

GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide
SB 03.05.2023

THE GREATER LIFE – JOHN 14:4-14

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 “Once again, the setting for our story is the upper room. Jesus has been trying to bring peace to the troubled hearts of His disciples who were struggling because He said He was about to leave them. Jesus assured them that after He had gone to His Father’s house to prepare a place for them that He would return for them. The disciples didn’t understand completely and so Thomas asked a question. He said that they did not know where Christ was going. However, they wanted to know the way so that they could go also. This is the same problem that many people face today. They do not know how to get to heaven.” 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 are the first three words that come to mind when you think about God right now? Why?
3. What about Jesus? Do any different words come to mind when you think of Him?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 14:1-6

1. Where was Jesus going and why – 14:2-4?
2. Why would Jesus come back? (What is Jesus talking about here?)
3. What question did Thomas ask Jesus – 14:5?

In verse 6, Jesus describes himself as three things: (1.) **The way** – This word also means road, and was used to describe the early Christian movement (e.g., Acts 9:2, 22:4-5). The only other time it is used in John is 1:23. (2.) **The truth** – This word has been important in John, used so far in 1:14, 17; 3:21; 4:23, 24; 5:33; 8:32-46. (3.) **The life** – This is a main theme, used over 30 times, often with the adjective “eternal”

4. What is the significance of each of these terms? What is Jesus trying to convey to his disciples about why he came and what he offered people?

The second half of verse 6 says, “no one can come to the father except through me.” This can sound exclusive and narrow in our multi-faith society. What do you think Jesus wanted to communicate by saying this? Consider especially the surrounding context.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 14:7-11

1. What did Jesus say we could know through Him – 14:7?
2. What request did Philip make – 14:8?

“PROMISES” in 2023

3. How can we know the Father through Jesus – 14:9,10?
4. What evidence should convince us that the claim of Jesus is true – 14:11?

Jesus makes an astounding claim here. He is in no uncertain terms claiming absolute equality with God. Jesus didn't just provide us with a reflection of God. He fully revealed the Father's heart because He and the Father are one in essence.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ JOHN 14:12-14

1. What do you think it means to ask for something “in Jesus’ name”?
2. Why did Jesus’ departure open up the possibility of his disciples doing “even greater works”?
3. It seems Jesus gives us a blank cheque: “Ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it!” Yet, this doesn't seem to match our experience of reality. Why do you think this is?

Applying God's Word

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

You will never experience this life apart from Jesus. He is the only way to the Father. People often complain about this part of Christianity and claim that it is too narrow. On that point I would have to agree with them. Christianity is narrow. Jesus said that there was a broad road that leads to destruction and a narrow road that leads to life. The only way you'll get to heaven is through the cross of Jesus. But if the gospel is narrow, the invitation is also broad. 'For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.' {Romans 10:13} The invitation goes out to the whole world. It couldn't be any broader and it couldn't be any easier. All anyone must do is call on the name of the Lord. You don't have to climb the highest mountain or memorize the whole Bible or make a pilgrimage to some holy place or live a perfect life. All you must do is call on the name of the Lord.

1. Is there anywhere else other than Jesus you are looking in order to know God?
2. Based on today's study, how would you respond to someone who believes Jesus is a great teacher but not truly God?
3. What is one way you can fix your eyes on Jesus alone as the fullness of God in bodily form?
4. How does your worship need to change in order to more fully reflect Jesus' divinity?

PRAYER – As you close in prayer, thank God for coming down to our level in the person of Jesus Christ. Confess that Jesus is God, and ask Him to help you worship Him in the manner He deserves.

“No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is Himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made Him known.” {John 1:18}