



One Hope Community Church Suggested Reading Plan & Guide Book of John: Chapter 14 part 2

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 a 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: Never been a moment: Micah Tyler
<https://youtu.be/0apupwTkof0?si=jE0FoYfuR-2E4FK0>

Suggested Reading Plan John 14: 15-30

- Day 1: John 14:15-17
- Day 2: John 14:18-21
- Day 3: John 14:22-24
- Day 4: John 14:25-27
- Day 5: John 14:28-31

John 14:15-17

Jesus said, “If you love me, obey my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you.”

The Greek word for commandments in this verse is entolas. It means “an authoritative prescription or precept.” A precept is a general rule intended to regulate behavior or thought. Jesus commanded His disciples to serve one another as He had served them (washing their feet). This was not like the 10

commandments which were about morality. This was a new command about imitating Christ's selfless love. It was to regulate their behaviors and thinking.

Love feels and love acts. It propelled Jesus to become fully man, to spend time with His disciples and other people, to meet people's needs and to go to the cross. His command was not just to the disciples but to us as well. We cannot love like Jesus without first having a relationship with Him. As a believer, the Holy Spirit living in you can help you love like Jesus. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you opportunities to serve others this week, to help you keep Jesus' command to imitate Christ's selfless love. What are some ways you can obey Jesus by serving others and showing them His love this week? How do you show and communicate to Jesus that you love Him?

The Greek words for "another Advocate" are "allos Parakleton." Allos means "another of the same kind, not different" while parakleton means "advocate, helper or comforter" and has the meaning of someone called to help such as an advisor, legal defender or mediator. Jesus and the Holy Spirit are not different, They are the same in who they are and in their role as Advocate. God the Father sent Jesus as an Advocate (1 John 2:1) and the Father would soon send the Holy Spirit as an Advocate.

Think about the specialists in your life who you have hired to advise or defend you. Consider friends who have comforted you. What are the traits in these people that you found helpful? How did it feel to trust that someone else could guide, defend or comfort you? You can have even more trust in God's ability to guide, defend and comfort you! How does that affect your thinking and feeling?

The word abide means to stay, remain, dwell or live with. There is a permanence communicated. Unlike David, we do not have to pray "do not take Your Spirit from me" (Psalms 51:11) as the Holy Spirit remains with us who believe in Jesus. Jesus and the Holy Spirit are the perfect parakletons.

Charles Spurgeon was a teacher in the 1800's. He wrote that "you always perceive a gulf between the wise Master and the foolish disciples. Now the Holy Ghost annihilates that distance by dwelling in us."

Putting it into practice: You have access to the Holy Spirit at all times. Is there something you need wisdom for? Something you need for which direction or comfort would help? Tell the Holy Spirit about it. Ask Him about it. Then sit quietly with Him; wait for Him to respond. It may be with peace that passes understanding or with His wisdom. At the end of your time with Him, thank Him for being your parakleton. How did it feel to enter into a space where you listened to God? What is He telling you?

John 14:18-21

Based on the translation, verse 18 says Jesus would not leave His disciples comfortless or as orphans. Hebrews would often call their rabbi (teacher) "father" and therefore disciples (students) were considered children. When the rabbi died, the scholars were considered orphans.

Though they did not understand, Jesus was telling His disciples that He would be back after His crucifixion; they would see Him again. AND Jesus was telling them that His personhood of the Holy

Spirit would be coming to them “on that day” which we know as Pentecost. Spurgeon offers this comparison:

<u>for orphans</u>	<u>verses</u>	<u>for those who believe</u>
their parents are dead		the Holy Spirit affirms Jesus is alive
they are alone		the Holy Spirit draws us close to God
they lost their provider		the Holy Spirit provides
they live without instruction		the Holy Spirit teaches
they have no defender		the Holy Spirit and Jesus advocate

Reading through that list, is there any part of being an orphan which you can identify with? Reading through the other side of the list, how is the Holy Spirit responding to that for you? Which action of the Holy Spirit are you most thankful for today?

Jesus called us to love one another as He loved us. Do you know someone who is struggling with something from the left column? How can you show them God’s love this week?

Putting it into practice: Quiet your space. This may look like grabbing a cup of coffee and gazing out the window. Or it may include putting on praise music and taking a walk. Breathe in and out slowly a few times. Be present in the moment without rushing ahead. You are not alone. What do you want to tell the Holy Spirit about right now? What is heavy on your heart? Where do you need comfort, teaching, wisdom or direction? Ask Him for it and then thank the Holy Spirit for what He is doing and is yet to do in this request.

Jesus had just given His disciples a new commandment in John 13:34, “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” Now in John 14:21 Jesus said, “whoever has my commandments and keeps them is the one who loves me.” The word “has” is the Greek word *echon* which means to own or possess. Jesus’s commandments include all He said and is summarized by His love in action.

God created each of us with a HOLY PURPOSE! God created each of us with a HOLY MISSION! What ways have you been uniquely created to love others? All are needed in the body of Christ. Where might God be prompting you to love others both inside the church and in your community?

