

Royal Redeemer Going Deeper Guide

Based on the sermon for February 25, 2024
The Inner Ring: Comfort



For personal reflection or for use as a devotion with CGS
Community or family

- **Begin by reflecting on/sharing a high and/or a low from your week**

- **CONNECT** *with each other*

- Comfort often ties in with familiarity. Can you share a comforting memory or a specific item that always brings a sense of ease and relaxation for you?

- **GROW** *in Christ*

I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19 Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. 20 On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. 21 Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”

22 Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, “But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?”

23 Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. 24 Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

25 “All this I have spoken while still with you. 26 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

John 14:18-26

- Share any words or phrases that speak into your life today.
- What is the immediate context of John 14:18-26 within the Gospel of John?
- Who are the key figures mentioned in this passage, and what is the setting?
- In John 14:18, Jesus promises not to leave His disciples as orphans but assures them that He will come to them. How is this promise fulfilled, particularly concerning the Holy Spirit?
- According to this passage, what is the role of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers? How does the Spirit act as a Comforter or Advocate?
- Jesus links love for Him with obedience to His commands (John 14:21). How do love and obedience relate to each other, and what does this suggest about the Christian life?
- In verses 25-26, Jesus speaks about the Holy Spirit teaching and bringing to remembrance all that He has said. How does the Holy Spirit contribute to the understanding of God's truth?

- o Jesus speaks of leaving His peace with the disciples (John 14:27). What is the nature of this peace, and how does it differ from the peace offered by the world?
- o Explore the Trinitarian aspects mentioned in this passage—the Father sending the Son, the Son sending the Spirit. How does this reflect the nature of the Godhead?
- o Jesus mentions prayer in the context of asking in His name (John 14:13-14). How does this concept connect with the overall theme of the passage and the relationship between believers and God?
- o Reflect on Jesus' statement that He does not speak on His own authority but speaks the Father's commandments (John 14:24). What does this imply about the authority and reliability of Christ's words?
- o How can the promises and teachings in John 14:18-26 bring comfort and guidance to modern-day believers?
- o In what practical ways can Christians experience the presence and guidance of the Holy Spirit in their lives, based on the principles in this passage?

- **SERVE** *others*

During the month of February, Royal Redeemer is turning a spotlight on the work done by Kairos Prison Ministry International, Inc. Kairos is a Christian faith based ministry which addresses the spiritual needs of incarcerated men, women, youth and their families. By sharing the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ, Kairos hopes to change hearts, transform lives and impact the world. As a ministry, Kairos embraces a diverse group of volunteers working together to fulfill Christ's call to action in Matthew 25:36. Royal Redeemer members support Kairos at Lebanon Correctional Institute, in Lebanon, Ohio. For more information on Kairos, contact Mark or Julia Pohl markopohlo@hotmail.com and visit kairosprisonministry.org

- **End with Prayer, the Lord's Prayer, or a short Blessing**

Heavenly Father, As we turn to your words, we find comfort in the promise of your abiding presence through the Holy Spirit. Thank you for the assurance that we are not left as orphans, but are embraced by your love.

Grant us, O Lord, the understanding and peace that comes from the guidance of the Holy Spirit. In moments of uncertainty, may we be reminded of your truth and find solace in the Advocate you have sent.

Help us to keep your commandments, knowing that our obedience is an expression of our love for you. May our lives be a testimony to the transformative power of your Spirit, working within us to conform us to the image of Christ.

Lord, open our hearts and minds to receive the teachings of your Spirit. Let the wisdom and comfort that the Holy Spirit imparts be a guiding force in our lives, leading us in the paths of righteousness.

We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus, who promised us the gift of the Holy Spirit. Amen.