

John 14:1–14 — Bible Study Handout

Big Idea

Jesus comforts His disciples in a moment of fear and confusion by calling them to trust Him. He is not leaving them without hope. He is going to the Father, preparing a place for His people, and revealing that He Himself is the way, the truth, and the life. In a troubled world, John shows that real peace is found in trusting Christ, knowing the Father through Him, and continuing His work through prayer and faithful witness.

Context

- John 14 takes place during Jesus' final meal with His disciples.
- Judas has already left to betray Jesus, and Peter has been told he will deny Him.
- Jesus has washed the disciples' feet and given them the command to love one another.
- The disciples are unsettled because Jesus is speaking about leaving them.
- This passage is part of the Farewell Discourse, where Jesus prepares His followers for His death, resurrection, ascension, and the coming of the Holy Spirit.
- John's Gospel emphasizes that Jesus reveals the Father and gives eternal life to those who believe in Him (Morris).

Key Themes

- Trusting Jesus when the heart is troubled
- Jesus preparing a place for His people
- Jesus as the way, the truth, and the life
- Knowing the Father by knowing the Son
- Honest questions as part of real discipleship
- Prayer in Jesus' name
- The continuing work of Jesus through His followers

Passage Overview

Verses 1–4 — Trust in the Middle of Trouble

- Jesus begins with comfort, "Do not let your hearts be troubled."
- He does not deny that the disciples are facing sorrow, fear, and confusion.
- He calls them to trust Him in the same way they trust God.
- The "many rooms" in the Father's house point to secure dwelling with God, not just heavenly architecture.
- Jesus promises that His departure is not abandonment. He goes to prepare a place and will come back for His own (Keener).

Verses 5–7 — Jesus Is the Way, the Truth, and the Life

- Thomas asks the honest question, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"
- Jesus answers with one of the clearest claims in Scripture, "I am the way and the truth and the life."
- Jesus is the way because He brings us to the Father.
- Jesus is the truth because He reveals who God truly is.
- Jesus is the life because eternal life comes through Him.
- John 14:6 is exclusive, but it is not arrogant. It teaches that salvation depends on Christ's mercy, not human superiority (Köstenberger).

Verses 8–11 — Seeing the Father in the Son

- Philip asks Jesus to show them the Father.
- Jesus responds, "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father."
- Jesus is not merely a messenger from God. He reveals God's own heart and character.
- His words and works show the Father's presence at work in Him.
- If we want to know what God is like, we look at Jesus, His mercy, holiness, truth, compassion, humility, cross, and resurrection (O'Day).

Verses 12–14 — Prayer and the Continuing Work of Jesus

- Jesus says those who believe in Him will do the works He has been doing.
- The "greater works" do not mean believers become greater than Jesus.
- They point to the wider reach of Jesus' mission after His resurrection and ascension.
- Through the Spirit, the Church will carry the gospel beyond Jerusalem and into the world.
- Praying in Jesus' name is not using a magic phrase. It means praying in His character, under His authority, and for His purposes (Wesley).

Important Observations

- Jesus speaks comfort before He gives explanation.
- A troubled heart does not mean failed faith.

- Thomas and Philip both ask questions, and Jesus meets those questions with truth and grace.
- The Father's house is about relationship, belonging, and life with Christ.
- Jesus does not simply show the way to God. He is the way.
- John 14:6 must be read alongside John 3:16–17. The way to the Father is through Christ, and God's love reaches toward the whole world.
- Jesus reveals the Father. Distorted pictures of God must be corrected by looking at Christ.
- Prayer in Jesus' name aligns us with Jesus' mission, not our selfish desires.
- The Church continues Jesus' work through witness, mercy, prayer, holiness, and love.

Wesleyan Insights

- **Prevenient Grace:** Jesus comforts disciples who are confused, afraid, and about to fail Him. Grace comes before their full understanding or faithfulness (Collins).
- **Saving Grace:** Jesus is the way to the Father. Salvation is not earned through moral effort, religious performance, or human wisdom. It comes through Christ.
- **Assurance:** Jesus promises that there is room in the Father's house and that He will come back for His own. Our confidence rests in His promise, not our ability to hold everything together.
- **Sanctifying Grace:** Jesus is not only the way to heaven someday. He is the way of holy life now. Following Him shapes our love, truth, obedience, and prayer.
- **Prayer and Mission:** Praying in Jesus' name joins us to His work. Prayer is not about bending God to our will. It is about being drawn into the will and mission of Christ.

Life Application

- Many people know what it feels like to have a troubled heart. Jesus does not shame that. He speaks into it.
- Faith does not require us to understand everything before we trust. Thomas did not understand. Philip wanted more proof. Peter was about to fail. Still, Jesus kept speaking promise.
- When we are unsure of the road ahead, Jesus does not hand us a map and tell us to figure it out alone. He gives us Himself.
- In a world full of competing voices, Jesus remains the way, the truth, and the life.
- John 14:6 should make Christians humble, not arrogant. We are not saved because we are better than others. We are saved because Jesus is merciful.
- The Church is called to continue the works of Jesus through love, witness, prayer, service, and Spirit-formed holiness.
- Troubled hearts need more than positive thinking. They need the presence and promise of Christ.

Reflection Questions

1. What does Jesus mean when He says, "Do not let your hearts be troubled"?
2. Why do you think Jesus begins with comfort instead of a full explanation?
3. What does the promise of the Father's house teach us about belonging?
4. How does Thomas's question help us understand Jesus' answer?
5. What does it mean that Jesus is the way, not just someone who shows the way?
6. How does Jesus reveal the Father?
7. What does praying in Jesus' name really mean?
8. What might the "greater works" look like in the life of the Church today?

Key Verse

"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." — John 14:6

Takeaway

John 14:1–14 shows Jesus speaking peace into a room full of fear. He does not promise the disciples an easy road, but He promises Himself. He is the way to the Father, the truth that reveals God, and the life that death cannot destroy. When our hearts are troubled, Christ calls us back to trust. There is room in the Father's house, grace for confused disciples, truth for weary minds, and life for all who come to God through Him.