

## The Comfort of Christ's Promises

### Materials I Need:

### Legend:



= Option 1, Appropriate for 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

= Option 2, Appropriate for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

### Memory Work:

"I have told you these things so that in Me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

### Aim Questions:

1. Why were the disciples so troubled?
2. Who is the "comforter?"
3. How would the Holy Spirit bring comfort to the disciples?
4. What's the difference between God's peace and the world's peace?
5. What are some things that Jesus prayed on behalf of the disciples?

### Hook:



**What is Comfort? (Activity/Discussion).** Make it a point to help each student feel comfortable as they enter the classroom. Escort them to their seat, hold their chair, give them a pillow, ask them if there is anything you can get for them, etc. Assure them that this morning's class time will go well, that they will find it interesting, and that we will hear some of God's truths that will give them comfort. Once seated at the table, ask them their ideas of what they find comforting. What do they think comfort means? How do they feel when they are comfortable? Talk about some of the things which make us feel uncomfortable, and describe some of those feelings. In this morning's Bible Adventure, we will hear about how Jesus comforted His disciples just before He left them to return to His Father.



**Resting on the Word of God for Comfort (Pillow/Pocket Craft).** This craft will be assembled during the TOOK portion of class time. However, because of its complexity, it may take longer and should be started during the HOOK time. This time could be used to cut the felt pieces and begin sewing the sides together with the yarn. The children's department may not be able to supply enough large needles for all of your students, and you might consider bringing in some on your own.




**Back to the Future (Discussion).** What do the students think will happen to them in the future? What will they be when they grow up? Will they get married and have a family? Will they move away? What trials or joys lie ahead for them? We can rest in faith in Jesus, knowing that His will is best for our lives, and no matter what happens, we can rest on the promises He gives to us in His Word. We will hear this morning how He assured His disciples that they did not need to fear what would happen to them.




**Specific Items of Comfort (Object Lesson).** Bring in different items that people must have for

specific needs, i.e., a life jacket, a fire extinguisher, a home smoke detector, tire chains, etc... Talk about when people would use each item and how important each is when needed.

**Debrief:** In today's Bible lesson, we're going to see what God has given to all of His children when we face hard times in our lives. Just as these different items bring comfort and a solution to the problem, so too did Jesus give the disciples His solution to the problems they would later face.

 **World Religions (Discussion).** There are many world religions today and all of them except for Christianity are false. What are some of these false world religions? What do they believe? Do you think that any of these false religions can give a person any hope? Why is Christianity the only true "faith", and how does God give us hope?

**Debrief:** In today's Bible lesson, we're going to see why our Christian faith gives hope. As Jesus gave the disciples hope for their future troubles when He would no longer be with them.


 **Foot Stamps (Object Lesson).** We need to remember to walk with Jesus. He is our comforter when we walk with Him we walk in the light. Stamp the back of the hand with feet stamps as a reminder. Stamp and stamp pad will be provided for each classroom.


---





### Book:

#### Presentation Ideas –

 **Memory Verse (Activity/Memorization).** Jesus promised that He would send the "comforter" who would help them to have the courage to preach the Gospel. Stand in the form of a star with the teacher in the center and lines of students radiating out. The teacher begins the verse with a squeeze of a hand or a hug as they say the verse. The students then turn to the student next in their line and squeeze or hug them as they say the verse. This continues all the way down the line to the end.

 **Tell the Story on the Way to the "Garden" (Activity).** Tell the 1<sup>st</sup> part of the story in the classroom, just as Jesus spoke to the disciples in the Upper Room. Then take a walk to the foyer and share the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of the story just as Jesus shared His message with the disciples on their way to the Garden of Gethsemane.

 **Tree Branches (Object Lesson).** Bring in a branch of a tree. (Great time to prune some snarley looking branches from the back yard, or go to a craft store and get some grape vines.) If a branch is not available use brown butcher paper and cut out some vines to attach to the wall. Prior to class, prepare leaves out of green colored paper and attach them to portions of the vine. Also attach fruit to the vine, plastic grapes would be good or you may want to cut out grapes from colored paper. You may want to write on one side of the leaves the questions that you would like the children to answer at the end of the bible adventure, have them pull off and say verse. On a portion of the vine do not have any fruit or leaves. We are the branches and He is the Vine. To illustrate this during the bible adventure use pruning shears or scissors to cut off dead branches as an illustration of how God will prune the vines that do not produce any fruit. God prunes us to make us stronger and healthier. (You may also want to build a fire in the classroom to illustrate how God will cast the unwanted branches in the fire.) :)

 **Snack Time (Snack).** Great day to have pretzels to illustrate the branches, grapes to illustrate the fruit, and Red-Hots or Jalapenos to illustrate the fire.

#### Bible Adventure –

All of us have times in our lives when we feel lonely, anxious, even frightened. How did you feel when your dad or mom, brother or sister, or friend, sat down with you and let you talk through your feelings? You felt a lot better, didn't you? They probably tried to help you with your problem, or at least let you know they cared. To comfort someone, or to receive comfort, is a wonderful thing.

