

w/b 13th March 2016 (Desmond Egharevba)

GOD'S SECRET WEAPON

JOHN 14: 16-18, 25-26; 16: 15

LAUNCH

Do you have a 'secret weapon' (not literally!) that you use in certain circumstances?
Have you used it, and if so was it successful?

DISCOVERY & UNDERSTANDING

1. Jesus' promise to ask the Father to send the Holy Spirit was foreseen by the prophet Joel sometime between 600 and 900 years before Jesus (Joel 2, 28-29, quoted by Peter in Acts 2 17-18).

What does that say about the significance of what Jesus is saying here? Who is the promise aimed at?

2. If we link together John 16 v15 and the second part of John 14 v17 (and it's quite legitimate to do so!), what amazing conclusion must we come to? Desmond likened the Holy Spirit to the Channel Tunnel allowing connection between two nations. What impact does that analogy have on our lives?

3. Sometimes we think in terms of the Holy Spirit coming from 'outside' and filling us for a special occasion; perhaps to give us revelation for other people, or a deeper sense of worship on a Sunday morning. Indeed it's right to pray for him to fill us. But Desmond used an analogy of a baby being fed through the umbilical cord, living and growing inside the mother: except the Holy Spirit lives in us and provides us with everything we need, rather than the mother providing everything for the baby growing within her.

Given that God the Father has given Jesus everything, and the Holy Spirit has taken what belongs to Jesus to make it known to us (John 16 v15) and lives with us (as hopefully we discovered in the previous question!), spend some time considering together all that that means for us.

4. If a wolf comes into a flock, it can destroy some of the sheep. But, Desmond asked, 'can it destroy the shepherd?' Jesus is the Good Shepherd; we are his sheep. How do we make sure we don't get destroyed?

5. In what ways is the Holy Spirit our 'secret weapon'? How do we deploy our secret weapon?
We live in difficult times and many people are fearful. Do we need to be fearful? (Psalm 121 v2)

APPLICATION

Many of us have fears, many of us have worries and concerns. Despite what we've learned, these are often real and legitimate. In particular we have seen quite a lot of sickness in and around the church in recent times. Pray for situations in the group and in the wider church, using God's secret weapon. Build one another up in prayer, so that we can know and experience the unstoppable power of the Holy Spirit living in us — for ever (John 14:15).