

John chapter 14

Discussion guides for All Saints Communities. May 2023

I am
THE WAY
the **TRUTH**,
and the
Life.

No one comes to
the **FATHER**
except through
ME.

JOHN 14:6

John 14 : Background and context

In John chapter 14, we are joining a conversation part-way through.

In chapter 13, Jesus has washed his disciples feet and they have had their last meal together. Jesus has predicted his betrayal by one of the disciples, and warned Peter that he will soon deny Him.

The words of comfort in this chapter are spoken after Judas Iscariot has left the room.

In a long conversation (John chapters 14-17), Jesus concentrates on the needs of His disciples. He tells them that he will go away, but will return. They will not be coming with him, but are to stay and to love God and love one another.

John 14 : 1 – 14 Calming Troubled Hearts

FOR STARTERS : Imagine you are about to move to a new home. A friend who knows you very well has gone on ahead to get your accommodation ready for you to move straight in. What details would they include to make you feel instantly ‘at home’?

DIG IN:- Read John 14:1-7

1. See John 13:21,33,38 for the reasons why the disciples are troubled and upset. What does Jesus tell them to do instead?
(What does the instruction “Do not let....” suggest?)
 2. Where will Jesus go, and what will He do, when He leaves the disciples? What is His ultimate purpose in leaving them?
 3. What emotions do you suppose Thomas is experiencing as he asks his question?
 4. In his reply, what does Jesus ask Thomas to focus on?
 5. What key statements does Jesus make about his identity in vs 6-7?
(What is Jesus trying to convey about why he came and what he offers people?)
- Talk together about what Jesus’ words mean to you; or perhaps how you struggle to come to terms with his bold claims.

DIG IN:- Read John 14:8-14

6. Imagine yourself in Philip's place.
 - What motivates his request? What do you think he means by it?
 - What answer does Jesus give to Philip's questions?
 - How would *you* have responded to Jesus' reply?

7. What do the words and the works of Jesus reveal about who he is? (vs 10-12) [Compare John 1:14,18.]

8. Having established his claims concerning his relationship to the Father, what other relationship does Jesus discuss? (vs 12-14)

9. What does it mean to ask for something "in Jesus' name"? (v14)

Note "greater things" (12)

What Jesus means is things of great quantity.

'Those of you who put your trust in me, you are going to point people to me! You are not going to point people to a loaf of bread, but to the Bread of Life. You are not going to send people to a little lampstand, but to the Light of the World. You are not going to offer people resuscitation on a hospital bed, but the resurrection that outlasts the world. You are going to do greater things, things that all the miracles in John's gospel were point to – you are going to point people to Jesus.'

How will we do these things? By asking Jesus for help: "I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified." This prayer request is in the context of helping people come to him.

(Simon Manchester, Food for the Journey, John 14-17. p20)

APPLY:- (Choose one or more of these questions to discuss and apply)

10. “Do not let your hearts be troubled” – The only real antidote to worry is to trust in Jesus.

Where in your life is your heart troubled?

- What do you need to trust Jesus **with** today?
- What do you need to trust Jesus **for** today?

11. There are many around us today who would say, “Jesus was a good man but he never claimed to be God.” How do Jesus’ statements in these verses indicate that He **did** claim to be God?

12. (a) ‘Tolerance’ is a highly rated concept in our society, though those who strongly advocate it can be intolerant of others who hold different views to themselves on any particular subject!

- Jesus’ words in verse 6 are a particular challenge in the light of this. What does he want to communicate by saying this?

(b) Someone has explained it using this illustration :-

‘If you are in a burning building and you happen to know that only one door is unlocked, there is nothing loving about saying to people in the building, ‘Pick your own door to get out.’ The loving thing is to push them if necessary, towards the door that will open. This is what Jesus is doing here. He is lovingly saying that he’s the door, and we must come to him.’

- Do you find this illustration helpful? Why, or why not? Could you use it to help explain John 14:6 to a non-Christian friend?

FINALLY

Pray together for family members, friends, neighbours and colleagues who struggle to understand and accept that Jesus is not just **a** way to God but **the** way to God.

John 14 : 15 – 31 Gifts for Troubled Hearts

FOR STARTERS: If you need to remember to do something, what method do you use to ensure that you don't forget all about it?

DIG IN:- Read John 14:15 - 31

1. This whole section inseparably links love for God and obedience to God's commands (vs 15, 21, 23,24)
 - Why does Jesus link these?
 - How have you seen this link in your own spiritual journey?
 - In what areas do you struggle with loving obedience to Jesus?

2. In verse 16, the Holy Spirit is called '**parakletos**' which means 'one called alongside'. There is no exact English equivalent so various translations have used the word "Advocate" , "Helper", "Counsellor" or "Comforter".

Spend some time discussing how the Holy Spirit does all these things by giving examples of what Jesus did for his disciples when he was physically with them. [Note how Jesus describes him as "another" counsellor.]

3. What else does Jesus reveal about the Holy Spirit and His role in this passage? (vs 16-17, 26) How do his actions fit his name?

- 4(a) What are the first 3 adjectives that come into your mind when you hear the word 'orphan'?
- (b) In verse 18, Jesus says to his disciples "I will not leave you as orphans, I will come to you."
- What is he assuring them (and us) of?
 - How do we help each other to grasp what this means for us?
5. What great gift does Jesus promise his disciples? (v27ff)
- What reasons does he give them not to be afraid or troubled?
 - What is Jesus' intention in telling them all this now?
6. What do we learn about the death of Jesus in the closing verses of this chapter?
Who is in charge of events?

Optional: Dig Deeper

Read these verses again, noticing every time the word 'you' is mentioned. Take in how personal the Holy Spirit is; and how He is the ever-present 'God with us'.

APPLY:- (Choose one or more of these questions to discuss and apply)

7. Look back at what you have learnt about the Holy Spirit.
 - What aspects of the Holy Spirit's nature and work do you find most comforting?
 - What truth do you feel drawn to consider and meditate on?
 - Which of the things that Jesus says the Spirit will do for believers are you most conscious of needing at present?

8. Re-read 14:1 and 14:27. What is the Lord saying to you?

9. Which verse from John chapter 14 has been the most meaningful for you and why?

[Write it out, memorise it and tell someone about it – all these will help you to remember it.]

God comes into our frantic world offering us His peace, a peace that is very different from the fragile and fleeting cessation of conflict and chaos that we aim for. God wants so much more for us.
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FINALLY

Pray together for family members, friends, neighbours and colleagues whose hearts are troubled and who are afraid. Pray, most of all, that they will experience the deep-seated, unshakeable, never-ending peace that springs from a restored relationship with God