As great as the comfort is that we receive from those we love, there is a greater comfort still--the comfort

that comes only from Jesus Christ. We've been reading the gospel of the apostle John, who called himself the disciple whom Jesus loved. Who better to tell us about Christ's love and comfort than one who saw and experienced it first-hand? In chapters 14-17 of the book of John, we read about Jesus' final, private days with His disciples. In fact, these chapters all take place on one night during Passover week. Jesus knew the time was coming quickly when He would be betrayed, crucified, and resurrected. He would be separated from His friends. He spent these last days getting them ready for the mission He was going to give to them. In these chapters, we see the great comfort Jesus had for His disciples in the things He said to them, and the things He did for them.

As chapter 14 begins, Judas had already left Jesus and the remaining disciples, and had gone to do his evil work of betraying Jesus. Jesus told His friends that He would soon be leaving them. This news made them very sad and frightened, so Jesus began to comfort them in ways only He can do. He told them not to be troubled, but to believe in Him. He had a good reason for leaving them--He was going to heaven to get their new home ready for them! When it was time, He would return for all those who love Him, and take them back to heaven to live with Him. This was good news!! Thomas, one of the disciples, said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going, and how can we know the way?" Jesus' answer is amazing! "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (14:6). This is the sixth "I AM" statement in the book of John, and proves once again that Jesus is God. Do you want to know how to get to heaven? Look to Jesus! *He* is the path to get there. *He* contains all of God's truth, not this religion or that philosophy. *He* is the only way to life--both abundant life and eternal life.

Jesus had more comfort to offer to His friends. He offered the disciples hope in the truth of His return. He promised to them that He would go to prepare a place for them in heaven, and then return to bring them there. He also reminded them that because they had known Him, they had also known God the Father. Philip asked for more reassurance and said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us" (14:8). Jesus' answer must have silenced and amazed Philip and the other disciples. "Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father" (14:9). Talk about comfort! These men had walked and talked with the God of the universe. Jesus Christ was with them and promised to be continually with them. The signs and miracles He performed were all evidence to His mighty power and love. Knowing that they had God on their side should have brought them comfort.

The disciples were probably still worried about not having Jesus at their side every day, so He gave them another reason to hope and not be afraid. God would send another Counselor or Helper to them--His own Holy Spirit--to live in them forever. In some versions of the Bible, the Holy Spirit is called "The Comforter." The Spirit would not only bring them comfort, but help and encouragement, too. Jesus was not leaving His friends alone and friendless. The Helper--the Holy Spirit--would give them the power to be brave and fearless witnesses for Christ. In the book of Acts, we can read about Pentecost, where we see Jesus' promise become reality, as the Holy Spirit came and made his home in the apostles, then in all believers.

Jesus told the disciples that the Holy Spirit would also help them to remember everything He had taught them. He would help them understand the teachings that were unclear to them. He called the Holy Spirit "the Spirit of truth." Years later, the Spirit of truth would help several of the disciples remember what to write down as they recorded the words of Scripture in obedience to God's urging.

When Jesus told His disciples not to be troubled, but to believe in Him, He knew that if they did this, they would experience another kind of comfort only He could supply--His peace. This is a special kind of peace that the world knows nothing about, because it is based on who Jesus is. In the world, you can only have peace if things are going well. When things go wrong your peace is gone. If the disciples, and we today, can keep our focus on Jesus' character and work, we will have confidence that everything will turn out just as God wants it. This confidence will give us inner peace even in the middle of troubles. It can remove our fear of what might happen. The disciples needed this special, supernatural peace, because there would be trouble ahead for them. They would face the same hatred from the Jewish leaders that Jesus faced. Most of them would be persecuted, mistreated, and even killed because they

followed Christ. Those who did these things to the disciples would be showing their hatred of Jesus and of God. Jesus did not want His friends to be taken by surprise when these things began to happen to them.

Jesus and His disciples had now left the upper room where they were eating together, and went toward the Garden of Gethsemane. As they went Jesus continued to comfort them. Using the example of a grapevine, He taught the disciples about His relationship with them. He said to them, "I am the vine, you are the branches." This was the seventh "I AM" statement of Christ. As the vine, Jesus, gives life to the branches, the disciples, and they would produce fruit. If the disciples remained close to Jesus, they would bear much fruit, and so bring glory to God. If they failed to produce fruit, God, the vinedresser, would cut those useless branches off and throw them in the fire. Jesus told the disciples to remain close to Him by obeying His commands. As they remained close to Christ, they would receive everything they needed to produce fruit, and they would be filled with joy.

Somewhere on the way to the garden, Jesus prayed both for Himself and for His disciples. What better way to show your love for someone, than to pray for God to work in his or her life? Because He knew what was about to happen to Him, Jesus first prayed for Himself. He knew He would soon hang on a cross and take upon Himself the sins of the entire world. He would take on Himself the anger of a holy God because of that sin, and the ugliness of that sin would cause Him to be separated for a time from His Father. He asked that God would be glorified along with Him at the cross.

