

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN

Lesson 14 – Study Questions

John 14:1-31

DAY ONE

1. In last week's lesson Jesus began His farewell discourse ([John 13:34](#)) with the New Commandment. What other important thoughts from last week's Spiritual Reflection or commentary were meaningful to you? Record some thoughts to share with your group.

Read John 14:1-4

2a. In this week's lesson Jesus continued His Last Supper Discourse, addressing the concerns of His disciples about His going away. How did Jesus begin to comfort them in the first sentence of verse 1?

b. Jesus recommended faith in God and in Himself as an antidote to a troubled heart. In what ways does faith calm your heart?

3. Jesus told His disciples that there will be room for them in His Father's house. How did Jesus reassure them in verse 2?

NOTE: The Agape study of John explains how Jesus' promise to prepare a place for His disciples and then return to take them to Himself resembles that of a first century bridegroom, who leaves the bride with her parents while he goes to prepare a place for her. When the groom's father names the place and time, the groom goes to get her. In the same way Jesus will collect His bride, the Church.

4. In verse 3 Jesus promised His disciples He would come back and take them to Himself. For what reason would He do so?

5. Jesus even assured the disciples that they knew the way to where He was going (verse 4). Who or what is "the way"?

6. **CONNECTION:** For the past three years the apostles have lived with Jesus, eaten with Jesus and followed Him everywhere. Now they worry that they might never see Him again. Experiencing a loss or an “uprooting” (large or small) can threaten our security. Human beings need to belong to someone or something, to have a “home” and an identity. Consider a loss or uprooting which you have experienced. Was the ultimate result positive or negative? Was there something that helped remedy the disruption? How were you restored to wholeness? Share some thoughts with your small group.

Read 1 Peter 2:9-10, record the second sentence and meditate on the blessing of belonging to Jesus.

DAY TWO
Read 14:5-10

7. Today’s lesson begins with confusion on the part of Thomas. How did Thomas contradict Jesus and then what did he ask Him (verse 5)?

8a. What was Jesus’ beautiful answer in verse 6? (Good memory verse)

b. Of what would Jesus words “I AM” have reminded the disciples?

9. How did Jesus further explain His relationship to the Father in verse 7?

10a. Philip, also confused, asked Jesus to show them the Father so as to satisfy their questions (verse 8). How did Jesus reproach Philip (beginning of verse 9)?

b. This is the fourth time Philip is mentioned in the Gospel of John. Identify two other instances in which he was mentioned.

11. Complete the following sentences of Jesus to Philip from verse 10:

Do you not believe that I am in the Father

The words that I speak to you

The Father who dwells in me

12. CONNECTION: “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Thomas and Philip cried out in frustration when they did not understand. It is important to ask questions because whatever they are, the Lord can answer them. He meets us right where we are. Elijah the prophet watched helplessly when the only son of the widow who had offered him shelter appeared to be dying. Unable to understand why bad things were happening, Elijah questioned God and learned of His faithfulness. What have you learned from voicing your questions and doubts to God?

Holocaust survivor and author Elie Wiesel argued that all our questioning and doubting is a plea for help from God. Read and record 1 Kings 17:20 and thank God for listening.

DAY THREE

Read John 14:11-16

13a. Jesus continued speaking to Philip and the other disciples. How did He express His deep desire for them to trust in Him (beginning of verse 11)?

b. He added that they should also believe because of the works themselves (end of verse 11). To what was He referring?

14. In verse 12 Jesus expressed His feelings using the familiar words, “Amen, amen, I say to you.” What promise did He give to those who believe in Him at the end of verse 12?

15. Jesus promised His disciples to do whatever they asked in His name. What purpose was this to serve (verse 13)?

THINK: How can the works of the disciples be greater than the works of Jesus? How will Jesus do whatever they ask in His name? According to Francis Martin, the answer lies in the apostles' union with the risen Jesus. When Jesus goes to the Father His humanity will be glorified and become greater. Similarly, when the disciples pray in the name of Jesus, Who is perfectly obedient to the Father, they too pray with perfect love and obedience to the Father and thus glorify Him.

16. Jesus repeated His promise to do anything they would ask of Him in His name (verse 14). From verse 15, what did He tell them they must do if they loved Him? (Good memory verse)

17a. What did Jesus tell His disciples He would do in verse 16?

b. Look up the word "advocate" and record any definitions that might apply.

18. CONNECTION: This week's lesson is full of Jesus' beautiful promises of blessings. The loving relationship He described includes faith, trust, and obedience on our part and a promise by Jesus of abundant blessings in spite of difficult times. When through the help of the Advocate we mirror the love and obedience of Christ to the Father, we feel the peace of the Father. As attributed to St. Catherine of Siena, "All the way to heaven is heaven because He said 'I am the Way'." How has this applied to your life? Share some thoughts with your small group.

Jennifer Hubbard wrote about finding peace after the death of her daughter, a 6-year old shooting victim from Sandy Hook, Connecticut: "On the evening of December 14th, the opportunity to renew my relationships with Christ and His Church became an urgent fleeing to Christ's gentle embrace." Write a prayer that in time of trouble you will flee to our Savior and find His peace.

DAY FOUR

Read John 14:17-21

19a. In verse 17, Jesus promised the disciples that He would send them the Advocate. He then revealed that the Advocate is the Spirit of Truth that the world cannot accept. Why not (end of first sentence of verse 17)?

b. How will the disciples know the Advocate according to Jesus (last sentence of verse 17)?

20. Jesus continued to encourage His disciples in verse 18 by promising them He would not leave them orphaned but would come to them. In what way(s) does Jesus come to His disciples today?

