

# Simply Jesus

## The Life and Ministry of God's Son

### Inductive: Lesson 23

#### Introduction

The Bible states that it is appointed for men to die once and afterward there is judgment (Hebrews 9:27). Jesus' talk about His own death and about going somewhere that the disciples could not come (John 13) had left them bewildered and confused about His meaning. Knowing that they were troubled and frightened, here in John 14, Jesus tells them precisely where He was going and why. As you read through your text, notice that the key word you find is "Father," which appears twenty-two times in this chapter and thirteen times in the first fourteen verses.

Here John speaks about an exclusive gospel; that there can be no universal hope that everyone will someday be in heaven. Here we get a clear depiction that there is only one way—a narrow way—of salvation through Jesus Christ alone. The word used in this chapter for "way" is *hodos* in the Greek, appearing 102 times in the New Testament. We see the same word used elsewhere in Scripture: John the Baptist quoted the Old Testament prophet Isaiah in Matthew 3:3 to warn individuals to prepare the way of the Lord. The Jewish Pharisees told Jesus in Matthew 22:16 that they were aware Jesus taught "the way of God in truth." The Apostle Peter later wrote about the way of truth (2 Peter 2:2); and the Book of Hebrews (10:20) speaks about coming to God by a new and living way. But no where do we catch the drama of the word "way" as vividly as it appears here in John 14, where it centers on the specific person of Jesus. He links Himself with the Father, indicating that through the Holy Spirit they take up residence in the lives of believers. His people would not be left alone on earth; He would send another "Helper" to come alongside them and comfort them. It is this Helper who would assure their hearts of His promise, peace and presence.

#### Did you know ~

We see the Holy Spirit's activity best demonstrated throughout the Book of Acts, but perhaps no book of the Bible presents more theology about the Holy Spirit—*pneumatology*—than what is represented in chapters 14–16 of John's Gospel. It is this third member of the Trinity that reminds us of the truth Jesus taught, calling it to our remembrance and assisting us in applying the truth to our daily lives. It is this daily application of God's Word that enables us to practice the Spirit's presence, call on the Lord's name in prayer, and reveal the Father to a needy world around us.

Open your Bible and lesson each day by beginning with a word of prayer.

## Up Close ~

The chart below represents a reader's guide to the contents of this week's lesson. The topical teachings and/or events covered are followed by the primary scriptural text as well as the supportive parallel passages. You will be able to receive and grasp a well-rounded picture of the story narrative in the Gospel harmony by reading every passage. However, using the bolded text as your point of reference (your anchor text) will allow you to determine the facts, lessons, and personal applications necessary to formulate your own conclusions.

<u>Teaching / Event</u>	<u>Scripture Text</u>	<u>Parallel Passages</u>
Jesus is the Savior	<b>John 14:1-6</b>	
Jesus Reveals the Father	<b>John 14:7-14</b>	
Jesus Promises another Helper	<b>John 14:15-31</b>	

## First Impressions: Group Discussion

**Reflect** for a moment on the passages you have just read.

**Respond** by recording your first impressions from your initial reading of the text. Be prepared to share one of your impressions with your discussion group.

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## Heartbeat: John 14:6 NKJV (Memory verse)

(Write it out once in the space below. **Practice it each time** you open your lesson.)

*Jesus said . . . "I am the way, the truth, and the life.  
No one comes to the Father except through Me."*

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John 14:1–6

Jesus is the Savior

1 “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.

2 In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you.

I go to prepare a place for you.

3 And 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.

4 And where I go you know, and the way you know.”

5 Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, and

how can we know the way?”

6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life.

No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

John 14:7–14

Jesus Reveals the Father

7 “If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on  
you know Him and have seen Him.”

8 Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.”

9 Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip?

He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?

10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to  
you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.

11 Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else  
believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.

12 Most assuredly, 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 My Father.

13 And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

14 If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.”

John 14:15–31

## Jesus Promises Another Helper

15 “If you love Me, keep My commandments.

16 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that

He may abide with you forever—

17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor

knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

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

19 A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me.

Because I live, you will live also.

20 At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.

21 He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.”

22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, “Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?”

23 Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word;

and My Father will love him, and we will make Our home with him.

24 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.

25 These things I have spoken to you while being present with you.

26 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 things that I said to you.

27 Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you.

Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

28 You have heard Me say to you, ‘I am going away and coming back to you.’ If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said, ‘I am going to the Father,’ for My Father is greater than I.

29 And now I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe.

30 I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming,  
and he has nothing in Me.

31 But that the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father gave Me  
commandment, so I do. Arise, let us go from here.”

(Scripture from the New King James Bible, © 1980 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission.)

## Observation: Look!

Pray. Read the Bible passage several times, trying to get a big picture of what is going on.

Left Column (Facts): Following the writer in the order he tells the story, briefly describe who is involved, what is happening, when and where the events are taking place.

Right Column (Observations): Look closely to observe details. Some questions you may ask:

- What do you know about the people involved in the story? What questions does the story raise? What sources of conflict do you see? What does Jesus identify as true and important to life?
- Put yourself in the Biblical character's shoes. What were his ambitions? How did the character relate to others or to God? What problem did he think he faced? Did Jesus identify a different problem in his life? What did he discover about God? How did he respond?
- Are there any words that you are not familiar with? Look up the definition.
- Are there words or phrases that are repeated or emphasized? Why are they key?
- Identify comparisons, such as "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven..." What do you know about leaven (yeast)? Identify contrasts, such as "You have heard it said...but I say to you..."
- Extra: Record information you may find in Bible dictionaries, maps, handbooks, or encyclopedias. Understanding the culture/time in which Jesus lived will help you discover the meaning of the text.

John 14:1–6

Jesus is the Savior

What does it say? (Facts from passage)

What do I see? (Personal research/observations)

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## Interpretation: What does it mean?

Pray. The more time you take to observe the passage, the more you will have a basis for understanding what God's Word means. Interpretation **always** seeks to answer the questions, "What was God saying to the original audience?" and then, "How does that same truth relate to life today?" Asking yourself questions will help you see the spiritual lesson in the text: What does this teach me is true about God? What does it teach me is true about mankind? Is there a command to obey? Is there a promise to claim? Is there a condition to the promise? Is there an example I should follow or avoid? A spiritual lesson is a timeless truth that points to God and speaks to the heart of man. Stating the lesson in a sentence of 10 words or less will help you keep it simple and memorable.

**Application:** How does it apply to me? Pray. Practicing Biblical truth day-to-day is the only way to grow in Christ and reflect the glory of God. To apply the spiritual lesson you have learned from the text, you have to take deliberate action. Take the time to examine yourself, and ask: Does this spiritual lesson point out error in my thoughts about God? Does it point to error in my attitude or actions? How does this lesson relate to my home life, my work, my relationships, how I spend my time, etc.? What change is required? What practical steps will I take to make that change? Write your application in the form of a question to help make it personal.

John 14:1–6

Lesson:

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Application: \_\_\_\_\_

John 14:7–14

Lesson:

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Application: \_\_\_\_\_

John 14:15–31

Lesson:

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Application: \_\_\_\_\_



## Behold & Be Transformed

What did you see as you beheld God's Son?

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How does beholding (looking upon) Him, motivate you to change your thoughts, habit, attitude, speech or actions?

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**P**ause . . . What is the most significant lesson you have learned this week?

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**P**onder . . . How will you put it into practice?

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**P**ray . . . Write out your prayer and be specific.

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