Next, Jesus prayed for the disciples and asked God for three things. The first was to "protect them by the power of Your name so that they may be one as we are one." Jesus wanted the disciples to be one spiritually. He knew they would need to be undivided to do the work of spreading the gospel to the whole world.

The second thing Jesus asked was that God would protect the disciples from the evil one. Jesus knew that Satan would fight against the disciples as they went to tell others about Him. Satan would fight to keep them from getting the Church started. The disciples were being left in a world that hated them. Jesus wanted them to be protected from Satan's attacks.

The third thing Jesus prayed for the disciples was for them to be sanctified, or set apart, to do His work. This would be done by the Word of God working in them, making them pure by showing them when they sinned, giving them the desire to confess their sin and turn from it. As they lived holy lives they would be set apart to do what God wanted them to do. Jesus ended His prayer by praying for the future church (us), that we would be one also and committed to bringing God glory.

The disciples should not have worried about Christ leaving them. Jesus promised them hope for the present as well as the future. With the coming of the Holy Spirit, these eleven men, along with the other believers, would receive supernatural power and peace from God Himself. When we're worried about the future, we should focus on Jesus. The comfort He gave His disciples is for us, too. He has given us the promise of a home with Him for all eternity, and His Spirit to help us understand the Bible and live the Christian life. Christ's comfort is like nobody else's, because He is the all-knowing, all-powerful God of the universe, who controls all things. If He tells you it will all come out right in the end, you can count on it. You can anchor yourself on His promises and be secure.



### Look:





**Road Sign (Craft).** The only way to heaven is through the Son. Make the road sign using the instructions and graphics on **JHN09.GF1**. This might be a great conversation piece for the neighbors to see on your kitchen table.



**The Comforter (Craft).** This will be a big undertaking for any teacher, but would make a


magnificent wall hanging or gift for a missionary. Provide a quilt square for each child. These could be felt squares, fabric squares or could even be a piece of card stock if you decided to make a wall hanging for your classroom. Have each student find a verse which would give comfort, write it on the square, and decorate the square with markers, fabric paint or fabric crayons. Sew these squares together using yarn, thread, or tape if using paper. If you want to put an edge detail around the outside with something like "We can find comfort in Christ," or John 14:1, or John 16:33, that would put a nice finishing touch on your comforter. Please note that the children's ministry department will more than likely not have the non-paper supplies for this craft. Please inquire in advance, and be prepared to provide these supplies yourself.


 **The Role of the Holy Spirit (Worksheet).** Use this worksheet, **JHN09.GF2**, to help the children see how the Holy Spirit ministers in the lives of God's people. The answer is: The "Comforter".

 **The Comfort of Christ Comforter (Craft).** God has given us a glimpse of His sovereign plan in the book of John. We find the Prayer of Christ, the Peace of God, and the promise of the Paraclete (the Holy Spirit). We can find comfort in truth that Christ has "overcome the world" John 16:33.

Items needed prior to class: copies of **JHN09.GF3** that have been cut w/holes punched, (each child to get one section of each color), labels, and two pieces of yarn 24-30" long with scotch tape wrapped around each end, (to be used for sewing comforter together). Using four (4) different colors of paper, copy **JHN09.GF3** as a pattern for comforter squares. This will be enough sections for four children. The craft can be done individually or as a large comforter for the entire class. Sew two triangles together with yarn, then continue along the spine by sewing the two remaining triangles together with the same piece of yarn. Make sure that when the triangles are sewn together they will open into a larger triangle. Then hold the two larger triangles together and sew along the remaining spine. Attach labels to each triangle.


In the event that a large class size comforter is made, there will need to be additional holes punched in each of the squares that the children make. For the holes to line up for sewing, it is recommended that this not be done until after each child makes their own square and then lay them on top of each other and punch along edge.

 **The Comfort of Christ (Worksheet/Craft).** Using worksheet **JHN09.GF4**, explain to them what each picture item represents. The sail boat - them, the stormy water-trials in life, the open book-God's Word. Have the students put their name on the boat then color & glue their sailboat onto the stormy water. Give them the John 16:33 sticker, **JHN09.GF4 Pg. 2**, to put in the book. Have them glue one end of a 6" piece of yarn to their boat and the other to the anchor. Are they anchored to the word of God? Do they know the comfort of the Holy Spirit or are they being tossed about unanchored?

 **Passage Review Questions (Worksheet).** This booklet contains many questions from the scripture passage covered in today's lesson. Students may work on them in class and complete them during the week at home, **JHN09.GF5**



**Took:**

 **Resting on the Promises of God (Pillow/Pocket Craft).** Completion from HOOK time. **JHN09.GF6** gives you instructions and the Bible verses to cut out. Once the pillow/pocket has been sewn as shown, it is ready to be decorated on the outside. When dry it can then be stuffed with the Bible verses. Give each student a sheet of the verses, **Pg. 2-3** and have them cut them apart. Taking turns, ask the students to read their verse out loud, and then stuff it into their pillow. Once the verses have filled the pillow/pocket, you can attach a piece of yarn from one side to the other to hang this pocket on a doorknob or thumbtack.

