

**COMFORT**

Jesus is having His last meal with His disciples. In this quiet moment away from the crowds, the urgent needs, and the attacking leaders, Jesus shares His heart knowing that in a matter of hours, everything will change. John 13:1 gives the context for this time: “*Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.*” Jesus loved His disciples, even with all their imperfections, and He wanted to comfort them past the pain to the awesome things that were ahead of them. As you read and study this passage today, ask Jesus to comfort your heart and help you deal with your fears, struggles, and pain. The things He mentions to comfort His disciples can comfort us as well. Read Isaiah 40 which begins: “*Comfort, O comfort My people,*” says your God.” The chapter includes a promise to teenagers. See if you can find it.

**John 14:1-4** <sup>1</sup>*“Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. <sup>2</sup>In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup>If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way where I am going.”*

- 1) What is it that Jesus says will keep our hearts from being troubled?
  
  
  
  
  
- 2) What does it mean to “believe”? What are a few things that Jesus has already asked His followers to believe?
  
  
  
  
  
- 3) One thought that troubles many is the fear of being alone. You may be experiencing more of this in quarantine. What promises does Jesus make in this passage that answer that fear?
  
  
  
  
  
- 4) What is a significant desire that Jesus says He has towards us? How does that make you feel?

**John 14:5-6** <sup>5</sup>*Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?” <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”*

5) Thomas' question reveals that the disciples were thinking of a physical destination and the paths they would need to follow to get there. They were concerned they would get lost. Jesus makes clear that He is both the destination and the path to get to the Father. Write out below how Jesus is...

- The Way -
- The Truth -
- The Life -

**John 14:7-11** *<sup>7</sup>If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him.” <sup>8</sup>Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” <sup>9</sup>Jesus said to him, “Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? <sup>10</sup>Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works. <sup>11</sup>Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves.*

6) Jesus has spent three years with His disciples and one of His major goals was to just be with them, which would allow them to really know Him. Here, Jesus is stressing one major aspect of who He is, which is His relationship with His Father. Answer the following questions:

- How would they know the Father?
- Where is the Father?
- Where are Jesus' words and works coming from?
- Why is it important that the disciples “believe” Jesus about these truths?
- How do the works that Jesus did help us to believe?
- How should having God as your Father affect your life?

**John 14:12-14** <sup>12</sup>*Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father.* <sup>13</sup>*Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.* <sup>14</sup>*If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.*

- 7) Jesus says those who believe in Him will be able to do the “works” He did. List out as many works as you can that we can do. Why is believing required to be able to do them?
- 8) What are examples of “greater works” that Jesus says we can do now and explain how we can do them?
- 9) What is the one requirement (that Jesus repeats) for us to know that what we ask will be granted? Why is this required?
- 10) We all desire to be able to accomplish something of value and to make a difference in this world. How does this passage say we can live a life that matters?

**John 14:15-24** <sup>15</sup>*“If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.* <sup>16</sup>*I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever;* <sup>17</sup>*that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.* <sup>18</sup>*“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.* <sup>19</sup>*After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you will see Me; because I live, you will live also.* <sup>20</sup>*In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.* <sup>21</sup>*He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him.”* <sup>22</sup>*Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, “Lord, what then has happened that You are going to disclose Yourself to us and not to the world?”* <sup>23</sup>*Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him.* <sup>24</sup>*He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father’s who sent Me.*

- 11) How can we most clearly demonstrate our love for Jesus (v. 15)?
- 12) An orphan is someone who has lost his parents. Jesus says he will not leave His disciples as orphans. What does He mean and how will He accomplish this?

13) Jesus said He would be sending “another helper” (v. 16). Who was the first “helper”? Write down all the truths you see in this passage about this new helper. Who is He?

14) Verse 21 is a very significant passage about our relationship with Jesus. Jesus had earlier explained that the way we demonstrate our love for God is by keeping His commandments. In the verse it says that three things will happen to those who love Him by keeping His commandments. Write them down.

15) You could read this verse as saying that Jesus desires a performance-based relationship with us where He will love us only if we do what He says. We know that this is not true because He loves the entire world. Can our response of obedience, or serving as we know we should, be based on anything else except duty? What would that motive be?

16) One statement that a man might make to the woman whom he is in love with is: “Your wish is my command”. What does this mean and how could her “wish” be considered a “command”?

17) It also says in verse 21 that when we demonstrate our love for Him through obedience, one incredible result is that He will “disclose Himself” to us. The word disclose means that He will allow us to get to know Him more clearly and intimately. You can understand this by the relationship that children have with a parent. A good parent loves their children when they obey and even when they don’t. However, in the latter, their love may look and feel different. A child who obeys gets to have a closer relationship with their parents. How does this example explain what Jesus says about disclosing Himself to those who love and obey Him?

Jesus says He and the Father will make their abode with those who love by obeying. Isn’t it amazing that God wants us to know Him and dwell with Him so intimately!

**John 14:25-31** <sup>25</sup>*These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you.* <sup>26</sup>*But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.* <sup>27</sup>*Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.* <sup>28</sup>*You heard that I said to you, 'I go away, and I will come to you.' If you loved Me, you would have rejoiced because I go to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.* <sup>29</sup>*Now I have told you before it happens, so that when it happens, you may believe.* <sup>30</sup>*I will not speak much more with you, for the ruler of the world is coming, and he has nothing in Me;* <sup>31</sup>*but so that the world may know that I love the Father, I do exactly as the Father commanded Me. Get up, let us go from here.*

- 18) What are two things that Jesus says the Helper will do in v. 25? Why are these important?
- 19) The thing that people who are troubled and fearful need most is peace. How is Jesus' peace different from the world's peace?
- 20) What do we need to do to get the peace that Jesus is offering?
- 21) Jesus is making it clear to His disciples that He must go away to the Father but also that He will come to them in the indwelling Holy Spirit. He is telling them this now so that when it happens, they will know it's ok and they will be able to continue to believe in Him. The disciples didn't really get it at this moment but within hours, they would be forced to as Jesus is arrested, tried, and crucified. What are the things that would have been on the disciples' minds as the reality of Jesus leaving them became clear? What would they be worried could happen and how would life now be different for them?

Take a moment to thank God for all that He has done for us to be able to take on the very real challenges of life. Read Isaiah 40:29-31 below and pray back to God the promise He makes to you as a youth who is struggling with the challenges of life, and choose to wait upon Him!

*"He gives strength to the weary, And to him who lacks might He increases power.  
Though youths grow weary and tired, And vigorous young men stumble badly,<sup>31</sup> Yet those who wait for the LORD Will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary."*