

“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see Me anymore, but you will see Me. Because I live, you also will live.” John 14:18-19

Relevant Study—“24” (Hours Before the Cross)

Lesson Four—I Will Not Leave You As Orphans

Imagine spending the last hours with Jesus before His crucifixion. Imagine the urgency of His words and actions. Recall what has transpired in our studies thus far of the Upper Room Discourse (John 13 and the first half of John 14): The first thing Jesus did was wash His disciples’ feet—demonstrating and admonishing servanthood; Knowing Judas was about to betray Him, Jesus gave him every chance to repent; Jesus explained that He was going to die (at once); He promised His disciples a place in heaven; He explained that He is God the Son (*“I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me”*). Imagine the emotions of the disciples, knowing that Jesus was about to die (and that they could also be arrested and executed). That room must have been filled with fear, sadness, confusion, and doubt. When you read these chapters and do these lessons, please imagine yourself in that room with Jesus and His disciples.

Up to now, Jesus has given them a glimpse of the Father and the Son being the same in their perfect nature. Now as we study the second half of John Chapter 14, we will see Jesus explain the Holy Spirit, who makes up the third part of the Holy Trinity.

Days One and Two—Obedience is From the Heart

1. Read John 14:15-26.
2. John 14:15 tells us that obeying Jesus’ commands is not optional. The word “will” means it is a commandment. Jesus did not say “If you love Me *then* (optional) keep My commandments.” He said that anyone who truly loves Him *will* keep His commandments. Read Hebrews 11:6 and explain how this verse and John 14:15 fit together regarding obedience.
3. Read Matthew 22:37-40 and John 13:33-35 and answer the following questions:
 - a. Why is loving Jesus *not* dependent upon our emotions or feelings?

- b. Why is loving Jesus *not* dependant on our minds and our own efforts? Explain your thoughts.

 - c. What does it mean to love Jesus?
4. Read 1 John 2:3-6 and explain what this means for all followers of Christ.

 5. Read 1 John 3:24. This verse segues into the next subject. What is it saying in regard to obedience?

Days Three and Four—Another Counselor

1. Read Romans 8:9-16. Explain what Paul says about obedience, the Spirit, and our position with God.

2. Read John 14:16-17.
 - a. Jesus is our intercessor—he intercedes for us by speaking to the Father on our behalf. What is He going to ask the Father in verse 16?

 - b. The Holy Spirit is called Counselor in the NIV Bible. The Greek translation for “Counselor” is *parakletos*, meaning “One called alongside.” Other definitions for Counselor could be Helper, Comforter, Exhorter, Encourager, Advocate, etc. When you think of the Holy Spirit, which term do you think fits your description of Him the most?

3. Jesus asks the Father to give us “another” Counselor (or *allos*). The Greek word “*allos*” means “another of the same kind”. Many new believers (or non-believers) ask the question, “Why would Jesus send another Counselor rather than just stay Himself (since the other counselor was to be the same kind He was)?” Write your answer to this question as if you were talking to someone who isn’t familiar with the concept of the Holy Spirit.

4. The Holy Spirit is exactly like Jesus, a person who could take Jesus’ place and carry on His work. In the following verses, explain what Jesus is promising His disciples (and you and me) regarding the work of the Holy Spirit.
 - a. 1 John 2:1

 - b. John 14:26

 - c. Romans 8:26

As we continue with this lesson, keep in mind that Jesus was leaving this world, but He interceded for us by asking that His Father would send another One just like Him. All that we see in the Father, we see in Jesus. All that we see in Jesus we also see in the Holy Spirit. Jesus came to explain God (“*anyone who has seen Me has seen my Father*”). He also came to save us by dying for our sins. He then returned to His Father, and left us with the third person of the Trinity—the Holy Spirit—who will be with and live within us forever. The Gospel of John explains the Trinity better than any other book in the Bible.

Day Five—The Personhood of the Holy Spirit

1. Scripture reveals that the Holy Spirit possesses the attributes of personhood. Read the following verses and explain the attributes of the Holy Spirit’s being:
 - a. 1 Corinthians 2:11

 - b. Romans 8:27

 - c. Luke 12:11-12

 - d. Mark 13:11

 - e. John 16:7-8

- f. 2 Thessalonians 2:13
 - g. Hebrews 10:15-18
 - h. 2 Peter 1:20-21
 - i. Genesis 1:1-2
2. John 14:17 says the world cannot accept the Spirit. Why not? Why does Jesus say the disciples can accept the Spirit?

 3. Read John 14:20 and explain what this means in light of our study of the Holy Spirit.

 4. Write a summary of what you understand about the Trinity. Also, write questions you have that have not been answered in this lesson and have never been fully understood by you.

 5. Why was this teaching about the Holy Spirit so important to the disciples at this time?