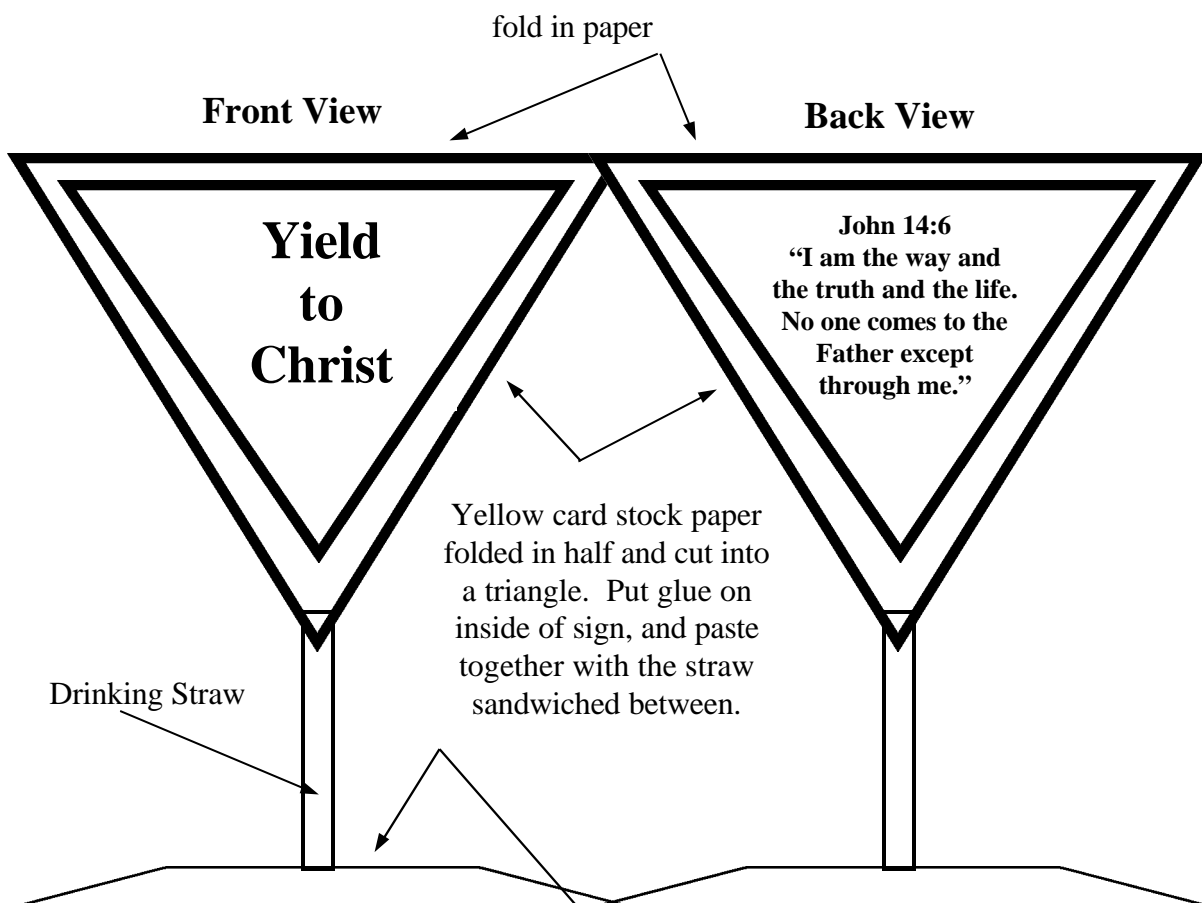


**I AM doors (Craft).** This craft can be used for review during Hook time for subsequent lessons. Discuss with the children each of the “I AM” statements that Christ made.

Items needed: **JHN09.GF7 Pg. 1-3**, copied onto card stock. Scissors, crayons or colored markers, stapler.

Each child should design their own doors on the **JHN09.GF7 Pg.1** and color within the lines. They should also color the hand and vines of **JHN09.GF7 Pg.2**. Then cut along the lines on both pages. To complete the craft place **JHN09.GF7 Pg.3** on the bottom, **JHN09.GF7 Pg.2** in the middle, and **JHN09.GF7 Pg.1** on the top and staple together. Open the door to reveal a picture that will help them remember the verse under the second opening.

# Road Sign Craft



Yellow card stock paper folded in half and cut into a triangle. Put glue on inside of sign, and paste together with the straw sandwiched between.

Inverted styrofoam plate. Write on the top of the plate "There is only one way to heaven."

You will need to use tape or a small glob of play dough or salt dough to hold the straw in the hole underneath the plate.

