

SKEPTICAL

UPSTATE GROUP LEADER GUIDE

WEEK 2 - *JOHN 14:1-11*

LEADER NOTES

In a world filled with other religions, Christians make the striking claim that Jesus is the only way to receive eternal life. Our culture makes the claim that every religion leads to salvation, but this is simply not the case. We were made to know the One true God and to glorify Him alone. We must understand that Jesus is God in flesh, and He alone is everything we could ever need. The bottom line is this: Jesus is not one of many; He is the one and only.

As we are working through some of our faith's biggest questions, encourage your group to ask all the questions that they may have. Create an environment that makes the people in your group feel comfortable to ask these questions.

In addition, the topics we are addressing in this series can be daunting. We want to encourage you to listen to other Teaching Pastors sermons on these topics. You can find their messages [HERE](#).

Please continue to ask your group about gospel connections and conversations. You can complete the form [HERE](#).

COMMUNITY

OPEN THE GROUP BY CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER AND ALLOWING A MOMENT FOR EVERYONE TO HAVE A PLACE TO BELONG.

START THE GROUP BY TAKING PRAYER REQUESTS, FINDING OUT ABOUT PEOPLE'S WEEK, AND PRAYING FOR ONE ANOTHER.

OPENING QUESTIONS:

- ***WHAT MAKES CHRISTIANITY DIFFERENT FROM EVERY OTHER RELIGION IN THE WORLD?***
- ***IN WHAT WAYS IS CHRISTIANITY EXCLUSIVE AND IN WHAT WAYS IS CHRISTIANITY INCLUSIVE?***

Leader, Christianity is different from every other religion in the world because Jesus Christ has come to save us. Other religions teach that you can get to heaven on your own merit and works. Christianity teaches that you had no way to get to heaven so Jesus left heaven and came down to you. Likewise, Christianity is exclusive because not everyone gets into heaven, only those who believe in Jesus. However, Christianity is the most inclusive religion in the world because all are invited to believe in Jesus and be saved!

SCRIPTURE

TAKE THIS TIME TO STUDY THE BIBLE TOGETHER. REMEMBER, THE GOAL IS NOT JUST TO CONVEY INFORMATION, BUT TO HELP PEOPLE IN YOUR GROUP LEARN TO READ THE BIBLE FOR THEMSELVES.

THE POINT

JESUS IS NOT ONE OF MANY; HE IS THE ONE AND ONLY.

John 14:1-11

“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. 2 In 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? 3 And 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. 4 And you know the way to where I am going.” 5 Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” 6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

8 Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” 9 Jesus 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’? 10 Do 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. 11 Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), John 14:1-11.

STUDY NOTES

John 14 comes as Jesus' time on earth is drawing near. As Jesus is preparing to leave, He is preparing His believers for His departure. In this conversation between Christ and His disciples we are given some of the deepest revelations in all of scripture about who Jesus is and what Jesus is able to do for us. Let's examine these truths in the reverse order they are presented in the text.

Jesus is God in the flesh.

Toward the end of the conversation, as the disciples are discouraged by the announcement of Christ's leaving and confused by His proclamation that He goes to make a place for them, Phillip cuts right to the heart of their trouble and confusion. Phillip asks Jesus to show them the Father. If the disciples can see the Father, then their troubles will melt away and their confusion will give way to clarity.

Jesus' answer to Philip is staggering. "Phillip, have I been with you so long and you don't know me?" Do not miss what Christ is saying. Jesus is not saying that He is the Father, but Jesus is saying that He is the perfect revelation of God the Father. Everything you need to know about the Father you can know by looking at Jesus. You cannot get to God, but God, in Christ has come to you. There is no God behind the back of Jesus. Look to Jesus and you will find God!

This revelation makes the first revelation of Christ in John 14 easier to understand

Jesus is everything we could ever need.

Earlier in the conversation, Thomas asks Jesus how he could know the way to this place Christ was going to prepare. Jesus' answer is simple, yet profound. "I am the way, and the truth, and the life."

Jesus is making clear to Thomas, the way to eternal life is found by looking at Him. The truth you need to believe to have eternal life is found by looking at Him. The life that you are after, on earth and in eternity, is found by looking at Him. This is a call to recognize the sufficiency of Christ. He is all we need in this life and in the next!

For more resources on this passage click the resources link [HERE](#).

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- *Why does Jesus anticipate that the disciples' hearts will be troubled? In what ways does Jesus' absence make our hearts troubled in this life? What are some things making your heart troubled this week?*
- *How does the promise that Jesus goes to prepare a place for us impact the way that we live our lives in the here and now?*
- *If you had to summarize what it means that Jesus is the Way, the Truth, the Life, what would you say?*
- *How does Jesus claim to be the ONLY Way, Truth, and Life rub against the culture that we live in?*
- *Why is it important that Christians understand the exclusive nature of Christianity and the salvation that Jesus offers?*
- *What does it mean that we can look at Jesus and know the Father?*

COMMISSION

AS YOU WRAP UP YOUR GROUP, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT EVERYONE KNOWS WE GO INTO THE WORLD ON MISSION FOR JESUS. USE THIS TIME TO FOCUS EVERYONE TO LIVE ON MISSION AS YOU LEAVE.

- **OUR CULTURE IS SKEPTICAL OF THE CLAIMS OF CHRISTIANITY. HOW DOES OUR DISCUSSION THIS WEEK EFFECT THE WAY YOU LIVE YOUR LIFE IN THIS WORLD?**
- **WHO IN YOUR LIFE NEEDS TO KNOW JESUS?**