


Day 1

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

I Am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life

¹ “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.

Q1. Why might their “hearts be troubled”? (What subject has Jesus been discussing with His disciples?)

Q2. Why did Jesus say “[do not let] your hearts be troubled” and then immediately follow with “Believe in God; believe also in me”?

Q3. Do you think that some of the disciples were still struggling with the idea that Jesus, their friend and teacher, is really the Son of God, the Messiah, the Christ?

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.

Q4. Jesus was going to prepare “a place for you [the disciples]”. Does that apply to us Believers, today?

Lesson 20: John 14:1-31

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.

Q5. How would you explain Jesus' Words to a new Believer, "I will come back and take you to be with me"?

Q6. Jesus said, "that you also may be where I am"; where is Jesus?

⁴ You know the way to the place where I am going."


Q7. Why did Jesus make this statement? Did the disciples know "the way to the place where I am going"?
[How does Jesus frequently begin conversations with new people?]

⁵ Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

Q8. Do you think Thomas was the only one of the disciples with this question?

Lesson 20: John 14:1-31

Day 2

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⁶ Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Q9. What is "the way"?

Q10. What is "the truth"?

Q11. What is "the life"?

Q12. Jesus said that He was each of these: "the way, the truth, and the life." Is it significant that He began this statement with "I am"?

Q13. What did Jesus mean, "No one comes to the Father except through me"?

Q14. How does this impact followers of Islam? Buddhism? Hinduism?

Lesson 20: John 14:1-31

Romans 2:13-16 [The Message (MSG)]

¹²⁻¹³ If you sin without knowing what you're doing, God takes that into account. But if you sin knowing full well what you're doing, that's a different story entirely. Merely hearing God's law is a waste of your time if you don't do what he commands. Doing, not hearing, is what makes the difference with God.

¹⁴⁻¹⁶ When outsiders who have never heard of God's law follow it more or less by instinct, they confirm its truth by their obedience. They show that God's law is not something alien, imposed on us from without, but woven into the very fabric of our creation. There is something deep within them that echoes God's yes and no, right and wrong. Their response to God's yes and no will become public knowledge on the day God makes his final decision about every man and woman. The Message from God that I proclaim through Jesus Christ takes into account all these differences.

⁷ If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

Q15. How would you explain verse 7; how does seeing Jesus translate into the disciples "[having] seen [the Father]"?

⁸ Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."

Q16. Did Philip, who was probably voicing what other disciples were thinking, understand what Jesus said (in verse 7)?

Q17. Thinking about human nature, if Jesus actually showed them the Father, would it have been enough? Would it have satisfied their curiosity?

Genesis 1:26-27

²⁶ Then God said, "Let us make [mankind] in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Lesson 20: John 14:1-31

Colossians 1:15

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

Hebrews 1:1-4 [J.B. Phillips New Testament (PHILLIPS)]

¹⁻⁴ God, who gave our forefathers many different glimpses of the truth in the words of the prophets, has now, at the end of the present age, given us the truth in the Son. Through the Son, God made the whole universe, and to the Son he has ordained that all creation shall ultimately belong. This Son, radiance of the glory of God, flawless expression of the nature of God, himself the upholding principle of all that is, effected in person the reconciliation between God and man and then took his seat at the right hand of the majesty on high — thus proving himself, by the more glorious name that he has won, far greater than all the angels of God.

John 12:45 [The Message (MSG)]

⁴⁴⁻⁴⁶ Jesus summed it all up when he cried out, “Whoever believes in me, believes not just in me but in the One who sent me. Whoever looks at me is looking, in fact, at the One who sent me. I am Light that has come into the world so that all who believe in me won’t have to stay any longer in the dark.”

John 10:30


“I and the Father are one.”

John 10:30 [The Message (MSG)] [An alternate translation/paraphrase]

“I and the Father are one heart and mind.”

Lesson 20: John 14:1-31

Day 3

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⁹ Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

Q18. Is it possible that Jesus was thinking of the Genesis passage [Genesis 1:26-27 (↑)] when He answered Philip?

¹⁰ Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.

Q19. "The words I say to you are not just my own." In one word what is Jesus teaching his disciples (and us)?

Q20. Why is obedience so important?

James 2:17 [NIV-1984]

In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

James 2:26 [NIV-1984]

As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

Lesson 20: John 14:1-31

¹¹ Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves.

Q21. (Verse 11) What are two ways people are to believe in Jesus?

(1)

(2)

Q22. In general, what is the “the evidence of the miracles” to which Jesus is referring?

¹² I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

Q23. Is it only by works (or actions) that we are guaranteed a place in Heaven?

James 2:26 [J.B. Phillips New Testament (PHILLIPS)]

Yes, faith without action is as dead as a body without a soul.

Ephesians 2:8-9

⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith -- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God -- ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

Ephesians 1:13-14

¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession -- to the praise of his glory.

Q24. How is it possible that someone could “do even greater things”?

Lesson 20: John 14:1-31

¹³ And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. ¹⁴ You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

Q25. Does this mean that Jesus will perform any miracle we ask of Him?


Q26. If a Believer prays for something in Jesus' Name and the prayer is not answered, is verse 14 true?

Q27. Must our prayers, requests, and supplications conform to God's will? Or is our will sufficient? How do we know if our prayers conform to God's will?

Conform to God's will?


Is our will sufficient?

How do our prayers conform?