# The Role of The Holy Spirit

Look up each verse in Column A and match the truth about the Holy Spirit in Column B with the correct verse. When you're done, write the letter of the first answer in the first box and so on

## Column A

## Column B

1. John 14:16

F. Convicts of Sin

2. John 14:17

O. The Spirit of Truth

3. John 14:26

T. Frees from Sin

4. John 16:8

E. Controls Believers

5. 1 Corinthians 2:11

C. The Counselor

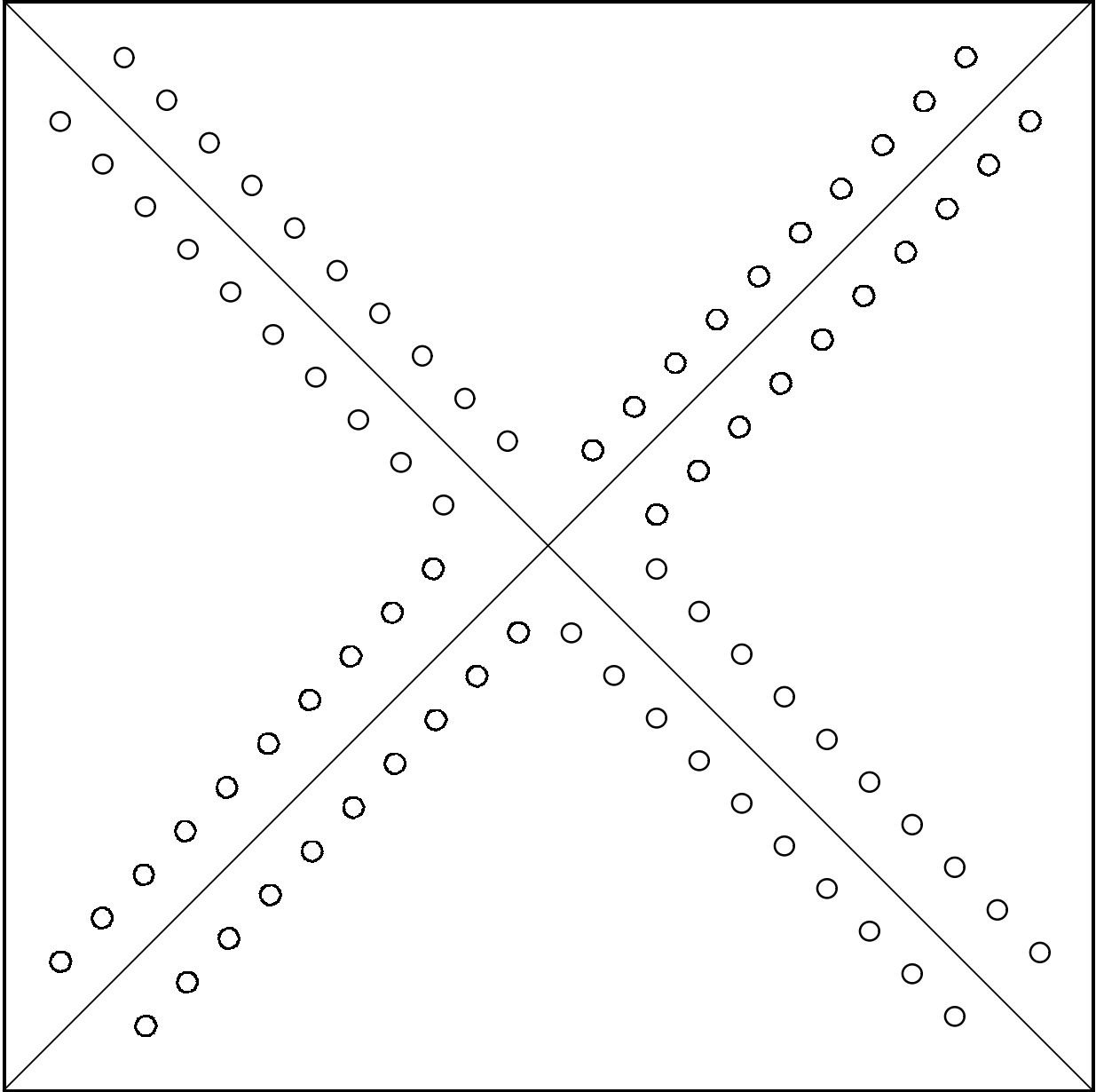
6. Romans 8:1

M. Teaches & Reminds

7. Ephesians 5:18

R. Knows God's Mind

<i>The</i>	1	2	3	4	2	5	6	7	5
------------	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---



