbaeus. He may have written the Epistle of Jude. The Judas who betrayed Jesus was named Judas Iscariot.

Discuss the question which Judas, (Thaddaeus), asked: ***“But Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?”*** (Only those who love God and are obedient to Him have the ability to understand. The disciples and those of us who follow are to demonstrate Christ’s love through our lives).

Read the following from the teaching preparation materials:

“Jesus could have written His name in the stars if He had wanted. Instead He chose to show Himself to the world through the love and obedience of His followers. That would be the most convincing proof He could offer. People who ask for signs never believe them when they come, but who can deny the convicting power of a changed life? Jesus would write His name across their lives and the lives of all who would come to follow Him” (Card, M. ***The Parable of Joy***. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Discovery House Publishers, 2007, page 192).

Discuss what it means for Jesus to say ***“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.”***

Seek responses: What images are raised by his use of the words “make our home with him”.

Emphasize: Obedient, trusting love provides safety in the present circumstances and in our future and it assures that we will have a continuing and deepening understanding of the presence of the Spirit.

Also emphasize that the Holy Spirit continually teaches us new things about our faith.

Give out the slips of paper on which are written the verse to memorize ***“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.”(John 14: 27)***

Ask one or more members of the group who are Christians to share what this means to them. Ask them: What is the peace of Jesus like for you?

Have someone read John 15: 26-16:4

Question the group as to the future of the disciples.

Then ask: How do these verses still apply to us today.

Be sure to discuss the fact that not all criticism of Christians is due to our beliefs.

Present this to open a brief discussion: What can cause others to justly criticize us as Christians? (our critical attitude, failure to meet the needs of the hungry and marginalized around the world, failure to live out our beliefs in the world of work).

Have someone read John 16: 5-15

Ask: Why does Jesus say it is for the good of the disciples that He goes away? (So that the Holy Spirit will come; the Spirit will be with them at all times.)

List the following teachings of verse 7 on the white board.

**“Jesus told the disciples the Spirit would:**

- (1) Guide us to all truth.**
- (2) Speak only what He hears, as Jesus did.**
- (3) Tell us what is to come.**
- (4) Bring glory to Jesus by taking from the things that belong to Jesus and the Father and showing them to us” (Card, page 210).**

## **Encourage Application:**

If you have two or more youth, this is the time to give them the **Youth!!! Take Ten** page and allow them to move away from the adults and apply the lesson by and for themselves.

Have someone reread verse 13:

Now quote this: “Even as Jesus repeatedly stated that He only spoke the things He heard from the Father, so now the Spirit will only speak what He hears. Meditate on what it means to only speak what you have heard from the Father” (Card, page 210).

Close the Bible Study Time with prayer by one of the participants.

**Take a five minute break to separate the Bible Study and Worship Time.** Children may need to use the washroom again before worship.

# YOUTH!!! TAKE TEN

## Bible Study Application for Youth

You may wish to move away from the adults for the final five to ten minutes of the Bible study and help each other as youth to apply the lesson to your own needs.

### ***Never Alone***

**John 14:15-27; 15:26—16:15**

<p><b>A youth will lead the following activity and comments.</b> No adults need to be present. If possible, teens should take turns in leading the application time.</p>
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**APPLICATION ON  
FOLLOWING PAGE**

Youth may be uncomfortable talking about the work of the Holy Spirit. Understand this, but encourage each other to consider how you have experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit in your own lives.

Write these words which describe the work of the Holy Spirit on a white board or large piece of paper:

**Counselor**

**Comforter**

**Helper**

**Friend**

**Advocate**

Ask each other to share how you have experienced the Holy Spirit in any of these ways in the past.

Learn the Greek word which is used by the New Testament to describe the Spirit: paraklētos.

Look up the English word paraclete in a dictionary.

Think of some English words which use the prefix “para” and may have some of the meaning seen in paraklētos.

Paramedic – works to aid the doctors in emergency situations.

Parachute – the chute which helps make a safe landing

Parachurch – refers to organizations which work with churches to do many tasks which the individual church may not be able to do alone

Paralanguage – elements or factors in communication that serve in a helping role to language – intonation and gesture.

Paramilitary – not a professional military force, but having a helping function, organization, or status

**Worship Time** (Suggested time: 30 minutes)***Never Alone*****John 14:15-27; 15:26—16:15****Beginning the Service:**

Sing:

**Because He Lives**, *The Worship Hymnal* #449; CCLI #16880**Offering:****Praying for the World:**

Pray for the people of Thailand and Laos. The Thai and Lao people primarily follow Buddhism with a strong overlay of spirit worship, charms, omens, “luck”, and idols. Very few of them have a clear concept of the Creator God, much less an understanding of the work of Christ. Believers have worked in these countries for more than a century and yet Christians still form a very small percentage of the population. Pray that believers may share the Gospel in a culturally appropriate manner that presents the value of the King and the claims of the kingdom on their lives.

