

Life Group Discussion Guide

No Greater Love: In the Upper Room with Jesus
Week 6: What the World Does Not Have • John 14:22–31

The most famous verse in all of Scripture is found in John’s Gospel: “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (3:16)

God gave His own Son for the salvation of the world. In part, this salvation was accomplished by the Son creating a community that He called out of the world—His disciples, His people, His Church. As that community continues to grow even today, more and more people are taken out of the world and into fellowship with Jesus.

This week, we’re taking a look at three things Jesus’ followers have that the world doesn’t:

1. Christ-Followers Have His Teaching

“Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, ‘But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?’” John 14:22

Earlier in John’s Gospel, he records Jesus’ brothers expressing something similar to what Judas (the son of a certain James) speaks here. They challenged Him to, “show yourself to the world,” but Jesus replied, “The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify that its works are evil.” (7:5–7)

The world isn’t simply indifferent toward Jesus; it *hates* Him. Why? Because of His **teaching**, which testifies that its works are evil.

- What “works” of the world stand in opposition to Jesus’ teachings?
- How have you seen or experienced the hatred the world has toward Jesus?

“Jesus replied, ‘Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Anyone 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.’” John 14:23–24

While the world’s hatred is known by its *rejection* of Jesus’ teachings, His followers’ love is known by their *obedience*. In other words, you know whether or not you love Him by your obedience to His teachings.

- What does it look like to obey Jesus’ teachings in a world that has rejected Him? What might it cost you?
- Consider this quote from the message: “*When our soul falls in love with the person of Jesus, it can take our mind and heart some time to catch up to the words of Jesus. Our obedience*”

is always going to trail our confession of faith, but it should relentlessly move forward to match it." With this aim in mind (not perfection, but pursuit), what does your personal obedience to Jesus' teachings reveal about your love for Him?

- In what way will you seek to grow in obedience to Jesus—not out of duty, but genuine love?

"All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Advocate, 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." John 14:25–26

Last week, we learned that the Spirit is our comforter, our counselor, our guide into the truth. Here, Jesus calls Him the Holy Spirit. This is the Spirit who, as opposed to the evil that's in the world, represents the holiness of God in the world.

Jesus says it's this Spirit who will "teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you." Jesus' instruction didn't end at His ascension, but continues still today through the working of the Holy Spirit in everyone who loves Him.

- What is the significance of God's Spirit being identified as "Holy"? How is the holiness of the Spirit meaningful to you, personally?
- Explain how the Holy Spirit helps Jesus' followers live in obedience to His teachings.

2. Christ-Followers Have His Peace

"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

In the world, peace is a popular slogan but an empty promise. In a culture defined by conflict, striving, and violence, what does peace even look like?

"The kind of peace the world attempts to give is a counterfeit. That's why the world doesn't have true peace. But it longs for it. True peace is something that belongs to Jesus ('my peace,' He says), and something He shares with His people. And the result is that our hearts are untroubled, and we are not afraid."

The peace Jesus promises will come to full completion at His return—when God makes all things new—yet it's experienced, in part, by those who love Him even now. And those who've received this peace know there's nothing like it.

- Have you ever looked to things of this world as a source of peace? What has been the outcome?
- What did Jesus mean when He said, "I do not give to you as the world gives"? How does His peace differ from the counterfeits this world offers us? Be specific.
- Have you personally experienced the peace Jesus gives? Talk about it.

3. Christ-Followers Have His Love

"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. I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe. I will not say much more to you, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold over me, but he comes so that the world may learn that I love the Father and do exactly what my Father has commanded me. Come now; let us leave."
John 14:28-31

The disciples barely understand what's happening, but they're not liking what they're hearing. Jesus is going away. He's leaving them His peace. This all sounds like a farewell—and it is. And it's troubling to them. So here Jesus turns the tables on them a bit. It's almost like He says, "Enough about you. If you loved me, you would be glad that I'm going to the Father."

Jesus is endeavoring to get His disciples to take their gaze off of themselves and think about His longing, what's in *His* heart, which is His desire to go back to the Father. He's challenging them with a notion that leads us to our **Big Idea: Live for the joy of your Lord.**

"I think we can have a very me-centered relationship with Jesus. A what-can-you-do-for-me-now kind of relationship. But Jesus desires for us to look up from our own concerns and rejoice in what fills Him with joy. Do you live for the joy of your Lord? Does it bring you the greatest satisfaction to walk with Him, to listen to His word, to read what He says and do it—not because you must, or even because it's good for you, but because it makes Him happy?"

Those who truly know Jesus love Him. And when you love someone, it brings you joy to do what brings them joy.

- If you were asked to describe the most joy-filled life possible, what would that look like for you?
- What fills Jesus with joy?
- How does it challenge you to imagine your relationship with Jesus as a pursuit of bringing Him joy and sharing in that joy with Him? How does this contrast with your current perspective/experience? What would change if you really lived this way?