

# SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

## John 16:16-33

**Ice Breaker:** What is an evidence of God's grace you've seen in your life this week?

**Ice Breaker:** Share a time when God has brought joy out of sorrow.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: Sorrow to Joy

1. What does Jesus tell his disciples in the previous section, and how does it connect to our passage? What is the reason Jesus is leaving his disciples?
2. How does Jesus use the example of giving birth to give comfort to his disciples about his departure? What role does sorrow play in the Christian life? Why is right and good for Christians to lament and grieve together? How does sorrow relate to joy?
3. What is the hope that Jesus gives them that their sorrow will not be forever but will turn into rejoicing? How can Jesus promise that no one will be able to take their joy?
4. What are the distinct characteristics of Christian joy? How do you see this supernatural joy expressed in believers?
5. How are we to understand Jesus promise, "whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you." What does it mean to ask in Jesus' name? How is prayer connected to fullness of joy?
6. How does Jesus overcome the world? How does Jesus victory over the world give us peace in the midst of tribulation?
7. **Application:** Take some time to pray as a Small Group and lament the things in the world have cause for sorrow. Whether personal or general, take some time to talk to God and ask him to turn our sorrow into joy as we wait for his return.
8. Discuss practical ways in which your group can weep with those who weep in order to remind them that their joy in Christ has not been stolen.

### FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. What are some things that make us sad? Did Jesus experience things that were sad?
2. Why is okay to be sad? What gives us hope even when we are sad?
3. How does the promise of Jesus return give us joy even in our sadness?