

# LOVE JOHN 16.5 - 33

## empowered

### GROWTH GROUPS NOTES FOR W/C 24 OCTOBER 2021

**When we LOVE we are connecting with God's Divine Love. God longs for us to participate in this Divine Love and far from leaving the disciples, Jesus' leaving the earth ushers in a new age of God's Presence in their lives; the Holy Spirit.**

**Start your time together thinking about journeys** you have made alone and those you've made with company. Talk about the pros and cons of each. Think also about the times when you have been especially glad to have been with someone on a journey.

The disciples have had Jesus with them for three years, and they are becoming increasingly aware of the nearness of Jesus' leaving. They are sorrowful and grieving.

They are anticipating being alone and journeying through life without him.

**Read John 16.5-33** Take a moment after you have read the passage to skim over it again and notice the things that grab your attention.

Jesus promises the Holy Spirit, God's very Presence to be their advocate/counsellor/helper. According to just this passage, **what does Jesus say is the Holy Spirit's role in the world? Are there any roles here that particularly challenge or inspire you?**

Jesus sees a crucial role of the Advocate in uniting us to God's love. We'll see more of this in the next chapter.

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**Divine Love is the energy that brought the universe into being and binds it together.  
Human love is whatever energy we use to help Divine Love achieve its purpose.**

*Richard Rohr*

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Consider the Richard Rohr quote. **In what ways do you see the way you love joining in with or participating in God's love? How does this perspective challenge the way we do love?**

**Do those who do not share our Christian faith display this Divine Love** when they love others? See 1 John 4.7-8 - does this help or make things more complicated?

Take 5 minutes of silence. In the quietness, think about (or imagine) people to whom you show love: family members, friends, neighbours, work colleagues, people who you serve in some way. In the silence, can you imagine your love as God's Love flowing through you?

For each scenario you think of, enjoy imagining your love connecting to Divine Love as a work of the Holy Spirit.