

John 14:8-14  
Small Group Study  
“If you want to know God, get to know Jesus.”

We began the sermon this week with a brief review of how to read Scripture, or better, how to have Scripture read us, practicing three disciplines:

1. **Humble Submission** = place your whole self--intellectually, emotionally, spiritually--under the Word; under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, asking God to open a new way of **seeing** and **thinking** about and **being** in our world.
2. **Careful Listening & discerning:** to *immerse* yourself in the story; *open your mind*; *surrender your assumptions*. Allow Scripture to form your experience and give direction, *not vice versa*.
3. **Spiritual Engagement:** to ask questions about what God is saying. **Not**, “what shall we do?” but “Who are we called to be?” and “How are we going to live?”

What do you think? How might these dispositions help your reading of Scripture?

John 14:8-14 drops us into the middle of an ongoing conversation Jesus is having with his disciples which, in turn, points to a primary theme in John’s Gospel. Take a moment to remind one another of the big picture and the specific conversation:

**Big Picture:**

In John’s Gospel, Jesus refers to God as Father 118 times! Look up and read a sampling of verses in John preceding our study of Jesus’ Parting Words.

- John 1:14
- John 1:18
- John 3:35
- John 5:17-18
- John 6:40
- John 8:19
- John 8:42
- John 10:17-18
- John 12:27-28

Now, look up and read the following verses in the First Testament:

- Deuteronomy 32:6
- Isaiah 63:16
- Isaiah 64:8
- Jeremiah 3:4
- Jeremiah 3:19
- Malachi 1:6
- Malachi 2:10

Describe the difference between the O.T. understanding of Father and what Jesus is saying in John’s Gospel.

How does this difference deepen our understanding of Jesus?

*“If you want to know God, get to know Jesus.”*

The metaphor of God as Father can be difficult for some people to accept. How might you respond to someone who says,

“If God is like my father, I want no part of God!”

Or asks, “Isn’t Jesus promoting male dominance and patriarchy?”

**Specific conversation:**

Read out loud together the full context of John 14:1-14.

How would you summarize what Jesus is saying to his disciples and to us?

Who then, are we called to be? How are we going to live?

Conclude your study by reading out loud together Paul’s prayer in Ephesians 3: 14-21

For this reason we kneel before the Father, <sup>15</sup>from whom every family<sup>[a]</sup> in heaven and on earth derives its name. <sup>16</sup>I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17</sup>so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, <sup>18</sup>may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, <sup>19</sup>and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

<sup>20</sup>Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, <sup>21</sup>to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.