

# *Can You See It?*

## *Seeing with Limited Vision (March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021)*

### PREPARATION

- Familiarize yourself with this Study Guide.
- You can watch the sermon online [HERE](#). **Then make sure to watch our [Special Series Video!](#)**
- Spend some time in prayer before your group gathers.
- You **always** have the option to use some or all the questions and/or prepare your own questions.
- Review the learning objective to focus the conversation, read the primary scriptures as a group, summarize the main points, ask the questions, and use supporting texts to enhance the concepts.

### DISCUSSION

#### **Opening Prayer:** (1-2 minutes)

*In light of what God is saying through this week's message, here's a suggestion of how your group can invite God into your time together.*

Thank the Father for loving us so much that He came to us in the person of Jesus to offer Himself as a sacrifice on our behalf while we were still sinners! Pray that as we navigate the chaotic waters of our cultural moment that we would humbly listen and obey the promptings of the Holy Spirit as we seek to love one another just as Jesus loved us by dying for us on the cross. Finally, pray that the Holy Spirit would open the eyes of our heart to begin to see Jesus for who he truly is!

#### **Discussion:** (45-60 minutes)

#### What's Going on This Week

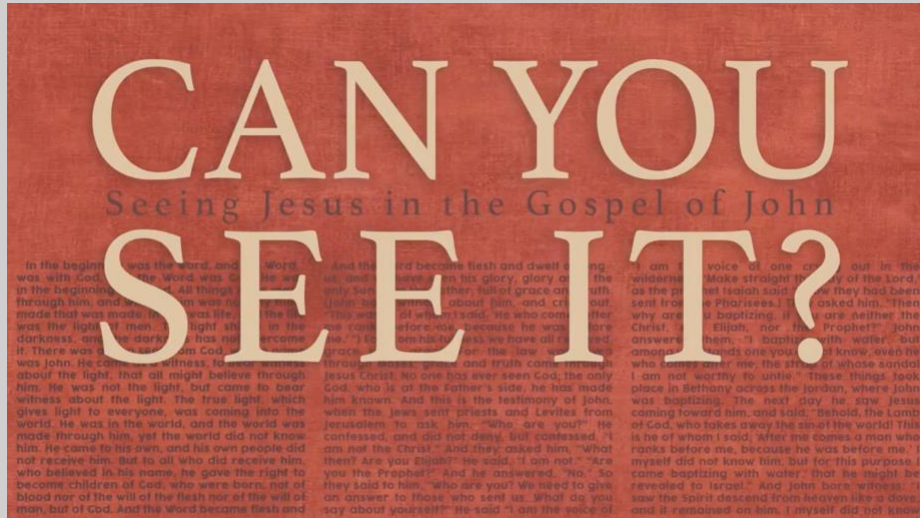
This Sunday, our Community Group Director AJ Vanegas led us into our fifth week of our series titled *Can You See It?* AJ brought our attention to the upper room discourse in *John 14-16* in order to point out how these famous passages are delivered as a response to the disciples pressing for answers to the unknown. Like a riddle, Jesus' revelations do not make sense to the disciples at first because he is giving them a window into the complex realities of future events and spiritual realities that the disciples could not comprehend due to their limited vision. However, AJ points out that only after Jesus was glorified did he send the Holy Spirit to give his people new vision encouraging them to rest in a relationship with Jesus rather than frustratingly satisfy our own reason!

**“When believers look to the glorification of Jesus, the Holy Spirit gives us eyes to see – not necessarily a clear vision into the future or a window into the mind and reasoning of God – but exactly what we need to see!” – AJ Vanegas**

## Suggested Questions

**Check-In: Icebreaker** – If you could ask God to reveal one thing in your life, what would it be?

**Series Video:** Each week, a collection of ministry leaders will be recording a video that discusses this week's sermon and how it may apply to our lives according to each demographic represented here at 3Crosses church! We recommend that you either encourage your group to watch the video *before* the meeting, or the video can make for a great opening activity for your group!



**Objective #1: Explore how you commonly press into the future and spiritual realm for answers.**

*Primary Texts: John 13:31-16:33* – AJ challenges us to read this large body of text through the lens of the disciples and their ability to interpret what Jesus is saying. He argues that the opening “figure of speech” puts the disciples under duress. Then, they begin to press Jesus for answers in an attempt to satisfy their own understanding for the (1) next season, (2) next step, (3) next solution, (4) next sequence. However, the disciples end up in (5) utter confusion. **As you read the text, which one of the disciple’s questions and longings resonates with you the most as you attempt to move forward in your walk with Jesus?**

**Objective #2: Identify the challenge that the scriptures are calling you to focus on in your life!**

*Selected Passages and Themes: John 15:1-25; 16:29-33* – In the roundtable discussion video, each one of our ministry leaders discusses one of the four specific challenges that the main teachings of this text present: (1) Admit our limited vision, (2) Abide in Jesus, (3) Adhere to a new commandment to love, (4) Anticipate persecution and suffering. **Which one of these challenges do you find to be the most difficult in your life?**

**Objective #3: Dig into the teachings of the Holy Spirit to learn how God wants you to abide in Him!**

*Holy Spirit Texts: Indwell (Jn. 14:16-17) / Jesus' teachings (Jn. 14:26) / From the Father and testify about Jesus (Jn. 15:26) / Convict of sin, righteousness, judgment (Jn. 16:8-11) / Things to come (Jn. 16:13-14)* – AJ closes his sermon by pointing to the five teachings of the Holy Spirit that transform the way we see Jesus and his past victory in which *he was glorified*, the present reality in which *Jesus is being glorified*, and a future in which *Jesus will be glorified*. **How can we pray as a community that you would be filled with the Holy Spirit so that he might give you eyes to see exactly what you need to see?**

## **Closing Prayer:** (5-10 minutes)

*In light of what God is saying through this week's message, here's some suggestions of what your group could talk about with God in prayer.*

Thank our Heavenly Father for revealing himself to us by sending His son! Praise the Son for becoming a human so that we might see the Father and have direct access to Him through the shed blood of Jesus Christ! Ask that the Holy Spirit would open the eyes of our hearts so that we may continue to follow Jesus in a relationship with Him through the Holy Spirit as he equips us to live, love, and forgive like Jesus. Finally, pray that we as a church would have the courage and boldness to proclaim the gospel of Jesus as we continue to stay connected to the Holy Spirit and follow His lead in our lives.

## **THROUGHOUT THE WEEK**

**-Stay up to date with Coronavirus Ministry Opportunities:** Help us out by pointing the people in your Community Group to [3Crosses.org/coronavirus](https://3crosses.org/coronavirus) . If you or anyone in your group is looking to serve food in our pantry, access spiritual care, or seek financial assistance, you can find all you need at [3Crosses.org/neighborhood](https://3crosses.org/neighborhood)

**-Can You See It! Series:** Each week, we will be recording a message that includes a collection of our ministry leaders and helps explain this week's study guide! *Tune in at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday Nights* each week for the premier of the video or check it out anytime on our [YouTube channel!](#)

**-Group Prayer:** This week, pray that the Spirit would illuminate the truth of Jesus in our lives! Challenge one or two members of your group by contacting them with a truth about Jesus upon which you are reflecting!

**-Further Reading:** *John 11, 18-21*- Next week, we will be celebrating Easter Sunday!!! We will be walking through the story of Lazarus in order to see how Jesus is the resurrection and the life! Pay close attention to these stories through

**-Community Groups 2021:** For more information about joining a group, leading a group, or general inquiries, contact AJ at [avanegas@3crosses.org](mailto:avanegas@3crosses.org)