Leader’s Guide

Living Faithfully
Have You Made Your Reservation
John 14:1-4
Pastor Sebastiano Rosa
November 1, 2026

Conversation Goal

To help group members honestly acknowledge the difficulties and uncertainties they're experiencing, explore the hope Jesus offers through His presence, promises, and ongoing work, and consider how trusting Him can shape their attitudes, relationships, and actions even when their circumstances remain unresolved.

Synopsis

Life is difficult. Whether we're navigating personal struggles, strained relationships, uncertainty about the future, or challenges within our church family, we all experience seasons when our hearts are troubled.

In John 14, Jesus speaks to His disciples during one of those seasons. They have followed Him for three years, believing they understood where He was leading them. Now Jesus is telling them He's leaving, and they cannot yet follow. Their expectations are unraveling, and they are struggling to understand what comes next.

Into that uncertainty, Jesus says, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me."

Jesus offers His disciples hope rooted not in an immediate change of circumstances but in His faithfulness. Our hope isn't that life will always be easy or that every difficulty will resolve as we expect. Our hope is that Jesus is trustworthy, remains at work, and will ultimately bring us into His presence.

1. ACKNOWLEDGE: Jesus tells His disciples, "Do not let your hearts be troubled," at a time when they have every reason to feel confused and afraid. How does understanding their circumstances change the way you hear Jesus' words?

Teaching Point

Jesus isn't speaking to people whose lives are comfortable and predictable. His disciples are facing the possibility of losing the person they've built their lives around. They don't understand what's happening, and their expectations about the future are being challenged.

Jesus doesn't begin by explaining every detail or resolving every uncertainty. He begins by inviting them to trust Him.

Having a troubled heart isn't necessarily evidence of a lack of faith. What matters is where we turn with our troubled hearts.

Faith doesn't require us to deny our emotions or pretend that difficult circumstances aren't difficult. Jesus invites us to bring our fears, disappointments, and questions into our relationship with Him.

Follow-Up Prompts

- What do you imagine the disciples were feeling as Jesus told them He was leaving?
- Why do we sometimes assume that strong faith means we shouldn't feel anxious, confused, or discouraged?
- What's the difference between acknowledging difficulty and allowing it to consume us?
- When life feels uncertain, what tends to happen to your thoughts, emotions, or behavior?
- What helps you bring your honest feelings to God rather than hiding them?
- Is there an area of life right now where your heart feels particularly troubled?

Additional Scripture

- Psalm 13:1–6 — David honestly expresses distress while continuing to trust God.
- Psalm 62:5–8 — Pour out your hearts to God.
- Matthew 26:36–39 — Jesus experiences deep anguish in Gethsemane.
- Philippians 4:6–7 — Bring our concerns to God in prayer.

2. TRUST: Jesus doesn't give His disciples all the answers they're looking for. Instead, He tells them to trust Him. What is the difference between trusting Jesus and trusting that our circumstances will turn out the way we want?

Teaching Point

The disciples had expectations about what Jesus would do. They believed He would establish His kingdom in a way they could recognize and understand. But Jesus was doing something far greater than they could imagine.

Their confidence had to shift from their understanding of the plan to their relationship with the One leading them. We often do something similar. We find it easier to trust God when life unfolds as expected. But when circumstances become confusing, we may begin to question whether He's still present or working. Trusting Jesus means believing in His character and faithfulness even when we cannot understand His purposes or predict the outcome. That doesn't mean assuming every circumstance or human decision reflects God's will. It means recognizing that Jesus remains trustworthy even when people and circumstances are not.

Follow-Up Prompts

- Why do we find it easier to trust God when we understand what's happening?
- How can unmet expectations affect our relationship with God?

- What's the difference between trusting Jesus and assuming everything happening around us is good or right?
- What have you learned about God's character through previous difficult seasons?
- How can we continue trusting Jesus while still asking questions or seeking clarity?
- What might trusting Jesus look like in a situation that hasn't been resolved?

Additional Scripture

- Proverbs 3:5–6 — Trust in the Lord rather than our own understanding.
- Psalm 46:1–3 — God is our refuge and strength.
- Romans 8:31–39 — Nothing can separate us from Christ's love.
- Hebrews 10:23 — Hold firmly to hope because God is faithful.

3. REMEMBER: Jesus reassures His disciples that He is preparing a place for them and will return for them. How does the promise of eternity with Jesus offer hope for the difficulties we're experiencing today?

