

Bible chat notes week starting 7 5 23

John 14

1 Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. 2 My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? 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. 4 You know the way to the place where I am going.'

5 Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' 6 Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.'

8 Philip said, 'Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.' 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"? 10 Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. 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 works themselves. 12 Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. 13 And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.'

1. Share stories about times when you were lost. How did you feel? What helped you find your way again?
2. Glancing at the surrounding chapters in John, how would Jesus' disciples be feeling at this point? Can you understand why their hearts might be troubled?
3. How do you feel about the existence of other religions in our city? Doesn't verse 6 require Christians to regard other religions as inadequate for their core task of showing people how to find God?
4. David argued that when Jesus says he is the Way, he is saying that the only way to know God is through an honest, humble trust in God's mercy and goodness, and that God draws people into a close relationship with him. Discuss the extent to which you find this helpful. Can a person know God without signing up as a Christian?
5. Jesus suggests that any of his disciples are invited into this loving relationship with God as their caring Father. To what extent do you wish to live in that relationship?
6. Reflect on verses 12 to 14. Can you find an honest and inspiring way of applying them to our lives? (Hint 1: In his ministry Jesus worked for just three years in one tiny part of the world. Hint 2: Consider what it might mean to ask for something in the name of someone else.)