

Facing Decisions

Foundations

John 14:15-17, 25-27

**EXPLORING THE SERMON**

- \* What did you hear?
- \* What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- \* What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

**KEY VERSES**

*'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. 'I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.*

**REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION**

In our continued study of the Apostles' Creed, we have arrived at a very brief list of statements that reinforce our belief in God the father and Jesus Christ. The first of these is, "I believe in the Holy Ghost." For many of us, we call on God only when we need him and then move on with our daily lives. ***Do you have a tendency to reduce God down to only when you need him? Why is this not the complete picture of what a life of faith is supposed to look like?***

Jesus promises us a different way of living through the Holy Spirit. He tells us that the Holy Spirit will remind us of what He taught us (v. 26), and it will give us the presence of peace (v. 27). Jesus' teachings provide us with a framework for making decisions on almost any topic including forgiveness, love, and stewardship. The peace that He promises becomes especially significant when the decisions we face are not clear cut. ***How have the teachings of Jesus helped you make major decisions in your life? When have you felt the Holy Spirit's affirmation of a decision through a deep peace you have felt?***

Through every decision we make, we can step into God's bigger story by asking how we can be a part of what He is doing, rather than living lives that are too small and controlled. ***In the decisions you will face this week, make note of which lead to peace and calm, and which don't. Share your decision making process with your small group, and encourage one another to find answers through the presence of peace.***

*Heavenly Father, lead us through the power of your spirit this week in all that we face as individuals and families. We want to live a life worthy of your calling rather than a small, two-dimensional life. May we be reminded of things Jesus taught that we are called to embody, and trust the presence of peace in our lives. Amen.*