

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."
John 14:6

Relevant Studies—"24!" (Hours Before the Cross)

Lesson Three—If You Know Jesus, You Know His Father!

As we begin studying chapter 14, we find Jesus speaking words of encouragement to His disciples. They were confused because of all that had just taken place between Jesus and themselves, Judas, and Peter. By this time, the Passover meal had consumed about two hours, so the night was still young and there was much more that was to transpire between Jesus and His disciples.

Days One and Two—"You Know the Way..."

1. Read John 14, noticing the encouraging tone of Jesus' words.
2. Now, as you revisit the following passages in John 13, think about why the disciples were so troubled that Jesus now needed to comfort them. What would have caused them to fear?
 - a. John 13:5
 - b. John 13:21
 - c. John 13:33
 - d. John 13:37-38
 - e. Other thoughts for their troubled hearts?
3. Look at the first three words in John 14:1—"Do not let..." What is the significance of these three little words regarding our own fears, anxieties, and troubled hearts?

4. There are two significant ways that Jesus tells us we can gain control over our fears. What are they?

5. Referring back to John 13:36, Jesus told His disciples He was going to leave and that they could not follow (at that time), but would follow later. In John 14:1-4, what did Jesus say regarding where He was going, and why is this so significant for you and me?

6. Ponder this: The disciples had been following God in the flesh for three years! Although they did not fully understand who He was, they knew Jesus was from God. They saw His miracles, heard His words, and felt His presence. They had been walking with God, and He was about to leave! Now think about it this way: You have been a follower of Christ long enough to understand that you don't want to live your life without Him and are totally dependent on His guidance and love in your life. Suddenly you lose Him and no longer have His presence. Think carefully about how the disciples may have felt, and then think about how you would feel if suddenly Jesus left you. Discuss this by answering the following questions:
 - a. What was it like in your life before you became a follower of Jesus? Write a brief summary of where you were in your life and why you came to Christ.

 - b. What has your life been like since you became a follower of Christ? How has He taught you, strengthened you, encouraged you, forgiven you, etc.?

 - c. How would you feel if suddenly you thought Jesus was going to leave you? Put yourself in the place of any of the disciples in that upper room, and share the emotions you might have felt had you been there.

Days Three and Four—Heaven Is a Real Place

1. Heaven is a place where God dwells and Jesus sits at His right hand. According to Jesus' own words, it is a place where all those who trust in Him will go.
 - a. Read John 14:3-4, and in your own words, write what Jesus was telling the disciples.

Day Five—If You Have Seen Jesus, You Have Seen the Father!

1. Read John 14:9-14

John 14:9 Jesus Christ, Revelation: the revelation was astounding—Jesus was the full embodiment of God. "He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father." When a man sees Jesus, he sees a Person...

- who is the very nature of God;
- who is the very character of God;
- who is the very substance of God;
- who is the very perfection of God;
- who is God in all of His perfect Being.

Jesus Christ is not the same Person as God the Father, but He has the same perfect nature. Jesus Christ is God the Son. Therefore, the person who has seen Jesus Christ has seen the Father in all the fullness of the Father's nature—that person has seen in Jesus the very embodiment of perfection, the perfect embodiment of Being, both perfect love and perfect righteousness.

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2. One of the hardest things to understand with our pea-brains is the Trinity and why it is so critical to our understanding of Christianity. People tend to see the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit as being one being (or one person). They are not the same Person, but the same in nature. They are perfect in their nature, their love, and their righteousness. They work together in perfect unity in total agreement with one another. The One God is the Trinity—or the “Godhead”. Look up the following verses and write beside each what you believe each means regarding the Father and the Son. (We will study the Holy Spirit in the next lesson in order to continue this study on the Trinity.)
 - a. John 10:37-38
 - b. John 12:48
 - c. John 17:11

3. Do you believe God loves you? Do you believe He is a kind and compassionate Father to you? Do you have a perception that God is an angry God and Jesus is the “nice” one? Explain your thoughts regarding your perceptions of God and of His Son Jesus. Many of these perceptions may have to do with your experience with your earthly father.

4. Finally, read Matthew 7:9-11 and explain what Jesus says about His Father.

Note: I did not deal with John 14:12-14 because there is so much more about this in later passages. I will deal with them all at once.