



Week 22
Discussion Questions

Text: John 14:1-14

Icebreaker: What do you think heaven will be like?

1. Read this week's passage. What stands out from the text or sermon?
2. What is the cause of the disciple's troubled hearts?
The disciples were troubled because Jesus has just told them he is leaving them and made claims of their unfaithfulness. The disciples have expectations and they believe Jesus is the Messiah, the one who has come to save them, but now he says he is leaving and they cannot follow. These claims would be troubling to them and cast doubt on who they think he is.
3. What troubles your heart?
4. Jesus urges the disciples to believe as a reassurance to their troubled hearts. What is it that Jesus wants them to believe?
Jesus wants them to believe everything he has been trying to show them over the last three years. He is one with God, the true Messiah, doing the work of God on earth. He wants them to believe God's will is to be present with them forever and to redeem them. He wants them to believe he is the source of life and life eternal.
5. How does Jesus' reassurance to the disciples bring us reassurance in our own troubles?
Remembering the character of God as one who longs to dwell with us, who sent his Son to dwell with us, and makes a way for us to be with him forever puts our present suffering into perspective. Jesus has overcome death on our behalf and as we will see in the next section of John, Jesus has left his presence with us now, through the Holy Spirit.
6. Jesus tells the disciples the place he is going to prepare is "his Father's house." Jesus used this label before in John 2:16 when talking about the temple. What was the purpose of the temple?

The purpose of the temple was a holy place for God's presence to dwell. God was present in the garden with Adam and Eve, but drove them from his presence when they were no longer holy. Throughout the Old Testament, God works with his people to find a way to be present with them, giving instructions on how to build a tabernacle and a temple—a holy place—for his presence to dwell. The same word for tabernacle is used of Jesus taking on flesh in John 1:14—"Jesus tabernacled" allowing God's presence to dwell bodily on earth.

7. What connection exists between the temple and heaven? (Reference: Genesis 3:8; Exodus 25:8-9; Isaiah 57:15; John 1:14; Hebrews 9:24; Hebrews 10:19-25; Revelation 21:1-4).

Jesus tells us that he is going to "his Father's house" the dwelling place of God. Heaven is where God dwells and one day we will be with him again.

8. How does comparing the temple and heaven change or shape your picture of heaven (the place Jesus is going to prepare)?

Whatever we believe about the nature of heaven should be defined by the presence of God. If we know the character of Jesus, we know the character of God. Being in heaven, in the presence of God, a holy place, will look like Jesus' presence. We have a true picture of what it means to be present with Jesus. This should shape our picture of heaven.

9. At this point in our study of John, Jesus' emphasis on belief and equating himself with the Father may seem redundant (Hasn't he said this over and over?). Jesus reiterates his point over and over because the disciples still fail to get it. How does the disciples' struggle to comprehend Jesus' words resonate with your own spiritual struggles?

10. It is very common for Christians to end their prayers with the phrase, "in Jesus' name, Amen." This language comes from John 14:14, when Jesus tells his disciples that he will do anything they ask in his name. This is obviously not a "blank check" promise from Jesus, otherwise every one of our faithful prayers would be answered the way we want them answered. What does Jesus mean when he says he will answer every prayer asked in his name?

To pray "in Jesus' name" means to pray in accordance with Jesus' name and character. Jesus says that those who believe in him will do as he does. In the book of John, Jesus continually seeks the will of the Father and not the will of others when he had the opportunity. Those who pray in accordance with Jesus' character will, like him, pray for God's will over their own. Our prayer life should seek to pray for the things of Jesus. And, just like Jesus, who prays for "this cup to pass" we are not discouraged from praying for the things we want/need, but that the answers will be according to his will.