

Week 8 : John 14:1-14

Key Theme: Jesus is The Way, The Truth, and the Life

SEE my Life: Life Map & Fasting Reflection Icebreaker (15 mins)

Share briefly how your time of fasting and reflection with your life map and 1 Corinthians 15 went. What is God reminding you of or teaching you through this experience?

Option: Share a time when you experienced a meaningful meal with close friends or family. Maybe it was at a formal occasion, such as a wedding or a funeral, or maybe it was at a special occasion, such as a birthday or a holiday. Maybe it was an informal gathering that, as you look back now, seems really significant. Whatever the case, describe that setting. What made the meal special?

SEE Jesus: John 14:1-14 (30 mins)

The conversation that John captures in this passage is set in the context of an intimate meal that Jesus is sharing with his disciples. As part of Jesus' "farewell discourse," it poignantly describes Jesus' comforting promises that are rooted in his identity as the Son of God and his love for his friends. Keep both the details of the story and the theological claims in mind as you process the questions. After you read the text together, I would continue to encourage you to pair up for some of these questions to get everyone engaged.

1. What stands out to you from the text? What word or phrase seems significant to you? What questions do you have about the text?
2. Why are Jesus' disciples troubled? What do you think is going through their minds? Take a look at chapter 13 for some more context.
3. What does Jesus say to address their fears?
4. What is Thomas' question in 14:5? Why do you think he, and the other disciples, struggle so much to understand Jesus' teaching?
5. What does Jesus mean when he says, "I am the way and the truth and the life"?
6. What is Jesus' relationship to his Father?
7. What promise does Jesus offer in 14:12-14? What does he mean here? What is your response to his staggering claim? Do you believe it to be true? In what ways have you experienced, or failed to experience, this kind of effectiveness in prayer?
8. As you take a closer look at Jesus through this story, what aspects of his character draw you to him?

SEE my Life: The Way, the Truth, and the Life (30 mins)

As you reflect on Jesus' conversation with his disciples in the midst of their fear, doubt, and confusion, think about Jesus' work in your own life. Some of the squares on your life map might help you here as you process the following questions. Consider breaking into smaller and/or same gender groupings for these questions. Don't feel pressured to "cover" all three sets of questions. You might start with the set that you think would resonate with your group the most.

1. Thomas asks Jesus a simple question: “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” Describe a time in your life when you were uncertain about what God wanted you to do next. How did you feel during this time? Did God seem closer or farther away during this time?
2. Philip asks for more evidence to see the Father. Jesus responds, “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time?” Describe a time when in the moment God felt distant from you, but later you can see that He was there all along. What did God teach you through this process? Perhaps you feel that God is still distant and still difficult to know. Feel free to share those thoughts and feelings as well.
3. Jesus challenges us in 14:14: “You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.” What bold prayers has God answered for you? What bold prayers has he not answered in the way that you wanted? What prayers have you been reluctant or afraid to pray?

SEE the practices of Jesus: Fasting (15 mins to explain and close in prayer)

Continue with your practice of fasting this week. Skip at least one meal and purposefully spend 30-60 minutes reading and reflecting on John 14:25-27, which is a continuation of Jesus’ dialogue with his disciples. Read the verses several times and meditate on the peace that Jesus promises. Consider the following scripture meditation exercise based off of Martin Luther’s “A Simple Way to Pray” and Tim Keller’s *Prayer*.

- **Rejoice**—How can I praise God for the peace he has given me?
- **Repent**—What have I done wrong because I have forgotten the blessing of peace?
- **Recount**—How specifically has Jesus blessed me with peace?
- **Request**—What is something that I am not doing right now that I need to do to apply the blessing of peace? What do I need help with?
- **Rethink**—How can I live my life differently in light of the blessing of God’s peace?
- **Reflect**—Why is God telling me today?

Close in prayer with a focus on your one person you have been praying for.