

Monday and Tuesday:

Chapter 16

Words of comfort

- Just hours from the cross Jesus was patiently teaching his disciples about the meaning of the world's hatred so they wouldn't stumble and give up their faith in Him. Verse 4 states His hope that when persecution came the disciples would **remember** and respond in faithful obedience to God's will for them.
- What words of comfort does Christ provide to His disciples? Read vs16-33. What more can we ask for than Our Father to love us, the Son who will provide all we ask and the Holy Spirit to comfort us?
- Christ says: 'Your joy will not be taken from you' (vs 22). Is happiness and joy the same thing? Christ does not say that material things will bring you joy. Make a list of the things which give you joy. And remember to thank God for them!
- Christ goes on to tell us 'ask and you will receive that your joy will be full' (vs24). Look at the list you have made above. Spend time thinking about what more do you need to make you joy full. You may not need more, in which case give thanks to the Lord for keeping His promise to you. If you need more, ask of the Lord to fill you and satisfy you as only He can.
- Sing praises to Our Lord. Even as He is approaching the Crucifixion and suffering, He is taking care of us and making sure we are filled with His joy.

The Holy Spirit

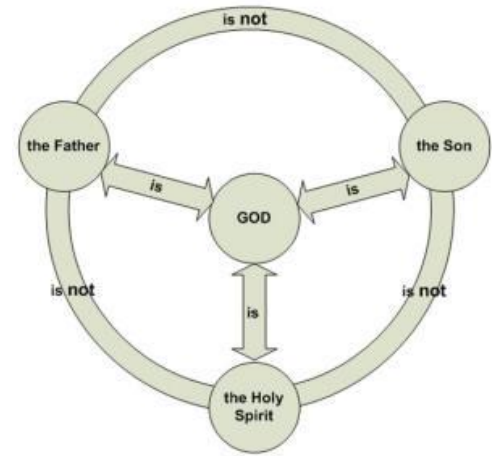
Christ also discusses the Holy Spirit

The Purpose of St John's gospel is to establish in the minds and hearts of his readers the divinity of Jesus the Christ: "Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name" (John 20:30-31).

What does Christ say about the Holy Spirit? Why is it 'an advantage if Christ goes away'? What will the Holy Spirit do?

Christ refers to the Trinity in vs14-15. Recall Christ's message in John 5:30. The will of the Son is that of the Father, the will of the Spirit is that of the Son. Are you abiding in Christ and He in you? Write a brief prayer asking the Lord to bring the results of abiding in Christ into your life

Why does Jesus say that He will not be alone after the disciples leave him alone? What lesson is there for us in times when we feel that our friend's have abandoned and forgotten us?



Wednesday and Thursday

Chapter 17

Christ prays to His Father.

Here we have the privilege of *eavesdropping* on Christ as He prays !

Christ stands before the Father giving account of His actions and stands before Him.

- What work does the Son say He has completed?
- What does Christ ask for?

Christ admits that the world does not like Him and that *'the world has hated'* his disciples. What a strong word!! Hate, loathe, resent. We strive for people's favour. We do not want to be alone. Yet Christ admits that we will be hated!! Are we strong enough to endure this? Are we dependant on others to define our identity? Think about how you portray yourself. How do your friends see you? How does Jesus see you?

Gospel of St John

Chapter 17: cont'd

In verse 3, how does Christ define eternal life? Does this definition fit with what you think of when you see the words, "eternal life"?

What does Jesus say that disciples know or understand in verses 7-8? Do you feel that you adequately understand those things? Write a brief prayer asking God to help you grow in your knowledge and understanding.

What things does Jesus ask the Father to do for His disciples in verses 9-19?

Explain how a believer is in the world (verse 11) but not of the world (verse 14). Does this apply to you? Is it possible to live *apart* from the world without being a monk or nun? Think of the things which make you a *part* of this world, and what sets you *apart* from others.

Christ mentions the 'son of perdition' who is 'lost'. Read Psalm 41:9. Who is Christ referring to? **Discuss in class** the concept of 'destiny', is our lives already mapped out for us or do we have control of where we go.

'I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word'
John 17:20



Depiction of St Peter cutting Malachus' ear. Christ is being arrested in the background

• Friday and Saturday: Chapter 18

The arrest and Trial of Christ

As we approach Passion week, these coming chapters can provide us with an insight into Christ's trials.

It is thought that a 'detachment of troops' was about 600 soldiers. Imagine this number of people with 'lanterns, torches and weapons' in Hyde park at night. Even so, Christ was able to command them to leave the others alone, heal Malchus, have a conversation with those around Him before *allowing* them to 'arrest' Him. Nothing could happen without His permission. Even in the noise, and chaos that is our life, Christ can be the ever commanding presence. Does Christ have control of your life? Even when things look like they are going bad (being arrested), there is good if we allow Christ to take control. Ask Christ to take control of your life, depend on Him to get you through the trials.

St John does not dwell on the denial of St Peter as much as the other gospels. Do you ever feel like you have denied Jesus? Think of those times. Why did you do it? How did you feel. St Peter was forgiven. Have you sought forgiveness?

Describe Jesus' responses to His accusers...