



Pastor PJ Berner • February 16, 2025

John 16:16-24 | Do Hard Things: What to Expect on Your Discipleship Journey

Discussion Questions

Community Groups meet throughout the week and play a crucial role in our response to the preaching of the word. These groups gather to discuss the following questions as we seek to apply the sermon in community with one another. Please visit compassntx.org to join a small group near you.

1. Reflect on **John 16:16-18**. Can you share how your expectations have been tested during your journey of discipleship? How might you offer comfort and guidance to a new believer, a mature Christian, and an elder who is currently facing unexpected challenges in their faith?

2. Consider **John 16:20-21** and **Matthew 19:16-22**. What is the fundamental sin we must confront if we are to choose the joy of our relationship with Christ over the pleasures of the world? (Hint, it was the sin that led the Rich Young Ruler to turn away from Jesus.) Have there been worldly joys you have had to let go of to follow Jesus? How has God filled those voids with even greater joy?

3. Ponder **John 16:23-24** and **Ephesians 3:20**. In these passages, how would you assess the current state of your prayer life and its impact? What thoughts or barriers might be preventing us from praying? How can we, as a church family, support one another in overcoming these obstacles?

4. Think about **Philippians 3:3-8**. What attitude, as demonstrated by Paul, must we adopt to truly live out the teachings in this sermon? What might occur if we attempt to do so without this crucial belief?

Recommended Reading

• *All That Jesus Commanded: The Christian Life according to the Gospels* - John Piper
• *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life* - Donald Whitney

• *Spiritual Depression: It's Causes and Cure* - D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones
• *Suffering is Never for Nothing* - Elizabeth Elliot