Prayer of Christ

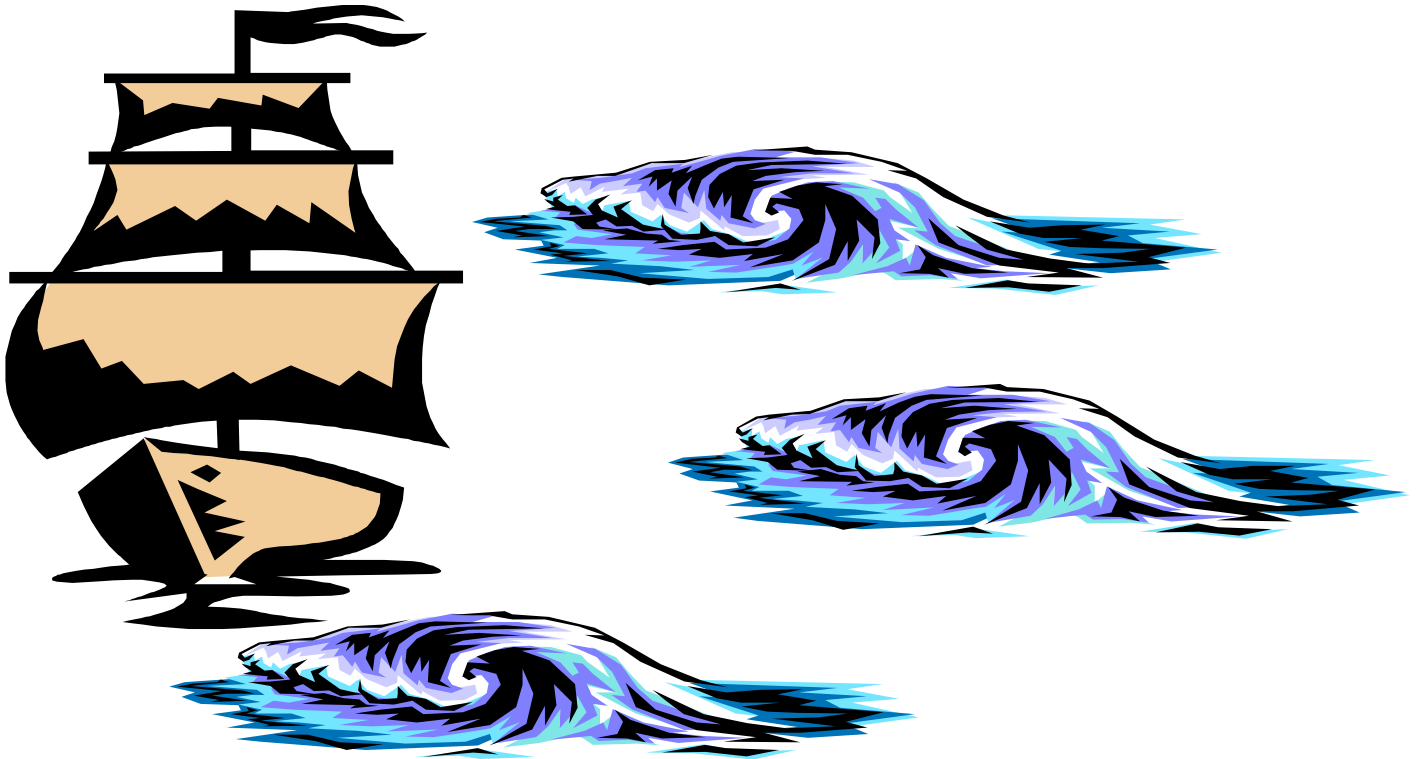
Paraclete (Spirit)

Peace of God

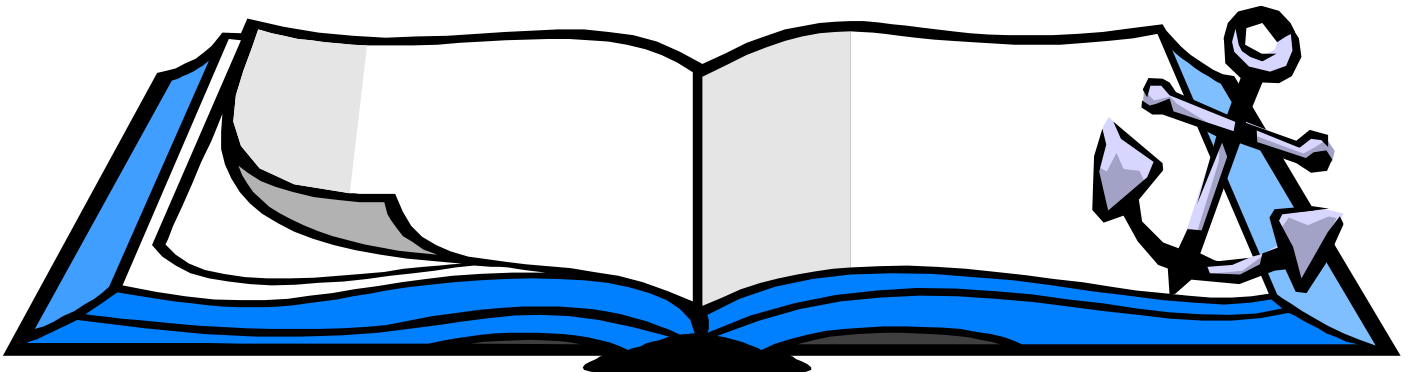
John 16:33

# The Comfort of Christ

When our hearts are troubled and worried about the future, we can and should turn our focus onto Christ. He has given believers the promise of a future home with Him for all of eternity. He has also given us His Holy Spirit as a means of peace and illumination for His Word. As the Word is revealed through the Spirit, our hearts will be anchored to the promises of God.



