



## One Hope Community Church Suggested Reading Plan & Guide Book of John: Chapter 14

Spiritual transformation happens when we purposefully spend time with God each day. God created you and is waiting to be known by you.

Always begin in prayer, start the conversation with God by asking Him to use His Holy Spirit to reveal whatever wisdom and insights He wants you to learn. Open your Bible, reflect on what you have read, perhaps take notes. The questions below are designed to help you examine the scriptures for both cultural context and personal application, to engage with the Holy Spirit for relational growth with God and to review with your small group if you are in one. This is your space for your time with God, learning and experiencing spiritual transformation. The plan is laid out for five days of reading and reflecting.

We know small groups meet on various days. You may find it helpful to read all of the verses and begin working through the questions before you meet so that you are ready to discuss them with your small group whenever it meets. The discussion with your small group is meant to help you learn from each other and grow deeper in community.

Song for the week: New Horizon - Pat Barrett  
<https://youtu.be/MOzsJlk8p6I?si=QohJXFKRUEh0v94s>

### Suggested Reading Plan John 14:1-14

- Day 1: John 14:1
- Day 2: John 14:2-4
- Day 3: John 14:5-7
- Day 4: John 14:8-11
- Day 5: John 14:12-14

### **John 14:1**

John 14 begins as a continuation of Jesus' conversation with His disciples. At the end of John 13, Judas had left, Jesus had said God would be glorified through the Son, Jesus said He would be leaving, He told the disciples to love one another and that Peter would deny knowing Jesus. That is a lot of information! The disciples were troubled and yet Jesus took time to concentrate not on what was to come for Him that night, but instead on WHO was in front of Him right then. John 14 - 17 is a record of Jesus' conversation with His disciples that night.

We also have situations in our lives that are before us. And we are to be like Jesus. The journey of spiritual formation is to allow the Holy Spirit to do His work in us by asking Him to

make us more like Jesus, in doing so, we emulate Jesus.. Practically, how do you lay aside what is to come, or what is happening, in your life to focus on who is in front of you?

Imagine you are in the room with Jesus and His disciples. Judas had just left, maybe you think he has gone to take care of something or maybe you understand he had betrayed Jesus. Jesus just said He is leaving and you cannot join Him. Jesus said Peter will deny knowing Him. Don't race ahead to what you know will happen next. What would you be thinking and feeling if you were in the disciples place? How would it feel to have Jesus tell you to not be troubled and to trust Him?

Think of a time in your life when the situation was unsteady; the future unknown. People may not have been behaving as you knew they normally did. Maybe you were not behaving as you normally do. How would Jesus' words to not be troubled and to trust Him have affected you?

Beautifully, Jesus knew the disciples' hearts, that they were troubled, and He invited them to believe and trust in Him.

The Greek word used for troubled is tarassestho: to disturb, agitate. Remember a time when your heart felt disturbed and agitated. How can your belief and trust in God calm your heart's trouble? What truths can you list about Jesus which bring calm to your spirit? If someone asked you, how does faith help calm you, what would you say?

### **John 14:2-4**

There was a simplicity in how Jesus comforted His disciples, telling them He was going to prepare a place for them in His Father's home He was personal, invitational and warm with them..

What Jesus said in the Bible also relates to us, He presents us with the ongoing present truth. He IS personal, invitational and warm. Picture something going on in your life right now. Take time to talk with Jesus about it; picture Him being personal and warm with you. How does He look at you? How does His warmth and care minister to your heart?

During the time Jesus was on earth, it was customary for a group traveling together to send a few people ahead of them to find a place to stay and make preparations. That morning of the Last Supper, Jesus had sent two of His disciples ahead to prepare for their Passover feast. Then at the meal, Jesus told the disciples He would be the one to go ahead of them; He adds, "You know the way to the place I am going."

What is the way to where Jesus was going to prepare a place? We may have read the story but the disciples were still focused on an earthly kingdom. How is one to enter the heavenly Kingdom where we will meet Jesus?

In Matthew 6:10 Jesus teaches us to pray, ""Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." God's Kingdom is in heaven and on earth. What are some ways you can live out God's Kingdom on earth today? Set aside time to be with Jesus today and ask Him to help you live out His plans for His Kingdom.

To prepare a place, there were two stages of Jesus' leaving and returning: first Calvary (crucifixion) and resurrection and second Olivet (ascension) and His second coming.

Jesus took time to be present with His disciples, even though His time to leave was close and would cost Him everything. Take a few moments and sit quietly with Jesus. He is also present with you. What questions do you have for Him about this passage? Is there something you want to tell Him? Is He telling you something?

Knowing that Jesus would return for them comforted His disciples. Where do you need to be comforted? Do you look to Jesus for your comfort? Ask Him to show you the ways He comforts you.

At Pentecost, Jesus sent His believers the Holy Spirit. How does the Holy Spirit provide you comfort?

Jesus will come again. How does this truth comfort you?

