

w/b 17th January 2016 THEME: Jesus announces his departure (Terry Virgo)

PASSAGE: John 13 v 33, Chapter 14

INTRODUCTION

In his sermon on Sunday morning Terry Virgo outlined what it must have been like for the disciples to hear Jesus telling them he would be leaving them. This man for whom they had left everything, it seems, was just going to go off and leave them. But Jesus had to go and leave them so that the rest of God's plan could be unfolded: which meant he would return and be not only with them, but with us, for ever, through the Holy Spirit whom his father would send.

LAUNCH

- How does the Holy Spirit come to us? Make a list, based on:
Acts 2, 1-4; 8, 12-17; 10, 34-48; 19, 1-7
- What effect does the Holy Spirit have on our lives? Again, make a list, based on:
John 14, 26; 15, 26; 16, vv 8, 13 and 14

DISCOVERY

- Jesus leaving in this way must have troubled the disciples, who sensed they would be losing everything to which they had given their lives. Jesus seems keen to reassure them. He repeats himself in John 14, 1 and 27. Does it sometimes feel to us as if God has left us? Does it feel like he's abandoned the world to its fate? What comfort can we draw from these words?
- The way God has been with the disciples will change when Jesus leaves. They have had God with them; now they will have God *in* them.
How does Jesus reveal this to them through John 14?
What effect does this transformation have in our lives today?

APPLICATION

- Do we know what it is really like to have God living in us by His Spirit?
Do we sense this day by day? Indeed, *can* we sense this day by day?
Invite members of the group to say how they came to be filled with the Spirit and what difference it has made to their lives. Spend some time praying with each other for a fresh infilling, then worship God with an expectation of a manifestation of the gifts of the Spirit. You may also want to ask God for healings in your group.