

WHILE WE WAIT

September 21, 2025

Get a Grip & Get a Life // Preparing for Departure // John 16:16-33

CONNECT – Announcements (page 2) & Building Relationships

1. Is there anything noteworthy going on in your life since last week? Where have you seen God at work in your life or the lives of others?
2. What's your silliest or most frustrating "waiting room" experience ever? Who can tell the funniest story about waiting impatiently for something?
3. When you were a kid, what did your parents mean when they said, "in a little while"?

REFLECT - Out of the Word and Into Our Lives

4. Read John 16:16-33 [have someone read it aloud for group time]. What stood out to you in the sermon this week and what did God reveal to you in His Word, maybe for the first time?
5. In John 16:20–22, Jesus compares grief turning to joy with childbirth. Where have you seen sorrow give way to joy in your own life?
6. Jesus says in 16:22, "No one is going to take your joy away from you." What are some things that can rob us of joy, and how can we keep our joy anchored in Christ rather than our circumstances?
7. How should knowing "the Father Himself loves you" (v. 27) affect your prayer life?
8. What does it look like for you personally to "take courage" in a world of tribulation knowing that Jesus has overcome the world (v. 33)?
9. Read Galatians 5:16-24. Which of the fruits of the Spirit mentioned in that passage does Jesus offer to His disciples as they seek to persevere in the "little while" of waiting to see Him again here in John 16? How is the Holy Spirit involved in helping us to persevere?
10. How does knowing that Jesus is coming back for His own impact the trials that you encounter in life?

PROTECT – Care for one another (divided, gender-specific groups)

11. Which of these steadfast resources that enable us to persevere while we wait for Christ's return do you most need to experience in your current "little while" and why? 1) The unstealable joy of a risen and returning Savior, 2) the generous love of a listening Father, or 3) the courage-giving peace of a conquering Lord
12. Where are you tempted to look for joy apart from Jesus? How can we help you re-center your joy in Christ?

Pray for one another, thanking the Father for His generous love and asking that He would fill up our joy in the midst of the tribulations and prayer requests we bring to the group.



Announcements

Our 2025 Sportsman Banquet is just days away! Saturday, October 4. We need your help getting the word out! Invite your friends, family, coworkers, and neighbors to check it out and register at <https://nvf.life/sportsman> (\$20 with a \$10 discount for ages 10 and under).

Individual Options for Going Deeper

What's the basis on which believers can be of good cheer in dark and troubling times? This article from GotQuestions explores:

<https://www.gotquestions.org/be-of-good-cheer.html>