### **John 14:5-7**

The Jews believed that the Messiah would rule on earth when He came. The disciples believed Jesus to be the Messiah, and therefore thought that He would rule on earth. Thomas is intellectual and practical, he seeks to know where and how they will find Jesus. "Lord, we don't know the way, so how can we follow?"

Do you ever feel like that? How do I follow God? How do I know what He wants me to do next with this job / home / relationship? Pay attention; when in your day do you feel closest to Jesus? What is happening? What are you doing? How can you create other opportunities in your day to feel close to Jesus?

James 1:5 says, "If any one of you lacks wisdom, ask God." Thomas knew that he had to ask questions to understand. Spend some time with God asking Him your questions, asking for wisdom for your next steps. Like Thomas, you may not understand God's answers right away, but keep seeking Him.

Thomas asked for the way, looking for earthly directions. Jesus replied that He is the way, providing truth and life. Memorizing scripture is an ancient practice. Some Jewish rabbis had the entire Old Testament memorized. The Holy Spirit uses the words we store in our hearts to speak to us, remind us and direct us (John 14:26).

Consider memorizing John 14:6 this week.

"No one comes to the Father except through me" reflects back to "whoever believes in me, believes not just in me but the One who sent me" (John 12:44-47) and "I and the Father are one" (John 10:30). Jesus also said, "If you really know me, you will know my Father" (John 14:7).

Reading John, we are getting to know Jesus. What new things have you learned about Him? What new things are you learning about God the Father through Jesus? How has your time spent with God affected your relationship with Him? Are there any truths about Jesus and who He is that are making a difference in any areas of your life?

### **John 14:8-11**

Like Thomas, Philip wants to learn so he asks a question. They are Jesus' disciples. A disciple is someone who learns and follows.

As believers, we are also disciples. Asking questions and seeking answers are part of learning. How we act is part of the following. In what ways is it easy for you to be Jesus' disciple and where is it difficult?

Jesus answers Phillips' question with, "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father...It is the Father living in me who is doing His work."

Some of us struggle to know God the Father because of our relationships with our earthly fathers. How does your earthly father help you connect with God the Father? How does your earthly father get in the way of knowing your Heavenly Father? Ask the Holy Spirit to help you surrender anything in the way.

How does knowing Jesus' love help you understand the Father's love?

With Jesus it was the Father in Him doing His work. With us, it is His Holy Spirit in us doing God's work. Where is the Holy Spirit at work in you - in your faith, character, restoration? What unique things is He calling you to? What areas or places in your life are you holding tight to your own control?

Take a moment and close your eyes. Picture these things you are trying to control. Put them in your hands and close your fists around them. Talk with God about them then slowly, when you are ready, picture turning your hands upward, opening your fists, displaying these things for God to not just hear about but to see in your hand. With your hands open, invite Him to come, take control.

Jesus said "believe on the evidence of the works." (John 14:11) Our works should also point to God and be motivated out of a response to God's great love for us. His love is the overflow which pours out of us and is a testimony to God.

Where have you witnessed the evidence of God's love in your life? God's love moves Him to action, to works. What works of God do you see in your life?

Where has the evidence of God's work in you poured out this week as evidence? Who witnessed it? Did you feel it blessing others? Does it matter if they knew where it came from? What is your part and what is the part of the Holy Spirit? Is there an area where your "work" is from you and is not a result of God's overflow?

## **John 14:12-14**

In John 14:11 Jesus said, “I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father.” Pentecost was the beginning of the fulfillment of this prophecy. When the Holy Spirit came to the apostles and the believers with them, they were able to communicate the gospel in earthly languages they did not know so that every person present could understand and have a chance to believe no matter what language they spoke.

The words “greater works” were not about miracles as none of the works of the apostles were greater than Jesus', rather they were about the reach of ministry. Jesus was in one region, Judea. As one commentary says, “Jesus' personal ministry in the flesh must be a local ministry. Only under the dispensation of the Spirit could it be universal.”

Jesus' ministry was not a ministry of miracles but of building relationships with people, teaching about His love, His Father, salvation and heaven. He lived out the overflow of God's love.

We now live out of the overflow of God's love for us. Following Jesus' example, what is your part of doing greater things?

“I will do whatever you ask in my name” Jesus said. Some people begin their prayers “In the name of Jesus I ask...” or end their prayers with “in the name of Jesus.” These are not magic formulas, rather they are a way to acknowledge Jesus' authority, to accept God's will in the answer, and to remember that we should ask for things that will glorify God. Jesus was an example for us when He prayed similarly “not my will but Yours be done” (Luke 22:42).

In Matthew 26 Jesus prayed in Gethsemane. Three times He prayed the same prayer, asking God to “pass this cup from me.” In being fully human, there was anticipation of the suffering and pain. Jesus engaged with the Father repeating the same request. What does His example teach you about how we are to approach the Father?

When you ask God for something and it does not happen, how do you deal with God's apparent silence or when your ask is not answered the way you wish it to be? Practice praying as Jesus did, “not my will but Yours be done.” Then thank God for His perfect, best for you will.

Jesus' response to the Father was submission. How can we cultivate submissive hearts?