 It is said that God responds to a prayer with a Yes, No, or Wait. God is not a vending machine in which we make a selection, insert a quarter (or a prayer), pull a lever, and the prayer-solution pops-out. On the contrary, our prayers must be in God's will: within God's plan for us or for whom we are praying. God will sometimes use events in this life as a training ground to sharpen, focus, and grow our faith. We may struggle in the seemingly rock-bottom pit of despair, but God is faithful and will rescue us – like a toddler reaching-up, placing her arms around her (earthly) father's neck, and burying her little face in his shoulder. We may look back in retrospect and see how the terrible event – at the time – served as a tremendous growth-in-faith time in our lives. As we mature in our faith through prayer, Bible study, and obedience, our faith grows and we edge ever closer in unity to God, to Jesus. As our faith matures, the Holy Spirit becomes more-and-more distinct to us and we are better enabled to discern God's will. This maturing is typically evolutionary, not revolutionary.

Lesson 20: John 14:1-31

Day 4

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Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit

¹⁵ "If you love me, you will obey what I command.

Q28. Reading verse 15: I love the Lord Jesus, yet I sin and break the Commandments. Does my disobedience confirm that I am really not a Believer?

Romans 7:15, 17-20 [Paul wrote in his Letter to the Romans – the Roman Church]

¹⁵ I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. . . ¹⁷ As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. ¹⁸ I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. ¹⁹ For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do -- this I keep on doing. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

Q29. As Paul travelled on the Road to Damascus (Acts 9), he encountered the Lord Jesus and was converted from a zealot for Judaism into a Believer in Christ Jesus and His gift of salvation. After his conversion, Paul was a fervent preacher for Christ Jesus and endured many persecutions. Why, of all people, did the Apostle Paul struggle with sin?

Q30. Does Paul's struggle with sin give us present-day Believers any solace?

Yes? Why?
No?

Lesson 20: John 14:1-31

¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever -- ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

Q31. Who is the “Counselor”?

Q32. What is the difference between “lives with you” and “will be in you”?

Lives with you?

Will be in you?

Q33. Is there a difference in the way the Holy Spirit helped Old Testament prophets versus Paul and his missionary contemporaries (and us present-day Believers)?

¹⁸ I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

Q34. An orphan does not have a mother and a father; how do you explain verse 18?

¹⁹ Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.


Q35. To what does this revelation “Before long, the world will not see me anymore” refer?

Q36. Jesus states to His disciples, “but you will see me.” How will His disciples “see” Jesus?

Lesson 20: John 14:1-31

Q37. "Because I live, you also will live." They are alive; they are listening to a man who is alive. When Jesus speaks these Words, to what is Jesus referring?

Day 5

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²⁰ On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.

Q38. To what does the phrase "On that day" refer?

²¹ Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him."

Q39. How does a person obtain Jesus' commands ("has my commands")?

Q40. Why does Jesus say that the person who "has my commands and obeys them" loves Him?

Q41. If I sin and break a commandment, does that mean that I do not love Jesus?

Lesson 20: John 14:1-31

Q42. What did Jesus mean that He would “show myself to him”?

²² Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, "But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?"

²³ Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

Q43. In verse 23, what did Jesus mean, when He said, "he will obey my teaching"?

Q44. How would you explain this phrase to a new Believer, "we will come to him and make our home with him"?

Q45. Is obedience a 'big deal' to the Trinity? Why? What does obedience demonstrate?


^{24a} He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. ^{24b} These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

Q46. What does it mean to “obey my teaching”?

Q47. Reading verse 24^b, since Jesus spoke these words, how can the words be the Father's?

Lesson 20: John 14:1-31

Day 6

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²⁵ "All this I have spoken while still with you. ²⁶ But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

Q48. Who or what is the Holy Spirit?

Romans 8:26-27 [NIV-1984]

²⁶ In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. ²⁷ And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints [Believers] in accordance with God's will.

John 4:23-24 [NIV-1984]

Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."

John 14:16-17 [NIV-1984]

¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever -- ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

Hebrews 10:15-17 [NIV-1984]

¹⁵ The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First, he says: ¹⁶ 'This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds.' ¹⁷ Then he adds: 'Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more.'

Lesson 20: John 14:1-31

Acts 1:7-9 & 2:1-4 [NIV-1984]

^{1:7} [Jesus] said to them: . . . ⁸ “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

⁹ After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

^{2:1} When the day of Pentecost came, they [the Apostles] were all together in one place.

² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Q49. How did the Holy Spirit teach Jesus' disciples?

John 16:13-14 [NIV-1984]

¹³ But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. ¹⁴ He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.

Q50. Does the Holy Spirit teach Believers today? How?

²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

Q51. How would you describe Jesus' “peace”?

Q52. How would you explain this sentence, “I do not give to you as the world gives”?

Q53. Why do you think Jesus felt it necessary to remind them, “Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid”?

Lesson 20: John 14:1-31

²⁸ "You heard me say, 'I am going away and I am coming back to you.' If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.

John 10:30

"I and the Father are one."

Q54. If "[Jesus] and the Father are one," then how can the Father be "greater"?

Q55. Why should the disciples rejoice that Jesus is "going away"?

²⁹ I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe.

Q56. What miracles will the disciples experience when "it takes place"?

Q57. His disciples believed Jesus; why did He say, "so that when it does take place you may believe"?

Lesson 20: John 14:1-31

³⁰ I will not speak with you much longer, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold on me, ³¹ but the world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me. “Come now; let us leave.”

Q58. Who is the “prince of this world”?

Q59. How do Jesus’ actions show that He “loves the Father”?

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