

Bible Stories for Adults

Jesus is the Way to the Father

John 14

Opening

- Gathering: What different ways do people believe will take them to heaven?
- Today's Focus: Jesus prepared His disciples to prepare their hearts to follow Him to the place He would prepare for them in His Father's house.
- Key Verses: *Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in Me.* John 14:1
I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. John 14:6

Opening Prayer

Lesson

Jesus' Last Week of Glory (*John 12*)

How did Jesus' last week begin?

John 12:12-13 = With great fanfare and praise upon entry into Jerusalem

Did His disciples understand the meanings behind the praises?

John 12:16 = Not then, they did only after Pentecost

Did the news of Jesus spread or dwindle during His last week?

John 12:17-18, 20-21 = Continued to spread, even to foreigners

How did the "devout" Pharisee Jews feel about what they saw?

John 12:19 = Upset by the support Jesus received worldwide

Why was it important for many to hear about Jesus at this time?

John 12:23 = *The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified*

How did God the Father even further strengthen the news of Jesus as His Son?

John 12:28-30 = He spoke from heaven for the crowd to hear

Did this special revelation help the Jewish leaders believe in Him?

John 12:37 = No, they still would not believe in Him

Did any religious leaders accept Jesus as the Messiah or were they all against Him?

John 12:42-43 = Many believed, but were afraid to admit (*loved praise from men*)

Jesus' Last Week of Trouble (*John 13*)

Did Jesus relish in the glory, praise and attention He received during His last week?

John 12:27 = No, His heart was deeply troubled

Did His distress diminish as the week progressed?

Mark 14:32-34 = No, on Thursday night He was *overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death*

How much anguish was Jesus really in?

Luke 22:44 = Prayed so earnestly that He sweat blood

Was Jesus overwhelmed with His impending suffering and death, or was He distracted by His fame?

John 13:1 = Neither, He was concerned about *His own*, the disciples He had come to love

How did Jesus try to prepare them for what was about to happen? = Said right after Judas left

John 13:31-33 = Told them He would be leaving soon, it was time for His glory

Did Jesus expect them to understand what He was saying?

John 13:7 = Not now, but ... *later you will understand*

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The Apostles' Understanding (*John 13*)

Did the apostles at least understand that Jesus was about to offer His life as the sacrificial lamb?
John 13:3-6, 8 = Saw Jesus as the soon-to-be-King, Couldn't allow King to wash their feet
Was it just Peter, or were the other apostles expecting Jesus to become a king?
Matthew 20:20-21 = All were confused, JandJ's mom even asked for special appointments

When Will They Learn? (*John 14:25-26*)

Did they understand better after Jesus had been crucified?
Luke 24:13, 18-21 = No, confused He had died (dead 3 days was considered truly dead)
Did they finally understand after Jesus arose?
Acts 1:6 = Still looking for Jesus to become king right before He ascended
When would they eventually understand?
John 14:25-26 = *The Holy Spirit will teach you all things and remind you of everything...*
When did they finally understand?
Acts 2:1, 4, 32-33, 36 = At Pentecost when they were filled with the Holy Spirit
Can we expect to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit as the apostles did?
Acts 2:37-39 = *The promise is for you and your children and for all whom the Lord will call.*

I'm Leaving Soon (*John 13:33-38*)

What was one thing that Jesus felt His apostles should understand at this time?
John 13:33 = Told them He was leaving and they couldn't come with Him
Knowing Jesus was deeply troubled of danger in Jerusalem, what did the disciples naturally ask?
John 13:36 = *Where are you going?* - They thought He was going to hide somewhere
Why did the disciples think Jesus wouldn't let them follow Him now?
John 13:37 = Too dangerous, Didn't scare Peter who said he'd even die for Jesus
How well would Peter (The Rock) follow through with his intentions to stand up for Jesus?
John 13:38 = Jesus said Peter would disown Him three times that night
Repeating something three times stressed its certainty (Isaiah 6:3; Jeremiah 7:4)

I'm Leaving Soon (*John 14:1-4*)

How did Jesus try to calm the confused and upset apostles?
John 14:1 = Don't be troubled, trust me (like you trust in God)
Did Jesus answer their question of where He was going?
John 14:2-4 = I'm going to prepare a place for you. I'll come back and get you

Where is Your Father's House? (*John 14:5-11*)

What question did Jesus' answer raise in the disciples who wanted to stay with Him?
John 14:5 = We don't know where Your Father lives, how can we get there?
How did Jesus tell them the directions to His Father's house?
John 14:6-7 = *No one comes to the Father except through me.* You know the Father
How did Philip show that they had no idea what Jesus was saying?
John 14:8 = *Show us the Father,* then we'll realize who He is
How did Jesus answer this stupid question?
John 14:9-11 = If you've seen me you've seen the Father. At least believe my miracles

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While I'm Gone (*John 14:12-31*)

What would Jesus do for His people while He is with the Father?

John 14:12-14 = He will answer their prayers and bring them to the Father

What would Jesus leave with them while He was gone?

