

John 14:1-6

CG Discussion Guide// Week of 27 August, 2023

INTRODUCTION

- Icebreaker: When you think of home, what comes to your mind?
- Take some time to pray for one another's needs and requests (refer to Prayer Guide as needed)
- Pray for Harbor Network sister church: River City Church, Kalona, IA (Pastor: Rodney Gehman)
- Choose discussion questions, prayer guide, or abide time questions depending on your group's needs

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- (Refer to the icebreaker question then ask) What do you make of the fact that Jesus describes heaven as home and that Jesus is the true and better "Homemaker and Host"?
 - Many Christians over the centuries have described the church as heaven's outpost, a little taste of home. If you resonate with this idea, share about a time when your time in the local church (Redeemer, or other home churches in your past) reflected this.
 - If not, in what ways do you think our local church can do better?
- Just like the disciples (represented by Thomas in v. 5), there are times when we find Jesus' teachings somewhat confusing, frustrating, difficult to understand, and hard to follow. Which of Jesus' teachings, either in this passage or in other places, have you personally had a hard time accepting or understanding? How have you worked through those knotty teachings?
- Jesus' statement in v.6, as rightfully beloved by countless brothers and sisters over the centuries, is seen as controversial, and even dangerous, in many different contexts, including our modern times. Why would it be so "problematic" for many people? Please share if you have personally encountered controversies over this in your own experience.
- Connecting v. 6 with v. 5, instead of just being a clear claim to exclusivity, v. 6 was given as a comforting promise to a confused disciple. How is Jesus being "the way, the truth, and the life" a comfort to you? What other parts of this passage have given you much comfort?
 - How can we comfort each other with the truths of this passage this week?

Abide Time: John 14:1-6

- What realities are you facing this week? What is occupying your thoughts? How do you feel?

- Read the passage and let God speak to you in you reality through his Word. Write down your reflections as God shepherds you:
 - What does the text say is true about God and his character?

 - What does it say about the world around you?

- How do your reflections above speak to your reality?

- What did you experience in your heart and soul as God spoke to you and your reality?

- What did you experience in your body, given your reflections and what you experienced in your heart and soul?

- How is God inviting you to live differently?

- What does all of what you shared above say about God and his relationship with you?

WEEKLY PRAYER GUIDE

The Bible promises that anything we ask for in Jesus' name – that is according to His will – shall be granted to us (John 14:13-14). In view of this great promise, the prayer requests are all grounded in Scripture. When we pray Scripture, we can be certain that we are praying according to God's will.

That does not mean God will grant our requests in our preferred time or according to our frail wisdom; but it does mean that we can pray confidently knowing that God delights to answer these requests, for they are His words.

Use the accompanying Scripture verses to shape and inform your prayers.

PRAY FOR YOURSELF & YOUR FAMILY:

- That your daily life will bring honor to the name of Jesus – (2 Thess. 1:11-12)
- That you will cast all of your anxieties on God – (1 Peter 5:6-7)
- That you will consider your trials as an opportunity for joy – (James 1:2-4)

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH:

- That the power of Christ will rest on our church and ministries [Worship Gathering, Community Groups, Men/Women, Youth, Children, etc.] – (2 Cor. 12:9-10)
- That God will give us the wisdom and faith that we desperately need to continue in faithful mission – (James 1:5-8)
- That God will make us fruitful in ministry – (John 15:1-2) – and bold in witness – (Eph. 6:18-20)

PRAY FOR OUR CITY:

- That God will give wisdom to our government (local, state, and national) that we may lead peaceful, godly lives – (1 Timothy 2:1-2)
- That the Lord will continue to provide open doors of gospel ministry in IU and the Bloomington community – (1 Corinthians 16:9)
- That the work of God will be displayed in the lives of the members of our sister churches – (John 9:3)

PRAY FOR OUR WORLD:

- That the persecuted church will find fellowship with Jesus as they share in his sufferings – (Philippians 3:10-11)
- That the Lord of the harvest will send out more workers to unreached people groups because they have been gripped by Paul's missionary logic in Romans 10:13-17 – (Matthew 9:37-38)
- That Christ will return bringing the fullness of salvation with him – (Revelation 22:20)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Adopt-A-Student Program! Contact Ptr. Matt for Details
- September 10: Redeemer's 11 Birthday! Baptism Sunday!
- September 13: Redeemer Women
- September 16: Membership Class
- September 29-30: Gospel-Shaped Parenting Conference

Reminder: All events are listed in the Events tab in our Redeemer app. You can RSVP for specific events by going to the Events tab, clicking on an event, and following the link to register.