

Digging Deeper into John 14:1-14

Chat

- How good are you at finding the way to places?
- How good are you at explaining directions to others?
- How would you explain the way to God to someone?



Study

This exchange between Jesus and his disciples is part of what is now known as “The Farewell Discourses” in John chs.13-17. Someone else has called it “Jesus’ Discipleship Course”. These five chapters begin with a meal and end with Jesus praying before he is betrayed and arrested.

Read John 14:1-6

- Look back at John 13:21, 33, 36-38. Why do you think the disciples were troubled?
- What is Jesus’ answer to how they’re feeling (v.1-4)?
- What does “home” mean to you?
 - What does it mean to you have a home with God?
- Is our home with God just something to look forward to in the future (see also v.23)?
(The word translated ‘home’ in v.23 is the singular version of the word translated ‘rooms’ in v.2)
- Thomas asks “How can we know the way?” What is Jesus’ answer (v.5-6)?
 - By making himself the answer, what is Jesus saying?
 - What do you think each part of the phrase, “the way, the truth and the life” means?
 - Are there are other verses in the gospels which use these words about Jesus?
 - How do you think these words are connected?
- Do you think v.6 means that people have to have a complete understanding of who Jesus is and what he did in order to find the way to God?

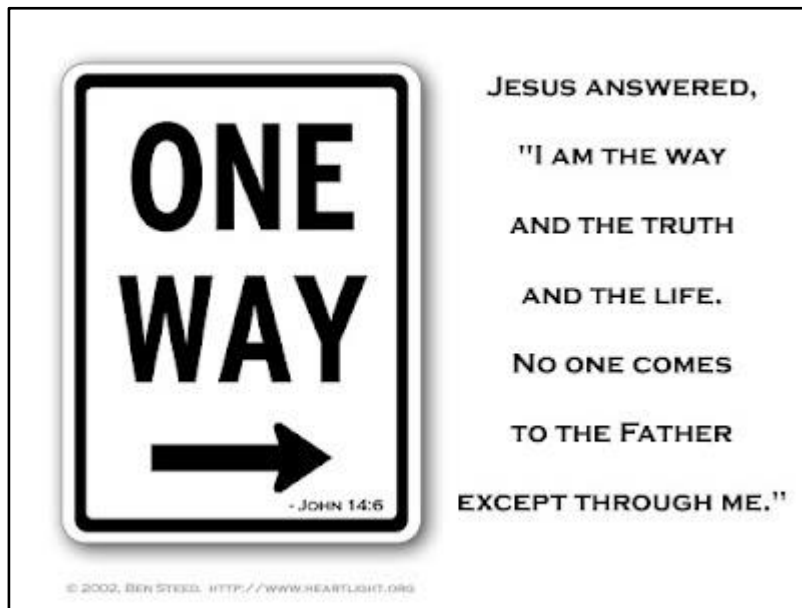
Read John 14:7-14

- What does Philip want (v.8)?
- How are Jesus and the Father connected (v.7, 9-11)?
- What do you think Jesus’ statement in v.12 means we will do if we believe in him?
You may like to think about/discuss this first and then read the following:
 - *There are many miracles performed as signs in John’s gospel but Jesus doesn’t say that he expects his disciples to surpass them. Whilst the apostles did some amazing miracles in Acts, they weren’t greater than those that Jesus did. Perhaps the clue is in John 13, at the beginning of the Farewell Discourses. Jesus washes the disciples’ feet and says he has set them an example that they should do the same for each other. What ‘works’ might Jesus want us to do that are greater than this?*
 - *Alternatively, some people think that the ‘greater works’ are linked with the fact that because we live after the death and resurrection of Jesus, we live in ‘the gospel age’ – an age of greater mission where more people come to know God through Jesus.*
- v.13-14 is an astounding promise! Does it mean that Jesus will do whatever we ask?
 - What does it mean to ask in the name of Jesus? Is it just a case of tagging that phrase on to the end of our prayer or does it mean something more?
 - How can we try to make sure that our requests are in line with the will of Jesus?

- Jesus began this passage by offering comfort to his disciples. What comfort, if any, do you find in these verses?

Think

The next time you put directions into your SatNav or look at a map, think again about Jesus' words:



What do these words mean for you? And what do they mean for the people you spend time with?

You might also like to listen to the song, **“Yet not I, but through Christ in me”** as you reflect on all that Jesus continues to do for you as he leads you home: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dHJPwI1Qioo>

*With every breath I long to follow Jesus
For He has said that He will bring me home
And day by day I know He will renew me
Until I stand with joy before the throne*

*To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus
All the glory evermore to Him
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat
Yet not I, but through Christ in me*