Are you anchored to the promises of God?





they were more mature in their love for Jesus, what would they have been? 14:28

23. Why was Jesus telling them all these things now? 14:29

24. Who is the prince of this world (begins with an S.) 14:31

25. Does he have a hold on Jesus? 14:30b

26. Is Jesus doing exactly what his Father had commanded for him to do? 14:31b

## **Passage Review Questions**

### **John Chapter 14-17**

1. How did Jesus comfort his disciples? 14:1-4

2. What was Jesus' answer to his disciples? 14:6

3. Who is the way and the truth and the life? 14:6

4. How does one go to the Father? 14:6b

5. What rebuke did Jesus give to his disciples for not understanding that the Father and he were the same? 14:7

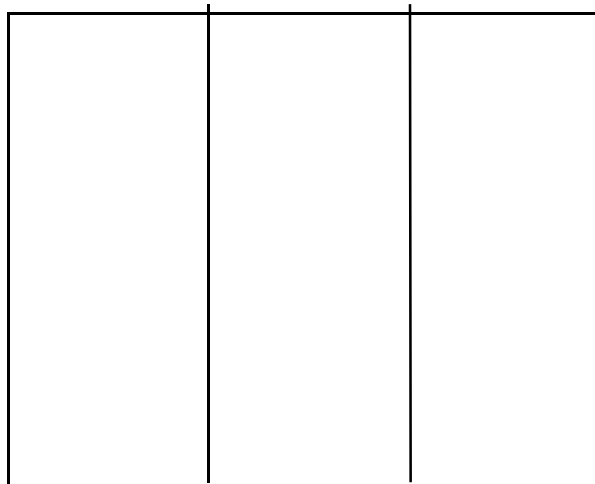
6. What question did Philip ask Jesus? 14:8

7. What is the most staggering statement that Jesus had ever made? 14:9b

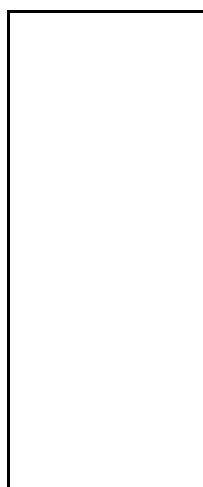
8. What would any one who had faith in Jesus be doing? 14:12
  
9. Would the disciples/apostles outreach be greater than that of Jesus? Why? 14:12b
  
10. The disciples would be able to do anything they ask in Jesus' name and it would be done, why? 14:13b
  
11. If we love Jesus, what will we do? 14:15
  
12. Who would be sent to the disciples a little while after Jesus left them? 14:16-17a
  
13. Why would the world not accept this one? 14:17b
  
14. Before long the world not see Jesus anymore, but the disciples would, why? 14:19

15. On the day that the Holy Spirit would arrive on the disciples, would they then realize and understand all the Jesus had been saying to them (especially in this chapter)? 14:20
  
16. He who loves Jesus, will be loved by whom too? 14:21
  
17. Judas (not Iscariot) asked what of Jesus? 14:22
  
18. How did Jesus answer Judas? 14:23-24
  
19. The words they were hearing from Christ belonged to whom? 14:24b
  
20. What would the Holy Spirit do to help the disciples? 14:26b
21. What were Jesus' words of good-bye? 14:27
  
22. The disciples were sad that Jesus was leaving them. If

# Resting On The Word of God Pillow/Pocket Craft



Divide a felt square into three equal sections. Cut these three strips apart and distribute among three students.

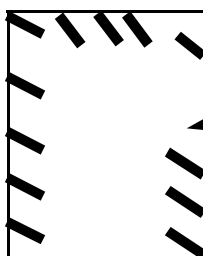


Fold your strip in half



Fold

Write or paint on the front of the pillow, "We can find comfort in Christ and His Word."



Sew around the edges of the pillow pocket with yarn, leaving a small opening to stuff it. This gap can be on the top or the sides of the pillow.

Stuff Bible verses which talk about the comfort we can find in Christ and His Word . You will not be able to stuff all the verses into your pillow. You will need to select your favorites. Share with each other by reading your favorites out loud before you stuff them in your pillow. As you look at this soft Pillow - like pocket, remember His goodness towards us.

# Resting on The Word of God Pillow/Pocket Craft

**Cut these verses out in strips and use them to stuff inside your pillow pocket to make it nice and puffy.**

**Share them with the others in your group by reading your verse out loud before you tuck it inside.**

Isaiah 26:3 You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you.

