

“Facing Reality with Jesus” **Believe and Have Life #7**

- In response to Thomas’ question about knowing the way, Jesus responded that He was the way to the Father and much more; He was truth and life as well. Not only that, but He was also sending the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, to teach and remind them of everything when He was gone.
- In response to Phillip’s confusion about seeing the Father He explained, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don't know who I am? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father! So why are you asking me to show him to you?"
- And as any of us grapple with a crisis of faith when we experience isolation, confusion or fear, Jesus promises that we can remain connected to Him. (Jn 15:5)

John 15:5 NLT - 5 "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.

Jesus would depart this world soon, but He was preparing His followers to deal with the realities of life after He was gone. What He offered to them, He offers to us.

In what ways has God seen you through the difficult realities of your life? Spend some time reflecting on Jesus’ provision and thanking Him for walking with you through the hard times in life.

WRAP-UP

Jesus didn’t promise to take us out of the trouble of this world, but He did promise to walk with us through them. We may have times when the circumstances of life seem overwhelming, but we hold tight to the promise that Jesus is with us and He has overcome the world

MEMORY VERSE

John 14:1 NLT - 1 "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me.

PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life.

Challenge- Continue reading John this week in chapters 14 -15.

INTRODUCTION

Let’s agree that life is filled with harsh realities. We can choose what we do when we encounter those realities. We can try to ignore them, we can suffer through on our own, or we can face reality with Jesus by our side. Jesus didn’t sugar-coat the difficulties His followers would face, in fact He told them outright “In this world you will have troubles”. But then He reassured them that He had overcome the world and as long as we have Jesus, we can face anything that life throws at us.

Ice Breaker

What unpleasant reality of life are you least likely to find displayed on social media?

Key Passage

John 20:30-31 NLT - 30 The disciples saw Jesus do many other miraculous signs in addition to the ones recorded in this book. 31 But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Reality Check

John 13:33 NLT - 33 Dear children, I will be with you only a little longer. And as I told the Jewish leaders, you will search for me, but you can't come where I am going.

John 14:1 NLT - 1 "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me.

Jesus’ disciples had been with Him constantly during His ministry and when we reach the end of chapter 13 He warns them that He

won't be with them much longer. This is certainly not what they wanted to hear. There was a plot to kill Jesus being planned in Jerusalem and they were walking right into the lion's den. Jesus had given them some other discouraging news; He was going to be betrayed by one of them and Peter would deny even knowing Him.

In chapter 14 Jesus begins to address His disciples' response to the harsh reality they were about to face. What does Jesus tell them to do? If they were agitated, and not trusting in God and Jesus as they received the news of Jesus' soon departure, what do you think they would be putting their trust in instead? Have you experienced circumstances that shook your faith? What other things do we tend to turn to when that happens? What helps to get our focus and our trust back on the one who has overcome the world?

2. Responding to Reality

When bad news is delivered our response might be similar to the disciples. Which of these do you relate to?

John 14:2-5 NLT - 2 There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? 3 When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. 4 And you know the way to where I am going." 5 "No, we don't know, Lord," Thomas said. "We have no idea where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

Thomas' response was to feel abandoned, isolated, and perhaps a little panicked. Many of us can relate to those feelings. There may have been times when we needed someone, but they were not there for us. What circumstances in your own life left you with a sense of isolation or abandonment? Are there still times you relive those feelings?

John 14:7-8 NLT - 7 If you had really known me, you would know who my Father is. From now on, you do know him and have seen him!" 8 Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied."

Phillip simply didn't understand Jesus and was confused when He said, "You know the Father and have seen Him." Sometimes the things revealed by God are difficult to grasp. Certainly, this truth that they

had already seen the Father didn't add up. To be satisfied Phillip said to Jesus, "show us the Father".

Are there things that confuse you that you are seeking God for answers to? It would be nice if God plainly wrote out His answers in the clouds, but He doesn't and that means we, like Phillip, may feel confused. If you could ask God to show you the answer to one thing that confuses you, what would it be?

John 15:18-21 NLT - 18 "If the world hates you, remember that it hated me first. 19 The world would love you as one of its own if you belonged to it, but you are no longer part of the world. I chose you to come out of the world, so it hates you. 20 Do you remember what I told you? 'A slave is not greater than the master.' Since they persecuted me, naturally they will persecute you. And if they had listened to me, they would listen to you. 21 They will do all this to you because of me, for they have rejected the one who sent me.

If the disciples were hoping the news would improve, I'm sure Jesus' statement in John 15:18-21 was disappointing. Talk about cold harsh reality; He was leaving, and they would be hated and persecuted. This had to strike fear in their hearts.

Think back to a time you felt your safety was threatened or that of your loved ones. The pressure of such fear has the potential to undermine our faith if we allow it to. In desperate times we can either draw close to God or run to something else. Peter thought he was ready to die for Jesus, but at his moment of crisis he let fear overwhelm him and denied Jesus, not once, but three times. What things in your life cause you the greatest fear? Health, finances, relationships...?

3. Facing reality with Jesus

Jesus is the solution to every difficult circumstance we will face in life. Here are some of the many ways Jesus gave His disciples exactly what they needed.

John 14:6 NLT - 6 Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.