

Leader's Guide

JESUS TEACHES Us... ABOUT LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

October 29, 2006
John 14:1-21

LEADER'S GUIDE
for small group
discussion prepared
to aid you in digging
deeper and taking to
heart what we are
exploring on
Sunday mornings.



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Overview

Jesus is telling His followers about the intimacy and closeness that they will soon have with the Father—closeness that He is making possible by “preparing the way.”

Walk it through

When in conversation, we sometimes get “stuck” on something that is said, overlooking the rest of the conversation to focus on the point that we think is most important. But, we have to be careful when we listen to the words of Jesus that we don’t miss *His* point!

We read a large section for this discussion. That can be challenging because there might be a lot of questions raised. But try and focus on what appears to be the big idea: *Jesus wants His followers to see and know God.*

Jesus is going to the Father (14:2, 6). He is not going to a *place* as much as He is going to a *person*. And He intends for His followers to join Him there (14:3). Not just when they die, but as soon as the way is prepared (which would happen through His death).

The disciples want to see the Father (14:5, 8); Jesus wants that for them. To see the Father is to relate to Him, to know Him. And while He has been with them Jesus has shown them the Father. And when the Spirit comes, He will reveal even more clearly both the Father and the Son to the disciples (14:20).

When will “that day” come? It’s not Jesus’ “second coming” or the day each of them dies. That day is the day when Jesus’ prayer is answered (14:16) and the Spirit comes to take up residence in their hearts (14:17). Seeing as all who believe in Jesus in our day *have* the Spirit indwelling them, this offer of intimacy and “knowing” God, is what should describe our lives with Him today.

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Thinking it through . . .

Have you ever found yourself, in the midst of a conversation, getting “stuck” on just one idea? When do you find yourself holding on to one idea while the rest of the conversation slips by?

That sometimes happens when we listen to the words of Jesus. Intent on what we want to know, we sometimes don’t “get” what He is really trying to say. Keep that in mind as you read John 14:1-21.

Let’s try and keep the “big picture” in mind. Where is it that Jesus is going? (14:2, 6)

What do the disciples want to see? (14:8)

What does Jesus tell them He wants them to know? About Himself? About the Father?

There is coming a day—in their not-too-distant future—when they will come to know more fully (14:20). What is it that they will know then?

Try and sum up what Jesus’ overriding concern is for His followers. What is it that He wants for them?

What difference does this make?

The life with God that Jesus spoke of as being available to His followers in their near future is available to you now. Are you living in the reality of the preparation already having been done for you to draw close to God?