Ephesians 2:13-15 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ. For He himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in His flesh the law with its commandments and regulations.

Isaiah 26:12 Lord, you establish peace for us; all that we have accomplished you have done for us.

Philippians 4:9 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Romans 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Psalms 4:8 I will lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.

Psalms 29:11 The Lord gives strength to His people; the Lord blesses His people with peace.

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

John 14:18 I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

Isaiah 43:2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the Lord, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

Psalms 61:3 For you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the foe.

Deuteronomy 33:27 The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms. He will drive out your enemy before you, saying, Destroy him!

Psalms 23:6 Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Romans 8:32 He who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also, along with Him graciously give us all things?

# Resting on The Word of God Pillow/Pocket Craft

**Cut these verses out in strips and use them to stuff inside your pillow pocket to make it nice and puffy. Share them with the others in your group by reading your verse out loud before you tuck it inside**

2 Corinthians 9:8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you could need, you will abound in every good work.

Matthew 24:35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

1 Kings 8:56a Praise be to the Lord, who has given rest to His people Israel just as he promised.

Psalm 46:1 God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

Proverbs 18:10 The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.

Hebrews 10:35-36 So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what He has promised.

Psalm 32:24 Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord.

1 Peter 5:7 Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you.

Colossians 3:15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful

Psalm 91:1-2 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."

Psalm 91:4 He will cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you will find refuge; His faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.

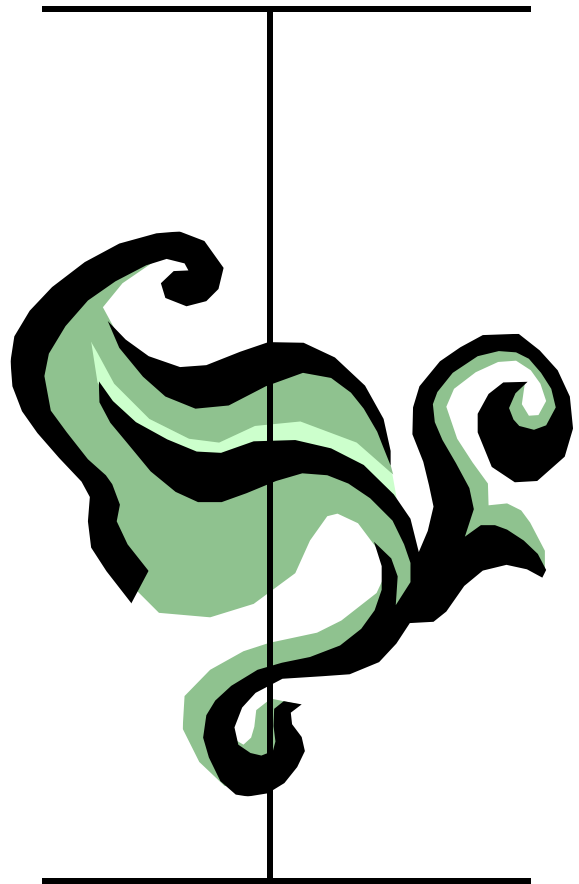
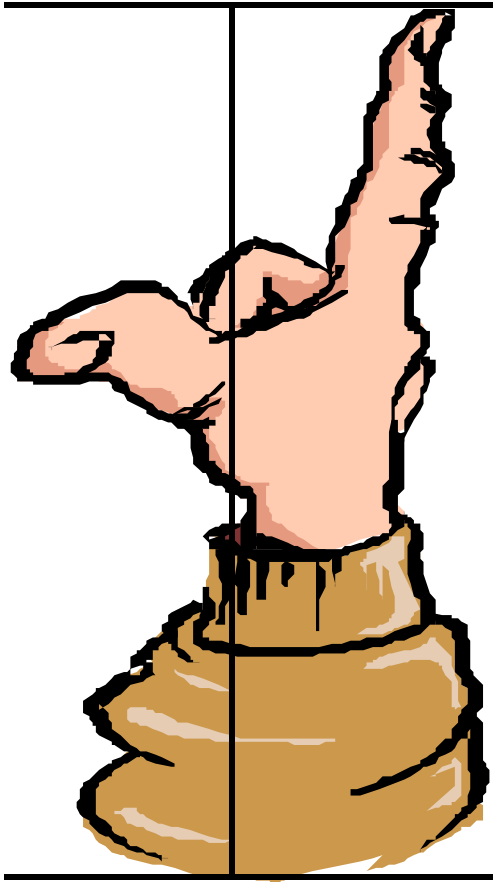
Psalm 56:11 In God I trust; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?

Psalm 37:37 Consider the blameless, observe the upright, there is a future for the man of peace.

Psalm 37:11 But the meek will inherit the land and enjoy great peace.

**John 14:6**

**John 15:1,5**



**"I AM  
the Way, the Truth,  
and the Life"**

**John 14:6**

**"I AM  
the true Vine"**

**John 15:1,5**