21a. Jesus told His disciples that in a little while the world would not see Him, but they would see Him. Why will they continue to see Him according to Jesus (end of verse 19)?

b. On that day the disciples will understand the special relationship between believers, the Son, and the Father. How did Jesus describe this (verse 20)?

22a. In verse 21 Jesus reemphasized what is required of those who love Him. Record the first sentence.

b. In the last part of verse 21, what additional promises did He make for those who love and obey Him?

23. CONNECTION: Today Jesus comforted His troubled disciples by saying “I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you.” Orphans are among the most helpless members of society. Jesus understood the feelings of the helpless and promised to protect them. These words are for us, right here and now. Describe one of your Cornerstone or parish friends who care for the most helpless among us. How are they carrying out the love of Jesus?

Read and record James 1:27 which connects (as Jesus did in this chapter) the need for charity with the need for a moral life.

DAY FIVE

Read John 14:22-26

24. In verse 22 Judas (not Judas Iscariot the betrayer) asked why Jesus would not reveal Himself to the world. What was Jesus' mysterious answer (beginning of verse 23)?

NOTE: In some other translations this Judas is referred to as Judas the Canaan or Jude.

25. What two things will Jesus and His Father do for the one who loves Him according to the last part of verse 23?

26. In verse 24 Jesus reminded the disciples that His words are those of the Father who sent Him. What do you think that means for the one who loves Jesus and keeps His words (verse 24)?

27. Knowing that He was leaving, Jesus wanted the disciples to understand His relationship with the Advocate. How did Jesus identify the Advocate that the Father would send (verse 26)?

28. We as Christians often ask the Father for help in the name of Christ. In this passage Jesus told us that the Father will send the Holy Spirit to us in the name of Christ. What will the Advocate do according to verse 26?

29. CONNECTION: In today's lesson Jesus promised the disciples (and us, as well) that the Holy Spirit Whom the Father sends in Jesus' name, will teach us everything and remind us of all He has said. This was comforting to the apostles who perhaps feared that they would forget important truths that Jesus had taught them. We also worry that we may not have what it takes to live holy lives here on earth and to be with God in the next world. Do you find comfort knowing that the Holy Spirit will teach us everything and remind us of all that Jesus has told us? Share some details with your small group.

Begin your quiet time meditating on this extract from the EWTN Litany of the Holy Spirit.
(For private use only)

Promise of God the Father, have mercy on us. Ray of heavenly light, have mercy on us.
Author of all good, have mercy on us. Source of heavenly water have mercy on us.

Consuming fire have mercy on us. Ardent charity have mercy on us. Spiritual unction have mercy on us. Spirit of love and truth have mercy on us. Spirit of wisdom and understanding have mercy on us. Spirit of counsel and fortitude have mercy on us. Spirit of knowledge and piety have mercy on us. Spirit of the fear of the Lord have mercy on us. Spirit of grace and prayer have mercy on us. Spirit of peace and meekness have mercy on us. Spirit of modesty and innocence have mercy on us. Holy Spirit, the Comforter have mercy on us. Holy Spirit, the Sanctifier have mercy on us. Holy Spirit, Who governs the Church have mercy on us. Gift of God, the Most High have mercy on us. Amen

DAY SIX

Read John 14:27-31

30a. Jesus knew He was soon departing from this world and that the disciples would be remaining behind “in the world.” Complete Jesus’ assuring promises (verse 27). (Good memory verse)

b. Moses’ farewell speech to the Israelites hundreds of years earlier resembles some of Jesus’ words in verse 27. Record Deuteronomy 31:8.

31. Jesus reminded His disciples again “I am going away and I will come back to you.” If they love Him, how were they to react and why (verse 28)?

NOTE: The Father is "greater" than the incarnate Christ in terms of position because Christ's humanity is a creation, though in His divinity He is equal to the Father. (Catholic Education Resource Center)

32a. Jesus told His disciples in advance that He was leaving. What was His reason (verse 29)?

b. When do you think the disciples understood and believed in the meaning of Jesus’ passion, death, and crucifixion?

33a. Jesus told the disciples that He did not have much longer to speak with them. What reason did He give (first sentence of verse 30)?

b. What did Jesus assure the disciples and us about Satan's power (second sentence of verse 30)?

34a. Verse 31 contains the only time in the New Testament where Jesus stated that He loves the Father. How does He demonstrate that love?

b. Jesus ended the Last Supper with the words "Get up, let us go." Where do you think He was going (verse 31)?

(Although this Chapter ends with Jesus saying, "Let us go," Chapters 15, 16 and 17 will continue the Last Supper Discourse. Not until Chapter 18 will John recount Jesus' departure for the Garden of Gethsemane.)

35. CONNECTION: In the prologue of the Gospel of John we learned about Jesus that "All things came to be through Him, and without Him nothing came to be." Although all creation is good, sometimes, given a choice between two good things, we choose the lesser good. We become distracted toward things of this world away from the source of true peace. The peace that Jesus gives is far superior even to that of the good things He created. How do you discern choices which keep you on the path to Jesus' true peace?

Read Philippians 4:6-7. Record verse 7 and begin your prayer time remembering that Jesus is the source of our peace that passes all understanding.

Read Lesson 14 John 14:1-31 in the *Meditation and Commentary on the Gospel of John* by Rev. Alfred McBride, O. Praem. The Cornerstone Catholic Scripture Study acknowledges that scripture quotations in this study are from the New American Bible, Revised Edition (NABRE) © 2010, 1991, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission.

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