

THE GOSPEL OF

JOHN

DON'T WORRY,
BE HAPPY!

STUDENT LESSON

Open it

1. What's your favorite comfort food?

Daily Devotions

Day 1 — Today's Theme: Explore It

Read John 14:1-14.

2. What command does Jesus give His disciples in this conversation?
3. What comfort does Jesus offer His disciples as they anticipate His leaving?
4. What does Jesus say that everyone who believes in Him will do?
5. What assurance does Jesus offer His disciples in their prayers?

Day 2 — Today's Theme: The Antidote

Read John 14:1–11.

The disciples are being forced to deal with the coming death of Jesus. The night before Jesus' crucifixion has been set aside for Him to prepare them for life after the cross. He tells them He's leaving, and they cannot follow where He's going. They are confused. Simon Peter in chapter 13 and Thomas and Philip in chapter 14 pepper Him with questions, trying to cut through the haze that has descended on them. His departure is also met with resistance. Peter proclaims his undying allegiance to Jesus, in effect saying Jesus is wrong and they will follow Him wherever He goes.

The overwhelming response is not confusion or resistance. It's anxiety. Jesus begins chapter 14 by acknowledging the disciples' feelings. He understands His announcement is causing their hearts to be "troubled" (v. 1). Earlier in the Gospel of John, this same word troubled is used to describe what happened to a pool of water; it's translated "stirred up" (5:7). The disciples' hearts are stirred up. Like ingredients in a mixing bowl, doubt, confusion, uncertainty, and fear are being stirred around inside their hearts. This potent mixture of emotions is motivated by Jesus's departure. How can He leave them? Why can't they follow Him? You take those questions and add them to the fact that one disciple will betray Him, and another will deny Him, and you have a recipe for anxiety strong enough to paralyze the most mature disciple.

In this emotionally trying moment, Jesus comforts the disciples. ¹

"When Jesus said, *"Do not let your hearts be troubled,"* he used a picturesque word. The idea is, "Don't let your heart shudder." ... It is a strong word, and He was saying specifically to the disciples (especially in light of the imminent cross), "It may look like your world is falling in and all is lost and the darkness is going to engulf you, but don't let your heart be troubled." Then He explained how to do this: *"Trust in God; trust also in me."* ... The tenses tell us, "Keep on believing in God. Keep on believing in me." If we would keep in mind the attributes of God — his sovereignty (God is in control), his omniscience (God is all-knowing), his omnipotence (God is all-powerful) — our hearts would not be troubled like they often are." ²

6. Why do you think Jesus offers believing/trusting in Him as the antidote for His disciples' troubled hearts? What role do you think calling other Christ followers to believe and trust in God and Jesus has in ministering to them in their anxiousness and worry today?

7. What things commonly cause your heart to be troubled? How does your theology (understanding of who God is) influence those feelings of anxiousness or worry?

¹ Carter, Matt; Wredberg, Josh. Exalting Jesus in John (Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary) (p. 302). B&H Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

² Hughes, R. Kent. John: That You May Believe (Preaching the Word). Crossway. Kindle Edition.

Day 3 — Today's Theme: Jesus: The Only Way!

Read John 14:5-7.

Jesus makes some claims about Himself that in today's world would have gotten Him canceled. Frankly, He made claims about Himself that got Him canceled in His day, too, they just hadn't come up with that term yet.

His disciples were so concerned about being with Jesus, that when He told them that they knew the way where He was going, they questioned Him. "How can we know the way if we don't even know where you're going?!" (My paraphrase). And what's Jesus' response? What directions does He give?

"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

The way to the Father is important too. Jesus alone is the way to the Father. Good works won't get you there. Good intentions won't get you there. Islam won't get you there. Mormonism won't get you there. Success won't get you there. There is only ONE way, and that is Jesus.

People today would be alright with us saying that Jesus is one way to get to heaven, as if we are all climbing the same mountain but may take different paths to get to the peak. But to say that Jesus is THE way, and that no other way will cut it, doesn't jive with the narrative today.

"R. C. Sproul points out that the notion that all religions are valid is logically impossible because, if all religions are valid, then Christianity is valid. But Jesus said that He is the only way to God, which eliminates all other ways. So either He was right or He was wrong. Sproul concludes, 'If He was wrong, then Christianity has no validity at all. If He was right, then there is no other way.'" ³ It's all or nothing when it comes to Jesus.

8. What does it look like for the Church to uphold both truth and love in its witness to the lost world?

9. How would you respond to someone who shared that they felt that either you personally, or at least Christians in general, were intolerant because of the belief that Jesus is the only way?

³ Cole, Steven. Sermon found at <https://bible.org/seriespage/lesson-75-comfort-troubled-hearts-john-141-11>

Day 4 — Today's Theme: Mission Possible

Read John 14:12–14.

What's gonna happen to the guys when Jesus leaves? Is the crew gonna stay together? Will everyone go their separate ways? Is it all over? Is the mission completed? Imagine the uncertainty that the guys must have felt when Jesus said He was about to leave. They had all left their lives behind to follow Jesus, and at this point they were probably starting to think, *what's next?*

Jesus encourages them that the mission isn't over. There's still a lot of work to do. Just because Jesus isn't there doesn't mean they're gonna stop what they've all started. As a matter of fact, Jesus seems to be telling them that they have some important work to do now that He is going to be with the Father.

Jesus tells the guys that the work left for them to do will actually be greater than even the works that Jesus had done, and not just them, but whoever believes in Jesus will do greater works. How does that even add up? Last I checked, I don't see people walking out of graves all over the place these days. So what does Jesus mean when He says that as believers we will do greater works than He did?

To help us understand, let's remember the reason that Jesus did all His works. John has called these works that Jesus has performed "signs" which point to, or reveal, who Jesus really is with the purpose that we would believe that He is the Son of God and have life in His name. So if Jesus' works were so that people would believe that He is the Son of God, then perhaps the works that we will do will be for the same result— so that other people would believe!

What a mission! A mission that we can't complete on our own. We need Jesus now more than ever to complete it. That's why John Piper says we need to treat prayer like a wartime walkie-talkie to call in supplies for the battle, not an intercom to ask for more comforts (*Let the Nations be Glad* ([Baker Academic], p. 49). "Prayer is the means by which we ask God to extend His kingdom and do His will on earth as it is in heaven (Matt. 6:10)... So in prayer, we are to submit to God's will and to ask Him to accomplish His will through us and through His people. But, the difficulty is, how do we determine what God's will is so that we pray in line with it?" ⁴

10. How have you seen God use you to accomplish the mission of helping other people believe in Jesus?

11. How would you answer this question: "How do we determine what God's will is so that we pray in line with it?"

12. Do you feel we place a strong emphasis on prayer as a student ministry? How could the church facilitate and encourage more "wartime" prayer?

⁴ Cole, Steve. Sermon found at <https://bible.org/seriespage/lesson-76-doing-greater-works-jesus-john-1412-14>
Note: This study was written by Pastor Jeremy Anderson. www.villagebible.church/students