Teaching Point

Jesus gives His disciples a promise that extends beyond their immediate circumstances. Their present uncertainty isn't the end of the story. Jesus is going ahead of them, and He promises that they will ultimately be with Him.

This future hope doesn't make present suffering insignificant. It reminds us that suffering doesn't have the final word. Sebastiano also emphasized Jesus' ongoing intercession for us. We aren't left to navigate the Christian life through our own strength. Jesus advocates for us, and the Holy Spirit is at work within us.

Christian hope isn't simply optimism that things will improve. It's confidence in the faithfulness of Jesus and the future He has promised.

Follow-Up Prompts

- What's the difference between hope and optimism?
- How can an eternal perspective change the way we experience present difficulties?
- Why is it important that Jesus promises not merely a place, but that we will be with Him?
- What does it mean to you that Jesus is our advocate?
- How does knowing the Holy Spirit is at work within us strengthen our hope?
- Have you experienced a season when hope sustained you even though your circumstances didn't immediately change?
- What promises of Jesus do you most need to remember right now?

Additional Scripture

- Romans 8:18–25 — Present suffering and future glory.
- 2 Corinthians 4:16–18 — Fixing our eyes on what is eternal.

- Hebrews 7:25 — Jesus always lives to intercede for us.
- 1 Peter 1:3–5 — A living hope through the resurrection of Jesus.
- Revelation 21:1–5 — God's promise to make all things new.

4. PARTICIPATE: Sebastiano reminded us that Jesus continues to work in us through the Holy Spirit, preparing us for eternity and empowering us to follow Him today. What does it look like to remain available to God's work when life feels uncertain or difficult?

Teaching Point

Jesus' promise of eternity isn't an invitation to disengage from the present. We are still called to follow Him, love one another, serve faithfully, and remain responsive to the Holy Spirit.

Sometimes we respond to difficulty by withdrawing, becoming defensive, trying to control everything, or waiting until circumstances improve before taking another step. But spiritual growth doesn't have to stop during difficult seasons.

We can trust Jesus with the future while remaining faithful to what He's asking of us today. And that faithfulness may include difficult but necessary work: seeking understanding, addressing concerns, repairing relationships, receiving support, or making changes. The Holy Spirit doesn't simply help us endure. He also helps us grow, discern, and respond.

Follow-Up Prompts

- How do difficult circumstances sometimes affect our willingness to engage with others or serve?
- What's the difference between patiently trusting God and passively avoiding something that needs attention?
- How can we recognize where the Holy Spirit may be inviting us to grow?
- What might God develop in us through a difficult season?
- How can we remain available to serve without ignoring our own need for rest, healing, or support?
- Where might God be inviting you to take a faithful step even though the future is uncertain?

Additional Scripture

- James 1:2–5 — Perseverance, maturity, and asking God for wisdom.
- Galatians 5:22–25 — Living by the Spirit.
- Philippians 2:12–13 — God works in us to desire and act.
- Micah 6:8 — Act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.

5. RESPOND: When we truly believe that Jesus is trustworthy, that He is still at work, and that our future is secure in Him, how should that hope change the way we respond to the difficulties we're facing today?

Teaching Point

Hope isn't simply something we feel. It's something that can shape the way we live.

- Because Jesus is faithful, we can face uncertainty without needing to control every outcome.
- Because He is present, we can acknowledge our fears without being ruled by them.
- Because He is working within us, we can take steps of obedience even when they feel difficult.
- Because our future is secure in Him, we can remain engaged in the work He's given us today.

Hope doesn't necessarily change our circumstances immediately. But it can change how we live within them.

Follow-Up Prompts

- What would change if you approached your current difficulty with greater confidence in Jesus?
- Is there a fear or uncertainty that has been influencing your decisions?
- Where might you need to release control?
- Is there a relationship or conversation that needs your attention?
- What might it look like to move forward without rushing past something that needs healing?
- What is one action, attitude, or habit the Holy Spirit may be inviting you to practice this week?
- How can this group support you as you take that step?

Additional Scripture

- Romans 15:13 — God fills us with joy, peace, and hope through the Holy Spirit.
- Colossians 3:1–2 — Set our hearts and minds on things above.
- 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 — Rejoice, pray, and give thanks.
- Hebrews 12:1–3 — Fix our eyes on Jesus and persevere.