Putting it into practice Take some time talking with the Holy Spirit. Ask Him to grow love like Jesus in you, to make it part of you. Invite Him to show you the opportunities He has prepared for you this week to show love to others. Encourage one another by sharing with your small group or friends your experience of listening to the Holy Spirit’s promptings.

John 14:22-24

Judas asks the next question. Judas was a common name during that time; it means, “Jehovah leads.” This Judas is called the “Judas of James” in Luke 6 and Acts 1. Based on what is known, Bible scholars suggest he was the same man as Thaddeus in Matthew 10 and Mark 3. Thaddeus means “breast-child” so it’s possible it was a nickname suggestive of his having a tender, childlike heart.

What are some of your favorite nick names? What do they reveal about how others see you? How might they also be reflective of how God created you? How might you use nicknames with others to call out their strengths and who God created them to be?

Judas asked, “why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?” The disciples had spent three years traveling with Jesus; His ministry was growing more public. Jesus was getting ready to complete His work on earth but to the disciples, it may have seemed that it was just beginning.

In reply, Jesus repeated things He had just said but in a new way. He added “we will make our home with them.”

When you make a home, it is a reflection of you. You move in and make it your own. As a believer, the Holy Spirit moves in; He lives in you and is making His home in you. What changes have you noticed in your life since God began making His home in you? Where might God be asking you to grow more in likeness to Him? How is God in you overflowing to others?

Putting relationship with God into practice: Set an alarm for 2:42pm. When your alarm goes off, pray something like this: Jesus, you are the Lord of my life. I know you have a purpose and a plan for my life and I fully submit my life to you. Thank You for making Your home with me.

John 14:25-27

Jesus repeatedly identified the Trinity: God the Father, Holy Spirit and Himself. He taught his disciples how the Trinity interacts and works for the good of God’s people for His plan and His glory. In John 14:26, Jesus said the Holy Spirit would teach and remind the disciples of what Jesus said.

Most Biblical scholars agree that the New Testament was written about 20 to 60 years after Jesus’s ascension. The Holy Spirit’s role in reminding the disciples about what Jesus said was both of near and far importance. The Holy Spirit reminded them so they could tell the people of that time and He reminded them when they later wrote it down, creating the New Testament.

Putting it into practice One way God continues to speak to believers is by His Word, the Bible. When you memorize verses, you store them inside you. The Holy Spirit will remind you of those words when you need them or to tell you something. It is a way God communicates with us. Consider picking a verse from John 14:15-31 to memorize this week. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you remember the verse and to remind you of it in the future when He has something to tell you.

Since Old Testament times, Jewish people have said peace be upon you (shalom aleichem) in both greeting and farewell. When Jesus was born, the angels said “peace on earth” (Luke 2:14). Jesus had come to earth and His name is Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6). He was literally Peace on earth. Believing in Him brings us an inward peace. AND much like an inheritance, He gave His peace along with the sending of the Holy Spirit. He did not just leave peace, He gave it.

Phillipians 4:7 says, “and the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” Where in your life are you restless and craving peace? Ask the Holy Spirit to help you trust and bring you peace.

There are attitudes which can destroy peace such as worry, control and bitterness. Are there any attitudes you need to confess and ask forgiveness for? “The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control” (Galatians 5:22-23). Ask the Holy Spirit to grow peace in you.

Ephesians 5:1 says, “be imitators of God, as beloved children.” Jesus left us His peace, the Holy Spirit’s fruit is peace. As God’s peace grows in you, how can you pass it on to others?

Putting it into practice: This week when you say, “goodbye,” remember shalom and ask God to make His presence known to those you were with. What other ways can you show people the peace of God?

John 14:28-31

There was an urgency as Jesus repeated Himself again. He wanted His disciples to know so that when things happened, they would remember and it would foster belief.

Putting it into practice: Today the Holy Spirit may use Bible verses, a message at church, something a friend tells us or a song to foster our belief. This week what have you heard that has fostered your belief? Consider journaling about what you heard from God. Share this with a friend or your small group so that their faith may also be strengthened.

Jesus said “the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold over me.” In Genesis God created Adam and gave him rule over this world. A consequence of sin was that rule was given to Satan. As a result, his lies influence peoples’ ideas, values and beliefs. God remains in absolute authority while Satan “blinded the minds of unbelievers” (2 Corinthians 4:4). However God “has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves” (Colossians 1:13).

Just as Satan had no hold on Jesus, he has no hold on those who believe in Jesus. Thank God for setting you free from the lies of Satan. Ask God to use you as a light for others to see that Jesus is “the Way, the Truth and the Life” (John 14:6).

Consider:

If we allow Jesus to transform our spirit by His Spirit, the first step is inviting Jesus to work in your life.
- Shannon Swift

If you aren’t spending time reading and studying God’s word each and every day, I encourage you to start today. It will literally change your life. - Frank Vandy