

Series: Things That Go Bump In The Night

Scripture and Background Information for August 23 - 30.

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Community Group Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scripture below.

This week we'll be looking at **John 16:16-33**. Jesus started his last teaching session, right before his crucifixion. Today's text reveals Jesus' heart for his disciples. He cares about them while thinking of his departure from them. With his last words, Jesus prepares his disciples for his death.

Background for John 16:16-33:

Here in this passage Jesus reveals his heart for his disciples. He prepares them for his death. Apparently, the disciples do not understand what Jesus is talking about. Therefore, Jesus tries to explain to them that their grief, which will come to them when he is dead, will be shattered by joy. For that, he uses a picture of a woman giving birth to a child. Jesus tells them that the joy the disciples will receive will change their whole picture about Jesus, and no one will ever be able to take that away from them. After Jesus explains them again that he would leave them (23-28), the disciples start understanding that Jesus was talking about his death. Jesus continues with his encouragement with a warning. He ends with the purpose of the speech, which is the encouragement that even if the disciples would face opposition, they could find peace in Jesus (33).

- When walking through the text, talk about the way Jesus predicts his death. What does Jesus intend the disciples to understand when he tells them that he would leave them, but that they would see them again? How would you apply Jesus's foretelling of his death to a contemporary congregation?
- What is the intention of Jesus's lecture? How does His intention relate to us?

Note, Jesus predicts his death. He knew his mission to die for the world (John 3:16), but he also knew he would conquer death. Remember, Jesus is God! At all times of His life, He was in control of His life. Therefore, believers can be sure that He has control over their life.

Scriptures for upcoming weeks:

August 30-September 5. John 17