

LESSON 14 ~ DON'T WORRY! BE HAPPY!

John 14

DISCUSSION STARTER

- What is your favorite room in your house? Why?

INTRODUCTION

Jesus has good news and bad news for his disciples. The **bad news** is that he will be leaving them soon and where he is going, they cannot come. The **good news** is that he won't leave them as "orphans" and he will be returning to them. This news catches his followers by surprise and their anxiety becomes obvious as they start asking Jesus all sorts of questions. As Jesus responds to his disciples questions, his answers become what is often referred to as Jesus' *Farewell Address* or *Farewell Discourse*.

In this "good-bye speech", Jesus first comforts his followers over their despair of his leaving by promising to come back (**14:1-14**). Then he promises to send another Counselor, the Holy Spirit, to be with the disciples in his place while he is gone (**14:15-18**). Next, Jesus again talks about the promise of his return (**14:18-24**) and then he wraps up his talk by again promising the presence of the Holy Spirit (**14:25-31**).

PREPARATION

1. Before you read **John 14**, ask the **Holy Spirit** to teach you and guide you into all truth (**John 16:13**). You may want to make the following prayer your own:

Spirit of the Living God, the One who comforts, strengthens and encourages me.

I admit that I cannot understand the truth found in God's Word with only my mind.

I agree that spiritual truth has to be understood with my heart as well as my head.

So I ask You to give me spiritual understanding as I do this lesson.

*I pray that You would enable me to see, hear and understand,
with my spirit, all that You want to teach me.*

I ask this in the powerful Name of Jesus (as if Jesus were asking it).

Amen

2. Read **John 14** slowly and thoughtfully in your own Bible. As you read and reread, **underline or highlight** any verses, phrases or words that are meaningful to you. Put a **question mark** beside anything you don't understand. Put a ✓ beside anything you would like more information about.

You may also want to read this chapter in another translation. The Scripture handouts for these lessons contain the *Amplified Version* of the Bible. It is important, however, that you don't try to answer the questions in the lesson from just the *Amplified Version*. The questions are phrased to be answered from the *New International Version* (NIV), the *New Living Translation* (NLT), or something similar. Using **only** the *Amplified Version* may be confusing. It is given only as a supplementary text.

3. Put yourself in the place of the disciples as you read **John 14**. How comforting and convincing is Jesus? If you didn't want him to leave, would you be comforted by his explanations? Why or why not?

QUESTIONS

Read John 13:33, 36; 14:1-7.

1. In John 14:1, we learn that the disciples' hearts are troubled. What is the cause of their agitation and distress (13:33, 36)?
 - ♥ Why do you think this fact troubles the disciples so? What do you think they are thinking and feeling?
 - ♥ What troubles your heart? How do people, circumstances and failed expectations cause inward agitation? What do you usually do if your heart is distressed or agitated?
 2. Jesus said, "**Do not let** your hearts be troubled." According to Jesus, what is the remedy for a distressed and agitated heart (14:1)?
 - ♥ Generally speaking, why is this a good remedy for a troubled heart? Can you think of other remedies?
 - ♥ Did Jesus practice what he preached (John 12:27-28)? How so?
 3. What three pieces of information did Jesus give his disciples, that, if believed, would help calm their troubled hearts (14:2-3)?
 - ♥ What did Jesus mean when he said he would "come back" after he left (14:3)? How are some ways that Jesus has already "come back"? Do you believe that Jesus will bodily come back to earth some day? Why or why not?
 - ♥ How would knowing and believing the things Jesus told his followers help quiet your troubled heart when you're fearful, anxious or in difficult circumstances? Does it comfort you? Why or why not?
- In mid-eastern culture, the married children (and their families) of a wealthy patriarch would often live in the father's large house, with each family having their own living space. A son who was betrothed to a woman would prepare the new living space in his father's house for him and his new bride and when the father said it was time, he would go and get his bride and bring her to her new home in the father's house.
4. What statement by Jesus prompted Thomas' question (14:4-5)?
 - ♥ How does the above cultural information help you understand Jesus' statements to his followers about his Father's house having many rooms? How does it make you feel to know that Jesus is preparing a place for *you* in his Father's house?
 - ♥ What are some things you learn about the place where the Father lives from Hebrews 12:22 and Revelation 21:9-22:5?
 5. What statement by Jesus prompted Thomas' question (14:4-5)?
 - ♥ What would be your response to Jesus' statement in 14:4? Do you know where Jesus is and could you tell someone else the way to get there? How so?
 5. Jesus' answer to Philip's question is considered by many to be the most profound statement Jesus ever made. It is also deemed a statement that sums up the entire message of the *Gospel of John*. Write out John 14:6.

