



{INVITATIONS}

# HOPE

STRENGTH FOR THE JOURNEY

Psalm 66:7-18; John 14:15-21; Acts 17:22-31; 1 Peter 3:13-22

## GETTING STARTED

Is there a “farewell” speech that still stays with you (either the words of the speech or the experience of it)?

What is it about farewell speeches that are so moving?

## READ and REFLECT

Read John 14:15-21.

Summarize Jesus’ words to his disciples.

Remembering the context (John 13-14), try to summarize the experience (including the emotions) of the disciples in this moment. (Note: Try to put yourself in this story with the disciples.)

Jesus promises to give his followers another *advocate* (NIV) to help them and be with them forever (14:16). Scholars recognize that several other words also fit: comforter, counselor, or strengthener. In light of Jesus going away (trouble on the way) which word makes the most sense in this passage (in your opinion)? Why?

How does John 14:15 connect to the power of the Spirit in our lives? Can conditions and grace live together?

## **ENGAGE and DISCUSS**

How do you think of the Holy Spirit in your life: advocate, comforter, counselor, and/or strengthener? Other?

When do you most often look to the power of the Spirit in your life? (Does your answer reveal anything for you?)

It takes much strength to journey well through this life. Today, this seems all the more true in the fast paced, busy lives that inevitably have troubles/struggles connected to them (whether big or small).

- How would you rate your strength today on a scale of 1-10 (1 = no strength remaining to 10 = strong as an ox in this life)?
- What struggles have or are sapping your strength?
- Where do you need God's strength to bolster you in this current season?

What do you think are the keys to having the Spirit strengthen one's life? Are there any adjustments you need to make to live more fully in the Spirit of God?

How can you encourage and pray for the Spirit's strength in one another's lives?

## **NEXT STEPS**

- Reflect on Jesus's words in John 14 remembering the context of the struggle facing the disciples.
- In honesty before God, reflect on your own strength and how you need to rely more on the Spirit's strength in your life. (Receiving God's strength often starts by surrendering our own sense of strength for God's)
- God often uses his followers as agents of His strength, comfort and counsel. How can God work through you to strengthen another in your life? How will you take a step toward that person?