

GROWTH GROUP STUDY GUIDE

For the week of March 23, 2008

Getting started: What was the best part of Lent and/or Easter for you?

Open your Bible to John 16:16-28

- Read vv.16-19. Do the disciples seem a bit dense to you? Why was this so confusing to them?
- Jesus likened his coming death to birth. This was a familiar metaphor to the Jews. Look up Isaiah 26:16-19. What do those verses have in common with Jesus' words here, and how are they different?
- This is the fourth "ask anything" passage in John 14-16. We know this isn't carte blanche for anything we want. What shapes our understanding of this promise in these vss. 23-28?
- What are the kinds of things we should ask for? Do we? How should this passage shape your group's prayer together?
- How is it that "ask and you will receive" leads to "and your joy will be complete" (v.24)?
- Do your prayers often "complete" your joy? Why or why not?



Please pray for...

- Dave Morel's upcoming service with us on 4/6, when he will give us help with evangelism.
- White roses—we haven't seen people coming to Jesus through us at VCL

Free tapes or CDs of sermons are available at the Information Desk. The sermon in print or audio form and this Growth Group Study Guide can be found each week at www.eVCL.org

God long kept his greatest plan _____ (vv.16-19)

- Old Testament

- Jesus' teaching

Who could've imagined that death would _____
(vv.20-22)

- The disciples _____

- What's worse, the disciples _____ while _____

- But this grief was fundamentally _____

- "No one will _____"

Now that we understand God's _____, Christians have _____ that
no one can take away (vv.23-30)

- We understand God's _____ and are _____ in it
(15:15; 16:23a, 25)

- We know the _____ and live in the _____
_____ (cf. Heb. 4:16)
 - "My father will give you whatever you ask in my name"

 - "The Father himself loves you"