

Leader's Guide

JESUS TEACHES US... ABOUT LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

November 5, 2006
John 14:22-31

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

Although it is common to speak of being “saved” as “having Jesus in my heart,” Jesus speaks of the ongoing life He wants with His followers in richer ways than that.

Walk it through

Everyone *conceptualizes*. That is, we all create some kind of mental picture of what our relationship with God is like. The challenge for us is to keep our understanding of that relationship consistent with the truth. We want to compare and contrast the way we often think about life with God with what Jesus said in John 14.

For many Christians, the Father lives somewhere far off and distant, Jesus “walks with me . . . talks with me” (but in a “fuzzy” kind of way), and the Spirit, well, we’re not really too sure about how to relate to Him. In John 14:16-31, Jesus gives us insight into what our relationship with the Triune God is to be like.

The Father loves those who have relationship with the Son (14:21). The Father will come and “take up residence” (that is the sense of “make Our abode” in 14:23) with the believer.

The Spirit will come also to live in the follower of Jesus (14:17). He will be their forever companion (14:16), and will actively teach, guide, and lead them in their understanding of both the Father and the Son (14:26).

Jesus, the Son, will also “take up residence” with those who believe in Him. He will disclose Himself to them (14:21); in that sense, He will come to them (14:18) and they will “see” (experience and know) Him (14:19).

How rich our relationship is with God—
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!

Discussion Guide

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Thinking it through . . .

Although the “picture” we each carry around in our head about our relationship with God is only *representative*, it does influence how we relate to Him. (For example, if you think of the Father as living far, far away in a castle in the sky, you will relate to Him differently than if you see Him as inhabiting the same “space” that you live in.) So, take a minute and reflect on how you conceptualize your “nearness” to the Father, the Son, and the Spirit. What comes to mind?

As Jesus elaborates for His followers what life will be like when He is no longer physically present with them, He speaks of their relationship with Himself, the Father, and the Spirit. Take note of that as you read John 14:16-31.

How does Jesus describe His followers’ (future) relationship with the Father?

What does He say about their coming relationship with the Spirit?

What insights does He offer about their (future) relationship with Him?

What difference does this make?

We are now living in the “future” Jesus spoke to His followers about in John 14. How closely does your relationship with Father, Son, and Spirit parallel what Jesus describes?