

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

GOD BECAME MAN

WEEK 23

March 7 & 8

A Troubling Statement for Troubled Hearts

This sermon study is designed to be used the week after the sermon it supplements. Before using the study in your life group, it might be helpful to work through the questions on your own before your group meets. The purpose of this guide is to help facilitate discussion and to help your group, collectively and individually, grow closer to Jesus.

SERIES RECAP

Back in August, we started going through the gospel of John and left off in chapter 9. John's gospel is unique from Matthew, Mark and Luke in that John was one of Jesus' first followers and closest friends, and was written around A.D. 85. In his writing, John's primary aim is to persuade skeptics that Jesus is the Christ and the Son of God (20:30-31).

SERMON SUMMARY

Chapter 14 represents the beginning of a major transition, not only in Jesus' life and ministry, but in the disciples' lives as well. As we come to John 14, we see the disciples feeling lonely, uncertain and insecure. In this passage, Jesus says goodbye to His disciples, and at this point in the gospel of John, things will unfold rapidly toward Jesus' arrest and crucifixion.

MAIN TEXT

John 14:1-31

GETTING STARTED

If you were to build a brand new home, what would be your must-haves? Where would you build it?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Read John 14:1-31 out loud as a group. What do you think the intentions of Jesus are in this passage? How did His disciples react to what He said? What do their reactions tell us about how they were feeling?
2. In verses 2-3, Jesus tells His disciples that He is preparing a place for them in His Father's house.

Why do you think He explained this to them? What perspective did He want them to have by saying this?

3. We learned this weekend that Jesus is also preparing a home for us. What memories do you have of your first home? What emotions does the word "home" create for you? How does the truth that Jesus is preparing an eternal home for you make you feel?
4. In this passage, Jesus tells Thomas that He is the way, the truth, and the life and that no one can come to the Father except through Him. How does this statement compare to beliefs in our society today? Considering this, how do you respond to someone who says there are many ways to God?
5. Read 1 John 2:1-2. What is the role of an advocate? Do you allow Jesus to be your advocate or do you try to reach the Father and heaven on your own?
6. What role does Jesus attribute to the Holy Spirit in verses 16-17 and 25-26? Think of a time when you felt the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life. How did you respond? How would you describe it?

NEXT STEPS

This weekend, we were reminded that we are not alone. As followers of Jesus, the Holy Spirit lives inside of us and He will never leave us. Regardless of our circumstances and the storms that we face in this life, He is with us.

Do you feel the Holy Spirit actively working in your heart? Would you say that you rely on Him to guide your decisions throughout the day? How can you rely on Him more?

Pray for wisdom and discernment to recognize the Holy Spirit's voice in your life. This week, be intentional about expressing your gratitude toward Jesus for being your advocate and for never leaving your side.