- ♥ Jesus said, "*I am* the **way**, the **truth** and the **life** . . ." What is the difference between Jesus pointing the way to the Father and actually *being* the way to the Father? How would you explain to someone what it means to come to the Father *through* Jesus (14:6)?
- ♥ Are there any exceptions to Jesus' statement in 14:6? Why or why not? How does Acts 4:12 and 1 Timothy 2:3-6 compare with John 14:6? What did Jesus do to become *the way* to the Father?
- ♥ If Jesus really is the only way to the Father, what can you do about someone you love who does not believe this? (John 6:44, Matthew 6:9-10, John 14:13-14 and Mark 11:24 may help you in your answer.)
- ♥ How do the three metaphors of the *way*, the *truth* and the *life* relate to one another?

Read John 14:8-15

6. In John 14:9-11, what important fact about himself did Jesus want his followers to understand?

What are some reasons why this fact is so important?

- ♥ It is important to see that the Bible agrees with itself. How do the following Scriptures back up Jesus' claim? (Isaiah 9:6; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Philippians 2:6; Colossians 1:15; Hebrews 1:3)
 - ♥ In John 14:11, Jesus said that the proof of his identity was that his *words* matched his *works*. If you claim to be a follower of Christ, are your *words* and *works* (actions) **compatible** or **contradictory**? Why does it matter?
7. Jesus tells his disciples that his leaving and going back to the Father will be to their advantage. What two things will the followers of Christ experience because Jesus is returning to the Father (14:12, 13-14)?
 - ♥ To what degree are these two things part of your everyday experience? How so?
 - ♥ Do you think the promises Jesus makes in 14:12-14 are "blank check" promises about prayer? Why or why not? Why does Jesus want to answer our prayers (14:13)? When you ask God for something in prayer, how much consideration do you give to whether your requests are for his glory, his purposes, his kingdom and his will being done?
 - ♥ In 14:12, does Jesus mean that we will do works *greater in scope* or *greater in power* than he did? How so?
 8. From 14:12-15, what are the three actions are required of us that will lead to **answered prayer** and our **doing the works of Jesus**?

14:12 -

14:13-14 -

14:15 -

- ♥ Why is each action important? How do you rate yourself in each of these actions?

Read John 14:16-20; 25-27

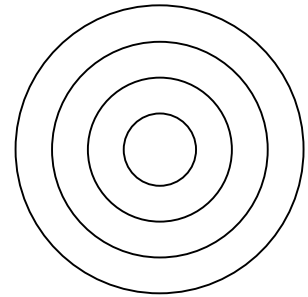
9. Jesus told his disciples that even though he was leaving, they would not be alone because the Father would send someone else to be with them - another *Counselor* (*Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengtheners, Standby, Friend*). Fill in the following chart, listing the specific things you learn about the Holy Spirit.

Verse	Facts about the Holy Spirit
14:16	
14:17	
14:26	

- ♥ What is something new you learned about the Holy Spirit from these verses that you did not realize before? How will this new truth make a difference in your relationship with God?
- ♥ Jesus said that the Holy Spirit lives in the person who is a disciple of Christ. How are you aware of the Holy Spirit's presence in your life? How are some ways your life would be different if the Holy Spirit did not live in you and if he was not always with you?

10. When the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost (**Acts 2**), a new, interactive relationship was established between God and the person who loves and obeys Jesus. If we could visualize this relationship, what might it look like? Use what Jesus says in **John 14:20** (and **17**) and **assign a circle for each person in the relationship.**

- ♥ How does this diagram help you in understanding your relationship to God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit)? How does this make you feel? What practical difference will it make in your life?
- ♥ Will the Holy Spirit ever leave you once he has made his home in you (**14:16-17**)? Why is this important?



Read John 14:21-24

11. If a spouse, family member or friend declared that they loved you, what are some basic **actions and attitudes** you would expect from them that would demonstrate the sincerity of their words?

What is the test of your love for Jesus (**14:15, 21, 24**)?

- ♥ Why do you think Jesus links *love* and *obedience*? Is it be possible to love Jesus and not obey his commands? Why or why not?
- ♥ If a stranger was watching your life, what conclusions would they come to about your love for Jesus?

Response

In what area of your life right now do you most need the peace that Jesus offers (**14:27**)? How is Jesus' peace different from the world's peace? How can you experience the peace that Christ offers? Is there something you need to do?

Encounter with Jesus

See yourself sitting at the feet of Jesus, eager to hear what Jesus has to say (perhaps as Mary did in **Luke 10:39**). Ask Jesus a question you have about something in **John 14** or ask him how a particular truth that you discovered in this chapter personally applies to you. Remain quiet in Jesus' presence, keeping the eyes of your heart on him. The Holy Spirit (who lives in you and teaches you all things) will bring thoughts to your mind from the mind of Christ. Write down what Jesus says to you. Ask him any other questions you might have. Listen for his reply. Thank Jesus that he lives in you and continues to show himself to you.