

***KNOWING REAL POWER*****Preparing for the Future    John 16:4b–33**

*“Take heart! I have overcome the world.”* John 16:33b

1. Read John 16:4b–15. If you could choose between having Jesus here with us in the flesh or having Jesus as we have him today, which would you prefer and why?
2. Why do you think the disciples don't ask Jesus where he is going? (vs. 6)
3. Why do you think it is better for the disciples for Jesus to go away? (vs. 7)
4. Read John 16:8–11. What is the work of the Holy Spirit? (vss. 8–10) What is the basic sin of humankind? (vs. 9) What does this mean for all those “good” people you know who do not believe in Jesus? What is their (and your) only hope? (Look back to vss. 8–10) Take a moment and pray for the Holy Spirit to speak to your friends.
5. Read John 16:12–15. From these verses we learn that the Holy Spirit takes an intense interest in our study of God's word. According to verses 13–14, how is he involved? What difference will this make to your study this week?
6. Read John 16:16–24. Since you know how the book of John ends, what does Jesus mean when he says “you won't see me and then you will see me” (vs. 16)? Describe Jesus' attitude and action in verse 19. What is he referring to in verse 20? In verse 23, what day is he talking about?
7. In verses 23–24, how does Jesus tell his disciples to pray? What does he promise them will happen when they pray in this way? Have you prayed like this? What did you receive?

8. Read John 16:25–33. Why do you think it is important for us to know about God? In verse 27, what does Jesus want us to know about God the Father?
  
9. There are many who say that Jesus was only a good man or a wise teacher. How does verse 28 say otherwise?
  
10. Why do the disciples finally believe that Jesus has been sent from God? Why is it so important that their faith be strengthened at this time? Share a time in your own life when Jesus prepared you to face trials.
  
11. What “trouble” is facing the disciples? (vs. 33) How does Jesus overcome this trouble? What trouble are you facing today? Write out a prayer using Jesus’ directions in verses 23–24 asking God to overcome the trouble in your life.