

Necessary Good

Scripture and Background Information for May 7-13.

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.

Most of us are familiar with things that we call “necessary evil.” Things like laundry, exercise, or in some cases things like war and taxes. In this series we’re going to look at 4 things that are necessary for Good to triumph over the evil in our world and in each of our lives. Why did Jesus live? Why did Jesus have to die? Why did Jesus rise from the dead? And why did Jesus leave? The Bible has more to say in answering each of those questions than most of us have thought very deeply about, even if we have an answer we would give. They all relate to the Necessary Good your Heavenly Father is restoring in the world, and wants to bring into your life as well.

Background for John 16:5-15:

In John 16, Jesus is spending some of his last moments with his disciples. The Last Supper began in John 13 and only a couple chapters later, in John 18, Judas will betray Jesus. Therefore, Jesus is spending his time preparing his disciples for life when He leaves. He has already predicted his death, washed his disciples’ feet to give an example of how they are supposed to live when He is gone, and gives them some final teachings and encouragements that will help them as they begin to build the church.

One of the more important parts of this preparation is Jesus’ promise to send the Holy Spirit. In our passage this week, the disciples are grieved about Jesus leaving. But He says it is for their good because He is not leaving them alone. In fact, Jesus promises to send the Holy Spirit as a helper who will convict the world (John 16:8) and guide them in the truth (John 16:13). Ultimately, the Spirit works to bring us into an intimate relationship with God by using both aspects of His role. So, why did Jesus leave? He left for our good, because it is better for us to have the Spirit as our helper.

Insights and questions to engage with the text:

1. According to this passage, what is the role of the Holy Spirit? Why would it be better for the Holy Spirit to come instead of Jesus staying?
2. Jesus said he is sending the Spirit to convict the world and to guide us in truth. In what ways have you seen the Spirit carrying out these roles in your life? How should we respond when the Spirit convicts us? How can we be more attentive to the truth He is leading us towards?
3. Do you think the Spirit has been leading you to do something recently? If so, what is it? What steps could you take to be obedient to the Spirit’s guidance in your life?