

A Fitting Challenge
Joshua 18:1-10

Review:

1. Regardless of our individual or collective strength or weakness, we all have access to the power of God to help us pursue personal holiness and to expand God's Kingdom.
2. Just because some people are called into full-time ministry doesn't mean the rest of us are excused from the work of sanctification and evangelism to which God has called us. We all have access to the truth of God.
3. God has set before us the challenges and blessings appropriate for each of us as individuals and as a congregation.

Go further: Read John 16:5-15

1. In verse 5, where did Jesus say He was going?
2. In verse 6, what did Jesus' say would be His disciples' reaction to His departure? Has there ever been a time when you shared this feeling, wishing Jesus were still physically present?
3. In verse 7, how did Jesus say His departure would actually help His disciples? Who is this Comforter? The Greek word translated as "Comforter" is "paraclete," meaning someone who comes alongside to advocate for someone else, much like a lawyer in a courtroom. How does the Holy Spirit advocate or intercede for us?
4. What three things does Jesus say His Comforter will do in verse 8?
5. In verse 9, what is the relationship between sin and failure to believe in, to trust in Christ?
6. Verse 10 says the Comforter convicts the world about Jesus' going to the Father. What all happened to Jesus that ended up with His returning to Heaven? What do those events have to do with bringing righteousness to the world? How is God's plan of salvation different from how worldly people think they can become righteous?
7. Verse 11 says the Comforter convicts the world about judgment. Who does Jesus say is truly worthy of judgment and condemnation?
8. The world judged Jesus to be worthy of death when He was crucified. How does the world's understanding of judgment differ from the Spirit's teaching?
9. Why do you think Jesus' disciples were unable to understand everything they needed to know about Him at the time He spoke verse 12?
10. What does Jesus call the Comforter in verse 13?
11. What did Jesus promise the Spirit of truth would do for us in verse 13?
12. Where does verse 14 say is the ultimate source of this truth?

Apply:

1. Why does the work of the Holy Spirit described in verses 8-11 make it vital for us to pray for unbelievers before telling them about Jesus?
2. Why does the work of the Holy Spirit described in verses 13-15 make it vital for us to pray before we read the Bible?
3. Why is it so important for us and for others to have a reliable source of truth in our lives?