

Series: Biblical Answers to Life's Big Questions; Sermon: **The Gospel and Other Religions**
Delivered by: **Dr. Josh Moody**, senior pastor; Date: **May 29, 2016**

Bible text explored: John 14:1–11

¹“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” ⁹Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.” [ESV]

Review and application questions

During a conversation with Jesus recorded in John 14, His disciples ask Him 3 questions, questions that are commonly asked today. The text provides Jesus's answers in this week's episode of “*Biblical Answers to Life's Big Questions*”.

1st question: How do we get to heaven?

1. Examine this first from the non-Christian's perspective by considering what their answers would be to the following (think specifically of the responses of your non-Christian friend, or co-worker, or family member); share your answers with the group:
 - a. Where / what is heaven?
 - b. How do you get there?
2. Now examine this from the perspective of Jesus's teaching in John 14:1-7; share your answers with the group:
 - a. Where / what is heaven?
 - b. How do you get there?
3. Using the story of an untrained wind-surfer (that would be a much younger Josh Moody) who “gets the hang of it” but keeps wandering farther from shore and has to be brought back by his instructor, Pastor Josh stated that “the message of the Bible is a rescue operation”. What do you suppose he meant by that in light of the wind-surfing incident? How does that statement implicate you?
4. How might you respond to your non-Christian friend, your co-worker, or an unsaved family member after they've given you their response to the questions in #1 above? How important is it that you engage them in this conversation? How would you prepare for that conversation?

2nd question: Who is God?

5. Questions that populate current events and social media include: “Are all religions worshipping the same God?” ... “Do all religions lead to the same God?” ... “Do

Christians, Muslims and Jews worship the same God? How do you hear people respond to those questions?

6. From John 14:8-14, how does Jesus answer this question, “Who is God?” (Take the time to consider all of what Jesus is saying in these 7 verses)

3rd question: Why us and not everyone else as well?

7. You may have heard, or even been asked the following question, “*If you believe your God is the only God, isn't that rather arrogant?*” How would you respond?
8. Read John 14:15-24. How does Jesus answer Judas's question?
9. What do you think Pastor Josh meant by the following statement? “When you think of the exclusivity question (Why us and not everyone else as well?) think of a marriage, not the promotion of a particular sports franchise.”

Pastor Josh stated that “One word really sums up the whole of the Bible: Rescue – or to put it in more theological terms: Grace.” Who in your life needs rescuing? Close by praying by name for those in each group member's life who are in need of this Biblical rescue.