

**THRIVE**  
**Small Group Questions • Week of 11/12/17**  
**Doing the Impossible**  
**John 14:12-20**

**Recite Your Memory Verse:** *John 16:33*

**The Big Idea:** Jesus announces that he is leaving his disciples and then proceeds to give them (and us) a list of really difficult things to *endure* and *do* when he is gone. This list seems impossible to do. Jesus then tells them that he gives Christians a very special gift that enables them to do these impossible tasks. In our time together, we will look at three things Jesus says about this gift that are vital for doing the impossible.

### **Getting Started**

Can you think of any movies, stories, or examples in the Bible of people who are given special powers or tools to fulfill what would otherwise be an impossible quest?

### **Digging Deeper**

- 1) The Christian life is impossible for us to live on our own. Why?
- 2) The gift that Jesus gives Christians is the Holy Spirit. Read the following passages and share any initial thoughts that you have about the Holy Spirit: 14:12-17; 26-27; 15:26-27; 16:7-15.
- 3) The gift that Jesus gives us is a person and not a force. a) Where do you see that in our text? b) Why do you think some people believe the Holy Spirit is an impersonal force? c) What are some other Scriptures that confirm his personhood? d) Pastor Jake said that dealing with overwhelming pain and ongoing temptation requires a person. Discuss his point and any other area where the Holy Spirit's personality is important for us living the Christian life.
- 4) The gift that Jesus gives is called "another helper." a) Jesus says in so many words, *"I'm leaving. But don't worry, I'm sending someone else just like me to take my place."* What are those relationships in your life where that news would either be comforting or disturbing? b) Read verses 18-20. The disciples learn that the Holy Spirit isn't replacing Jesus as much as bringing Jesus to them in a greater way. How is our experience of Jesus greater than the disciples at this time because of the Holy Spirit? c) "Another helper" implies that the Holy Spirit is a peer with Jesus and the Father. Why is the Holy Spirit's divinity important for us living the impossible Christian life?
- 5) The gift that Jesus gives is an "advocate." The term "helper" in verse 16 comes from a Greek word (*parakaleo*) which means something like *"one who argues someone else's case in court of law."* The same word is used of Jesus making a case for Christians to his Father (cf. 1 John 2:1). a) According to the four passages about the Holy Spirit you read in question #2, what case is He making? b) Other passages in the Bible tell us that he is "arguing" with Christians. What case is he making with us (Romans 8:15-16; 1 John 4:13) and why does it make our difficult journey less difficult?

### **Making It Real**

Ephesians 5:18 tells Christians to keep being filled (or empowered) with the Holy Spirit. Take some time to pray for a fresh empowerment of the Holy Spirit.