

The disciples were completely bewildered and discouraged. Jesus had said He was going away (7:34; 8:21; 12:8, 35; 13:33), that He would die (12:32-33), that one of the Twelve was a traitor (13:21), that Peter would disown Him three times (13:38), that Satan was at work against all of them (Luke 22:31-32), and that all the disciples would fall away (Matt. 26:31). The cumulative weight of these revelations must have greatly depressed them.

**14:1-2.** To comfort the disciples, Jesus gave them several exhortations along with promises. **Do not let your hearts be troubled**, He said. "Troubled" is tarassesthō ("stirred, agitated") from the same verb translated "troubled" in 11:33; 13:21; 14:27. One's heart is the center of his personality. Each believer is responsible for the condition of his heart (cf. Prov. 3:1, 3, 5; 4:23; 20:9). By a firm trust in God the Father and Jesus the Son, they could relieve their soul-sorrow and be sustained in their coming tests. When Jesus said, **Trust in God; trust also in Me**, He was probably giving commands, not making statements (see NIV marg.). Death should not be a terror to them because Jesus was leaving to **prepare a place for them in heaven, the Father's house**.

**14:3-4.** I will come back refers here, not to the Resurrection or to a believer's death, but to the Rapture of the church when Christ will return for His sheep (cf. 1 Thes. 4:13-18) and they will be **with Him** (cf. John 17:24). Jesus said nothing about the nature of the place where He was going. It is sufficient that believers will be with the Father and Jesus (cf. 2 Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23; 1 Thes. 4:17). The disciples knew how to get to heaven. He told them, **You know the way to the place where I am going**. Throughout His ministry, Jesus had been showing them the way, but as Thomas indicated (John 14:5), they did not fully understand.

**14:5-6.** Thomas' statement (**We don't know where You are going**) and his question (**So how can we know the way?**) reflected the perplexity of the Eleven (cf. Peter's similar question; 13:36). They would remain puzzled until His death and resurrection and until the advent of the Spirit. They had all the information but they could not put it together.

Jesus' words, **I am the Way and the Truth and the Life**, are the sixth of Jesus' seven "I am" statements in the Gospel of John (6:48; 8:12; 10:9, 11; 11:25; 14:6; 15:1). Jesus is the "Way" because He is the "Truth" and the "Life." As the Father is Truth and Life, Jesus is the embodiment of God so people can come to the Father (cf. 1:4, 14, 18; 11:25). By His words, **No one comes to the Father except through Me**, Jesus stressed that salvation, contrary to what many people think, is *not* obtainable through many ways. Only one Way exists (cf. Acts 4:12; 1 Tim. 2:5). Jesus is the only access to the Father because He is the only One from the Father (cf. John 1:1-2, 51; 3:13).

**14:7.** The first sentence in this verse may either be a promise ("If you really knew Me, you *will* know My Father as well") or a rebuke (**If you really knew Me, you would know My Father as well**). The Lord seems to be rebuking them for a failure to understand His person and mission (cf. 8:19). The following dialogue (14:8-9) indicates a failure on the disciples' part. **From now on, you do know Him** is a promise, which looks beyond the Cross and the Resurrection (cf. 20:28, "My Lord and my God").

*Taken from the Bible Knowledge Commentary, Dallas Theological Seminary*

# Small Group Bible Study

Week of Sept 16, 2007



## This study...

- The God Ultimatum
- John 14:1-6
- A look at Christ's claim of exclusivity
- A look at the Ultimatum of God



Written by  
Andy Addis

# Bible Study

John 14:1 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. 2 In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. 4 You know the way to the place where I am going.” 5 Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” 6 Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

**Warm-ups:** What is something you are completely close-minded on? When is it ok to be closed-minded?

### Verse By Verse: 1

- The context of this verse is immediately following Jesus announcement that He will be leaving/dying. Yet, He says don’t let your hearts be troubled. What is it for you that is hard to trust Jesus in?

2-3

- We often try to find comfort in death by knowing Jesus prepares a place for us, but He says their comfort should come from something else. What is it and why is it better?
- Have you ever been comforted by the presence of Jesus?

6

- Jesus says here that He is three different things: the way, the truth and the life. What makes each of these distinct?

- “No one comes to the Father except through me” This is a huge statement. What does this mean for those outside Christianity? What does it mean for those inside Christianity?

- Is this claim, made by Christ himself a harsh statement, a loving revelation, or both? Why?

7

- According to verse 7, God is revealed in Christ Himself. How come so many claim to see God in other places and things?

- What is the danger of seeing glimpses of God in many other places?

For life change...

# Application

## So What Does It All Mean?

How can we increase our trust in Jesus in life’s biggest difficulties?

What are some practical ways we can purposefully put ourselves in the presence of Christ?



How can we lovingly present the exclusive claims of Christ to a world that loves options and embraces the philosophy of ‘I’m ok, you’re ok’?

### Rules for our small group:

**Priority:** While you are in the group, you give the group meeting priority.

**Participation:** Everyone participate and no one dominates.

**Respect:** Everyone is given right to their own opinion and all questions are encouraged and respected.

**Confidentiality:** Everything that is said in this meeting is never to be repeated outside this meeting.

**Empty Chair:** The group stays open to new people at every meeting.

**Support:** Permission is given to call on one another in time of need—even in the middle of the night.

**Advice Giving:** Unsolicited advice is not allowed. We’re here to support one another, not to fix one another.

**Mission:** We agree to do everything in our power to start a new group as our mission.