

# the final days

## The Lenten Journey DEVOTIONAL | WEEK 5 | APRIL 6

"The Holy Spirit is continuously at work in all of our lives, from our very beginnings, in every encounter, in our daily work, in our communities, indeed throughout the whole universe." – Scot McKnight

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### RECEIVE

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Jesus shares this passage to encourage and comfort His disciples. As you read **John 16**, listen for what would have brought them peace at that moment in time and listen as well for specific things in this passage that bring you comfort today.

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### REFLECT

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1. In verse 16:1, Jesus explains that what He is telling them is, in part, to keep them from going astray. Then He begins to explain the likelihood that they will face persecution because of their affiliation with Him. Why would people persecute them? What sort of anger would practicing the way of Jesus provoke?
2. In John 16:5, Jesus comments that none of them have asked Him where He is going when He leaves. However, in John 13:36, Peter asks, "Lord, where are You going?" Why do you think there is a discrepancy here? What is Jesus getting at in John 16:5 compared to what Peter meant in John 13:36?

3. Jesus calls the Holy Spirit the Counselor (16:7). In other places, the Holy Spirit is called the Advocate. Why does He use these terms?
4. What does Jesus say the Holy Spirit/Counselor comes to do with and for us?
5. Some Christian traditions downplay the role of the Holy Spirit, while others elevate the Holy Spirit to places of high importance. If you are familiar with the Holy Spirit, what have you been told? Why do you think there are so many different interpretations of the role of the Holy Spirit?
6. Verses John 16:17–19 detail some of the confusion the disciples were experiencing. What is their confusion about? How does that confusion persist for us today?
7. What does Jesus say about grief and joy in the verses (16:20–24) that follow? How are these important reminders during hard seasons for us today?
8. Jesus ends the lesson in this chapter with a verse about peace (16:33). Why does Jesus sum up these lessons with peace? What role does the Holy Spirit play in bringing about peace?
9. At the conclusion of this chapter, do you feel prompted to adjust or shift any of your practices or habits to make yourself more open to the Spirit of God? If yes, explain. If not, what prevents you from adjusting your habits to be present to the Spirit of God?

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## RESPOND

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In this passage, we discover many things that the Holy Spirit can bring to our lives. Specifically, in these verses, Jesus talks about the Spirit as one who is both a Counselor and source of peace. Wise counsel and peace are hard to come by in our fast paced, impulsive and chaotic world. This week, make a short list in your phone or in a journal, of moments where you feel peace or receive wisdom. This can be through a friendship, a moment of silence, a time of rest, Bible reading, laughter, a walk or run, etc. Keep track of times when you felt like you heard a word of wisdom or felt a sense of peace. The Spirit of God is alive and present in those moments. Pay attention to God's movement in and around you.

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## BLESSING

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Lord Your Scripture tells us that You are the great Counselor, and we are grateful. We confess that we live in ways that overlook or flat out refuse to acknowledge Your counsel and wisdom. Forgive us for those moments. Bring us the focus on You that we need so that we can find Your counsel and trust Your wisdom. Help us be people who point others to Your wisdom and counsel and help us to be people who can offer a wise, peaceful presence to others. Help us to be open to what Your Spirit can do in our lives and how You can lead us. Amen.

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## READ FOR NEXT WEEK

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### Reading Plan | The Final Days

Week 1 | March 9 | John 11

Week 2 | March 16 | John 13

Week 3 | March 23 | John 14

Week 4 | March 30 | John 15

Week 5 | April 6 | John 16

**Week 6 | April 13 | John 12**

Good Friday | April 18 | John 18 & 19

Easter | April 20 | TBD