John 14:16-17, 26-27 = His peace and teaching through the Holy Spirit

So, if Jesus has sent the Holy Spirit in His place, then why do we say Jesus is with us?

John 14:18-23 = He and the Father come to us and live with and in us

My Father's House (*Revelation 21*)

Would there really be plenty of room with Jesus for all who follow Him?

John 14:2 = *In my Father's house are many rooms.*

How did John describe the vast size of the Father's house in his apocalyptic book?

Revelation 21:15-17 = 12,000 stadia cubed - 12 represents God's people; $144 = 12^2$

Note: 12,000 stadia is 1400 miles; 144 cubits is 200 feet

How special and ornate is this place Jesus has prepared? = Greater than anything on earth

Revelation 21:18-19a, 21 = John describes in most magnificent way humans can conceive

Is this great place intended for God or His people? = *Prepared as a bride for her husband*

Revelation 21:1-4 = For God to live together with man

Why isn't there a temple in God's great city?

Revelation 21:22 = God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple

Why is there no need for the sun, the moon or light bulbs?

Revelation 21:23 = God's glory gives it light and the Lamb is its lamp

Into the Promised Land (*John 14:3*)

How were God's Old Testament people led to a place of rest?

Numbers 10:33 = Ark (God's presence) went before them to find a place to rest

How are we as God's New Testament people led to our place of rest?

John 14:3 = Jesus (God's presence) went before us to prepare a place

How was Israel shown the **way** into the fulfillment of God's **truth of life** in the Promised Land?

Joshua 3:17 = Ark in middle of Jordan as people passed into Promised Land

How are we, as the New Israel, shown the **way** of God's **truth of life** in the Promised Land?

John 14:6 = Jesus is **the way and the truth and the life** to the Father's Promised Land

Jesus doesn't show us the way, He IS the Way, the Truth and the Life

The Way, The Truth and The Life (*John 14:6*)

How did man come to the Father under the Old Testament covenant?

Hebrews 9:1-3, 6-8 = Only the high priest could enter the Most Holy Place once/year

How is Jesus The Way to the Father under God's New covenant?

Hebrews 10:19-20 = Jesus opened a new and living way through His body and blood

How did God specially show us that Jesus opened a way for us into His Most Holy Place?

Mark 15:37-38 = Curtain of temple separating the Most Holy Place torn in half when Jesus died

Why is it important that Jesus is The Truth?

John 8:24, 31-32 = Without The Truth, we die in our sins. With it we're set free

How is Jesus The Life that God intends for His people?

John 6:33-35, 40 = God wants all who accept Jesus to have the bread of eternal life

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Finding The True Way of Life (Acts 4:12)

Is there any other True Way to receive Life? = *Salvation is found in no one else*

Acts 4:12 = *For there is no other name...by which we must be saved*

What do we have to do to earn this Way into True Life?

Ephesians 2:8-9 = *Nothing we can do, we are saved by grace thru faith*

How do we build our faith enough to earn our Way into True Life?

1 Corinthians 12:3 = *We can't have faith in Jesus as Lord on our own, only by the Spirit*

The Son Shows Us the Father (John 14:7-11)

How did Jesus respond when the disciples asked to see the Father?

John 14:7-11 = *Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father*

Before Jesus, had any man ever seen God the Father?

John 1:18 = *No, The Son has made Him known*

How does Jesus show us the Father?

Colossians 1:15 = *He is the image of the invisible God*

How is Jesus *the image of the invisible God*?

Hebrews 1:3a = *He radiates God's glory and is the exact representation of His being*

If Jesus shines God's light so brightly, how can unbelievers not see Him?

2 Corinthians 4:4 = *The evil god of this age has blinded them so they can't see Him*

Ask in My Name (John 14:12-14)

How do Christians radiate Christ's glory?

John 14:12 = *He who has faith in me will do what I have been doing*

What does Jesus promise for the lives of those who have faith in Him?

John 14:13-14 = *I will do whatever you ask in my name*

Closing Prayer

Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. How well do I understand the truths that God has revealed to me?
(John 13:7; 14:25-26; 16:12-13; 20:31; Mark 8:21; 1 Corinthians 2:; Hebrews 5:11-14; 1 John 2:27)
2. Do I know how to find my Way to the Father's House?
(John 14:1-6; Matthew 24:30-31; 24:36-25:46; Acts 4:12; 10:43; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)
3. What is the Truth that I believe about how to get to the Father's house?
(John 14:6-14, 23-24; Mark 16:16; John 3:16-18; 18:37-38; Acts 16:31; Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 3:4-7)
4. What Life am I expecting at my Father's house?
(John 14:25-29; Isaiah 11:6-9; 25:6-8; 49:8-11; 65:17-25; Revelation 7:9-17; 21)
5. When have I caught a glimpse of God's presence?
(John 14:19-21; 16:16-24; 17:6, 24-26; Isaiah 43:10-12; Matthew 11:25-27; Romans 16:25-26)