

# STUDY NOTES

THAT THEY MAY BE ONE  
A SERIES *at* NEW CITY CHURCH

[www.newcityphx.com/sermons](http://www.newcityphx.com/sermons)

The following content is based on the message “Jesus Brings Change” on 10/15/17 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. The following is not meant to be a full synopsis but rather a brief look at the main ideas. To use this Study Guide effectively you must listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

Leaders using these Study Notes for group study and reflection should read the Biblical text thoroughly before beginning, using this resource as assistance and not relying solely on this material for insight. We encourage all leaders to pray and ask the Spirit for revelation as they lead their respective community groups.

## PRAYER

*Pray and ask God to lead the discussion as everyone gets to share.*

SCRIPTURE: JOHN 16:1-15; 22-24

## WHAT TO EXPECT

After telling them that the world will hate them, Jesus warns his disciples that people will throw them out of the synagogues, and kill them. Jesus promises persecution. For instance, before the Apostle Paul’s conversion, he went around “ravaging the church”. We can look back and see that the church faced difficult challenges.

**We, too, will face sharp and difficult challenges on account of our faith.**

- *What challenges has you personally faced because of your faith?*

## JESUS BRINGS CHANGE

Why do Christians face such difficulties? It starts with an inward transformation in us. We are going to change because Jesus brings about change in us. We can’t blame the world for persecution because we are the ones that changed. People will see it. They will ridicule. They probably like you, but don’t like the Jesus they see in you—and they probably feel condemned by this.

**If your life isn’t radically changed, then you have no reason to believe that you’re a Christian.**

- *Do you have a radical-change story? If so, share some of your story.*
- *Maybe you feel like your story is more of a slow-growth story. What ways do you feel like God is changing you in your growth?*
- *How does changing in Jesus actually bring hope to you?*

## LIFE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

We want hope. Jesus is the hope. But then he says that “it’s to our advantage that [he goes]”. Why does he say this seemingly crazy statement? Because he promises that he is going to leave a Helper. That Helper is the Holy Spirit who can now indwell the followers of Jesus, rather than just having one Jesus living on earth. This means that we can all live under the influence of the Holy Spirit. That means that we can all be a part of what God is doing to turn the world right side up.

- *How does Jesus’s statement of “it’s to your advantage that I go” impact you? How does it change your view of the Holy Spirit?*

## WHAT DO WE DO WHILE WE WAIT?

Living the under the influence of the Holy Spirit means that we will grow spiritually. But how do we practically allow the Holy Spirit to influence us? It’s actually so simple that it’s hard. It’s simple, because we just have to spend time with him. But it’s hard because it takes effort to discipline ourselves to do that.

**Here are some practical spiritual disciplines:**

- **Prayer**
- **Time in the Scripture (i.e., reading, meditating, memorizing)**
- **Fasting**
- **Worship**
- **Service**

- *How can you see these spiritual disciplines as important?*
- *Why are they so hard to implement in life? Which one do feel like you need to focus on this week?*
- *What would be the most helpful way for you to set these goals for yourself? (i.e., scheduling specific time, finding an accountability partner, etc.)*
- *Pray for strength to grow spiritually through spiritual disciplines.*