**Sharing Guide:**

**This sharing guide is written to assist the person who directs the worship time to reemphasize the teaching for the day and help guide the congregation to respond to God’s call and will for their lives in regard to the scripture studied. The leader may choose to follow the guide closely. Or, he or she may wish to only use it to give direction and a concept for preparing an original message. The leader is free to choose other ways to communicate and share the concepts presented here.**

## A Place Prepared John 14: 1-4

***“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, trust also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.”***

In 1993 Barry Blair, Bob Herman, Mark Stuart, and Will McGinnis wrote a song called **Big House**. It was a upbeat song and youth at youth camps loved to sing it joyfully and loudly:

Come and go with me  
To my Father’s house.  
Come and go with me  
To my Father’s house.  
It’s a big, big house  
With lots and lots of rooms.  
A big, big table  
With lots and lots of food.  
It’s a big, big yard  
Where we can play football.  
A big, big house  
It’s my Father’s house.

Barry Blair, Bob Herman, Mark Stuart and Will McGinnis, **Big House**, 1993, Up in the Mix Music, CCLI #1414735.

Lots and lots of rooms, lots and lots of food, a big, big yard in which to play football. Of course, youth liked the song. They also liked the words repeated ***my Father’s house – It’s my Father’s house.***

The youth singing that song were not thinking much about living with Jesus after death. They were too busy enjoying living with Jesus in life. But the time will come, as it came for Jesus’ disciples, and as it comes to each of us, that they will consider what it means to know that the Father has prepared a place for them.

And they will want it to be a comfortable place with those things that bring pleasure. For young people that meant food to eat – lots and lots of food – and a place to play – a big, big yard.

For the disciples and for us as believers, it really means a place where Jesus is present.

In the wonderful verses we have read for this we see many promises.

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**Never Alone – 16-43-11-en**

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***“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, trust also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.”***

The translation which William Barclay gives in his commentary on John uses two words which give additional meaning to our understanding. He speaks of “many abiding-places” and of Jesus “welcoming” us unto himself.

***“Do not let your heart be distressed. Believe in God and believe in me. There are many abiding-places in my Father’s house. If it were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And, if I go and prepare a place for you, I am coming again, and I will welcome you to myself, that where I am, there you too may be.”***

These are truths we can gain from this passage to encourage us in our daily walk with Jesus.

1. We do not have to worry about the future. We trust in God; we trust in Jesus.
2. The Father’s house has room for us. There will be room for all of the believers of all of the ages. There are many rooms – many abiding places . “The Greek word translated “room” is from the word *monai*, from *meno*, meaning “to stay”. The idea is not of specific rooms but of places to stay, places prepared just for us” (Card, page 194).
3. These rooms are prepared for us. We may not need a big, big yard in which to play football. Whatever our need is will be met. There are many rooms; our room will be the one which fits who we are.
4. We will be there with Jesus. We really do not need to know more than that. We will be there with Jesus. When we think of those beautiful and amazing times in our lives when we experienced most fully the presence of the Lord in our lives, we can begin to imagine what it will be like to be with him in his house.
5. We know the way to the Father’s house. It is through faith in Jesus as Saviour and obedient following of His teachings that we will come to His house.

This was the promise to the disciples and it is the promise to us. A commentator said about the disciples in this difficult time in their lives:

“Jesus is going to *prepare a place* for them, so that they may permanently abide with God and enjoy Him for ever (14:2). This thought should banish all feelings of distress and anxious fears from their hearts, and enable them to renew their faith both in God and in Jesus. When provision has been made for them in the many rooms of the



Father's house, Jesus will return and take the disciples to Himself so that where He is they may be also. This was a very precious promise to the early Church..." (Tasker, page 164). It is a precious promise to us today.

In John 14: 23 we read ***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."***

We are at home with the Father, Son, and Spirit even now. Our eternal life already exists. In John 16:33 Jesus tells us "***I have overcome the world***" and in John 17:3 he said, ***Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent***". We experience eternal life because we know the only true God and his son, Jesus Christ. Someday we will transition into another kind of eternal life. We do not need to be concerned about it except to anticipate it with great joy. For we will continue to be at home with the Father in the place he has prepared for us.

#### **Call to Commitment:**

Prayerfully sing:

**Spirit of the Living God**, *The Worship Hymnal* #330; CCLI #23488

#### **Concluding the Service:**

Read this passage as the blessing on the church:

***<sup>1</sup>I love the Lord, for he heard my voice;  
he heard my cry for mercy.***

***<sup>2</sup>Because he turned his ear to me,  
I will call on him as long as I live. Amen.*** (Psalm 116:1,2)

Say: May we go this week with the sure knowledge that we can call upon God every hour of every day for as long as we live—and He will listen to us and answer our prayers.

Go now in the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Make copies of this verse for each participant.

***“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.”(John 14: 27)***

++++++(Cut here)++++++

***“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.”(John 14: 27)***

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