

Growth Group Questions – 21/11/2021 – Jack Kapinga

1) Discuss the difference between having a dear friend or loved one who lives far away (especially if you could only communicate in writing) and having one who is physically present in your life everyday.

Read John 14:1-21.

2) What do you think it would have been like for those first disciples, living with Jesus for so long? How well would they have known his heart?

3) In verses 1-6 Jesus reveals that he is going away, something he speaks of many times in earlier and later chapters. What did he mean by this and how do you think the disciples would have felt about it?

4) What do verses 18 and 21 reveal about Jesus' heart for his disciples, and for us? In verse 16 he calls himself our "advocate" (other translations have counsellor, comforter, helper or encourager), what does this tell us about his love?

5) What does verse 16 tell us about the role of the Holy Spirit? What does John 16:7 say to anyone who thinks that the Holy Spirit is a poor substitute for Jesus?

6) In his book *Gentle and Lowly*, Dane Ortlund lists some of the more commonly known roles of the Holy Spirit and then he writes, "In this chapter I'd like to add just one more to this list: *the Spirit causes us to actually feel Christ's heart for us.*" Later he adds, "The Spirit takes what we read in the Bible and believe on paper about Jesus' heart and moves it from theory to reality, from doctrine to experience." How have you experienced this work of the Spirit in your life?

7) Is your relationship with Jesus more like the relationship you might have with a loved one living in Europe, where you can only read about his affection and care from a distance. Or is it more like the relationship you might have with a loved one who is right here, present in your life, where you can experience his heart in real ways?

8) If we feel far away from Jesus, if our faith is more about theory and doctrine than about reality and experience, then what can we do to truly know Jesus and his love and his heart more deeply?