

GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide
SB 02.19-2023

God’s Cure for Worry -John 14:1-3

Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles, or observations stood out to you from this week’s message? Discuss with your group.

Pastor Daniel tells us “The backdrop for our story once again is the upper room. The mood in the room is somber. Jesus has just shocked His disciples by telling them that they were all about to forsake Him. He went on to say that one of them was about to betray Him. As if that weren’t enough, He also told them He was about leave them and that they couldn’t go with Him. When Peter tried to argue with the Lord and insist that wouldn’t happen, Jesus told him that before the sun rose the following morning, he would deny even knowing he knew Jesus three times. To say that the disciples were unnerved by everything they heard would be to massively understate things. They were completely undone. A heaviness settled on the room like a thick fog. Their world was crashing down all around them. They needed a word of comfort and hope, and that’s exactly what Jesus gave them. Let’s get into our lesson...

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

1. What struck you most from this week’s sermon?
2. What in today’s world worries you most?

Digging Deeper in God’s Word: Life Lessons

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 14:1-3

1. Look up the following verses and discuss the reasons why Jesus’ disciples would have had troubled hearts: John 13:21-22; 13:33; 13:36-38.
2. Now, discuss to what extent we as disciples of Jesus today share the same fears.
3. “The antidote to all fear is trust. You cannot truly trust and be afraid at the same time.” Discuss whether you agree with this statement. Discuss how Matthew 14:24-33 is a vivid example of this.

We can all relate to how the disciples felt that night. After all, we live in troubling times. There is no shortage of things in this world to feed our fears and anxieties. Many people have expressed concerns about the direction of our country. Seventy-one percent of Americans feel we are on the wrong track. At the same time, economists keep sounding the alarm about skyrocketing inflation and the economy. War is another growing concern. We worry about our health and our kids and our jobs and our friends and our families. Just like Jesus’ disciples, we need a word of comfort for our troubled hearts.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ THE ASSIGNED VERSES IN EACH QUESTION

1. Jesus says that we are to trust in God, but we must also trust in Him. What does this say about who Jesus really is, especially when we take into account OT verses like Proverbs 3:5-6. Explain...
2. Discuss what this means for those who say they trust in God but are not followers of Jesus? Hint: John 5:21-23
3. Jesus says that He has gone to prepare a place for us. Discuss how Jesus prepares a place for us.

“PROMISES” in 2023

4. Think more about the words ‘In my Father’s house’. Think again that Jesus has now gained us access and given us a place in His Father’s house. Share with each other the magnificent encouragement these words are.

Jesus first message to those with troubled hearts is, trust Me. Interestingly, He didn’t offer to remove or change the things that were troubling their hearts. That’s what we want Him to do. But instead of doing that, Jesus says, ‘You believe in God, believe also in Me.’ He was asking His disciples to trust Him in the same way and to the same degree that they trusted in God.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ THE ASSIGNED VERSES IN EACH QUESTION

1. Jesus says He will return to take us to be with Himself. Look up 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 and spend some time encouraging each other with these words.
2. The words Jesus uses in John 14:1-3 resound with a picture of the Jewish wedding. Describe how Jesus words here reflect the Jewish wedding from the dowery (Ketubah) that was paid to the way the groom would leave to prepare a home in the Fathers house. Discuss...
3. Now taking 14:1-3 as a whole, discuss how what Jesus says stops our hearts from being troubled.

The promise of Jesus’ return is something that Christians have been holding onto for the last 2,000 years. It is the ‘blessed hope’ of every believer. We may live in troubling times, but our hope is that someday soon, Jesus will return, and when He does, our troubles will be over.

Applying God’s Word

What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.

Jesus is going to prepare a place for us in heaven. One thing you can be sure of about heaven is that it’s going to be amazing! Look around at the beauty of this world with all its mountains and rivers and valleys and oceans and stars and galaxies. Those things tell us certain things about God. They tell us that He’s big and creative and artistic. And we’re seeing the world in a cursed state! Just think of what it was like before the fall! God made everything we see in just six days! Not bad for a week’s work! Now consider the fact that He’s been working on preparing a place for us in heaven for the last 2,000 years! We can only imagine what He’s come up with!

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

1. How does having faith in the person of Jesus and hope in the place He’s preparing teach you about how to walk in His pathway?
2. Do you believe Jesus could come back today? How does that question impact the way you live?
3. What would it look like for our group to live with that mindset?

PRAYER – Thank God that Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Ask Him to show you how to walk in the pathway He has set before you and to give you a new expectancy of His second coming.

“Though you have not seen Him, you love Him; and even though you do not see Him now, you believe in Him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.” {1st Peter 1:8-9}