



# Meet John's Community

The writer of the gospel of John was telling the story of Jesus to some end-of-the-first-century believers whom he probably knew. The writer had no intention and no idea that these words would be read by people outside that group, much less thousands of years later.

The readers had lived through a Jewish uprising in 70 CE, which had provoked a terrible response from the Roman authorities. Determined to completely eradicate the rebels, the Romans destroyed Jerusalem and tore down the temple. This was a cataclysmic event and the survivors of this massacre have now spread throughout the land.

After this time, Jewish people who accepted the teachings of Jesus were banned from the Jewish meeting places (the synagogues) to keep them from spreading the story and teachings of Jesus. The writer of John's gospel refers to this rejection three times in his story.

The Roman authorities had also made it very dangerous to be a follower of Jesus. Many Christians had already been killed or tortured for their faith.

John 9:22-23;  
12:42; 16:1

Something to talk about

- What challenges do you think the members of John's community faced in their daily lives?
- If you were writing to encourage this community, what might you want to say to them?
- What kinds of stories do you think the writer of John's gospel might want to finish?

The passage today is taken from a conversation between Jesus and the disciples after the last supper. Jesus knows what is about to happen and is trying to prepare the disciples for the terrible events of the next few days.



# THE ADVOCATE

## Cinquain Poetry

**A cinquain (SIN cane) poem is written to form a diamond shape in this way.**

One word for the advocate, the subject, and the title of the poem

Two words that describe the advocate

Three words that tell what the advocate does

Two words that describe the advocate

One word, another word for the advocate, the subject of the poem.

## Spirit Symbol

### What to do

- 1 Plan a design for your symbol of the advocate, comforter, helper, encourager promised by Jesus. You might draw some samples on paper the size of your backing before you use the materials for the final product.
- 2 When you are satisfied with your design, wrap the kitchen foil around the stiff paper or cardboard. Tape it securely to the back.
- 3 Lightly draw your design for the symbol of the advocate on the kitchen foil. Be careful not to press hard or the foil may tear.
- 4 Now glue the yarn along the lines of your symbol design. The easiest method is to trace the lines first with the glue and then place the yarn on it. Another method is to dip the yarn in the glue and place it on the foil. White glue dries clear.
- 5 Carefully wipe off any glue in the spaces between the lines of yarn.
- 6 Give the glue a moment to dry before continuing.
- 7 With markers, fill in the spaces so your design stands out.
- 8 Keep the symbol flat until the glue is thoroughly dry.

