

# LIFE GROUP LESSON

John the Life-Giving Gospel • Week of July 12

## Introduction

It's wonderful to travel. I have had opportunities to visit new places and experience different cultures; seen such icons as Big Ben, the Houses of Parliament, and Westminster in London. In college I had the opportunity to see the coral-laden waters of Tahiti enroute to Australia where we visited the Sydney Opera house. When Charles and I were on the "Journeys of Paul" tour we visited many places in the Mediterranean. About ten years ago, on a trip to India with his alumni team, Charles and I paid our respects at the Taj Mahal.

We've led pilgrimages to the Holy Land with many of you. Visited East Germany with our oldest daughter and her twins at Christmas time, where we walked the cobble-stone streets of Schwarzenberg that lead up to city center and the castle church. We spent a day in Moravian community of Herrnhut, saw the fortress at Wartburg, and walked the streets of Wittenberg where Luther posted his ninety-five theses to the door of the castle church, igniting the spark that would set ablaze the Reformation.

And of course, our Christ Church family and friends have been part of many medical mission trips to Ghana West Africa since 2008. What a blessing to partner with our evangelist friend, Joseph Otsin, and share the love of Christ through medical clinics and crusades. Christ Church has been an integral part of planting over forty new congregations throughout various regions in Ghana.

## Background

John, chapter fourteen, is about traveling. It's about going from anxiety to assurance. It's also about being on mission. Jesus tells his disciples he is about to leave them. Through heavy hearts and racing thoughts they hear his voice: "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. There's more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am" (Jn 14:1-3). What is happening? Why is he leaving them? Where is he going?

## Read John 14:1-14

- One question we all face: How can I find peace with God? It's unlikely that we will ever experience the peace of God until we have peace *with* God. If you are struggling, know this: the disciples also struggled. They struggled to

make sense of what Jesus said. How does Jesus' response to Thomas speak to you today (vv5-6)?

- What is poignant about Jesus' response to Philip (vv8-9)?

There is nothing like coming home after traveling. Home is where we are *known*. Jesus says if we have seen him, we have seen the Father (v7, 9); and once we invite Jesus into our hearts, then Jesus *knows* us and we *know* him. Yet, there are times when dysfunction like 'symptoms' indicate a lack of full surrender to Jesus being at home in our hearts. Is Jesus at home in your heart today? What does it mean *to trust him* with your heart, your home?

- Perhaps you allow anxiety to be a regular (albeit unwanted) guest in your home. At times, we may get so used to living with fear and anxiety, it's as though we feel obliged to pull up a seat and expect its ugly company. Yet, anxiety and fear do not have to be in our home. We can open the door and command it to leave, and instead say: "*Jesus, you ARE welcome here. My heart belongs to you. Please make yourself at home!*"
- What happens when Jesus shows up?

## Read John 14:15-26

When Jesus called his disciples, they gave up their earthly homes, fishing nets and tax booths. Peter spoke up and said, "We've given up everything to follow you" to which Jesus replied, "Yes, and I assure you that everyone who has given up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or property, for my sake and for the Good News, will receive now in return a hundred times as many houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and property—along with persecution. And in the world to come that person will have eternal life" (see Mark 10:28-30). Jesus acknowledges that persecution will be part of the journey.

Why are we not naturally at peace with God? ... it is because of sin. Jesus offered himself on the cross to atone for sin (Romans 5:1,6,10). The moment we profess faith in Christ, confessing with our mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believing in our heart that God raised him from the dead (Romans 10:9) – we are saved. We are justified with God (made right) by grace through faith in Christ. God's regenerating grace commences to make us new (2 Corinthians 5:17). Once the journey begins, sanctifying grace begins an ongoing work in our hearts to make us holy; to lead, guide, and mold. No wonder Jesus promised:

"If you love me, obey my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you

now and later will be in you” (Jn 14:15-17).

### Read John 14:27-31

Heaven is real and so is hell. Though it is difficult to think about eternal separation from God, remember Jesus’ words: “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me (Jn 14:6). Instead of complaining and insisting that ‘you think’ there should be multiple ways to heaven, be grateful God has provided *a* way. He loved you so much he gave his only Son! Stop demanding ‘your way’ (a dead-end) and instead hear Jesus’ words from the Sermon on the Mount:

“You can enter God’s Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it” (Matthew 7:13-14).

### In Closing

Notice v 27 sounds like v1 –

*“Don’t let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me” (Jn14:1).*

*“I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don’t be troubled or afraid (Jn 14:27).*

The ‘bookend’ imperative Jesus gives his disciples tells *me* we have control over being troubled and afraid. We don’t have to keep company with fear and anxiety. Make the choice to live into what Jesus says: *Trust in God, and trust also in me!* Let’s declare aloud:

“I will trust you, Lord. I choose to trust you, my Lord and my God! With the help of the Holy Spirit, I am taking charge over my home by giving you control. Lord, I receive the gift of peace of mind and heart that you offer. I pray salvation over my earthly home and thank you for the eternal hope of being at home with you forever in heaven. Lord Jesus, you are my peace. You are the gift. Your presence is the greatest reward.”

### One Year Bible Reading

July 12: 1 Chronicles 12:19-14:17, Romans 1:1-17, Psalm 9:13-20, Proverbs 19:4-5

July 13: 1 Chronicles 15:1-16:36, Romans 1:18-32, Psalm 10:1-15, Proverbs 19:6-7

July 14: 1 Chronicles 16:37-18:17, Romans 2:1-24, Psalm 10:16-18, Proverbs 19:8-9

July 15: 1 Chronicles 19:1-21:30, Romans 2:25-3:8, Psalm 11:1-7, Prov. 19:10-12

July 16: 1 Chronicles 22:1-23:32, Romans 3:9-31, Psalm 12:1-8, Proverbs 19:13-14

July 17: 1 Chronicles 24:1-26:11, Romans 4:1-12, Psalm 13:1-6, Proverbs 19:15-16

July 18: 1 Chronicles 26:12-27:34, Romans 4:13-5:5, Psalm 14:1-7, Proverbs 19:17



**Text: John 14**

### PLAIN TRUTH:

Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_ to our heavenly

\_\_\_\_\_ and trusting in Him

\_\_\_\_\_ our passage and fills us with

\_\_\_\_\_ for the journey.

1. A troubled heart is strengthened by

\_\_\_\_\_ and protected by God’s

\_\_\_\_\_.

2. Heaven is \_\_\_\_\_ and so is \_\_\_\_\_.

3. Jesus is Not \_\_\_\_\_ - He Is \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Real \_\_\_\_\_ leads to real \_\_\_\_\_.

5. If you \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus then \_\_\_\_\_ him as the fruit of obedience is \_\_\_\_\_.

**July 12, 2026**