

The Follower's Trail Guide

NAVIGATING THE PATH OF JESUS

OPENING UP



Share a time when the thought of something you were looking forward to in the future kept you going through the everyday sameness or through a difficult season in your life.

TEXT

The Follower's Trail Guide—Part 3 | John 14:1-14

“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God;^[a] believe also in me. ²In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” ⁹Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

¹²“Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. ¹³Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

MESSAGE OUTLINE

Big Idea: Believe in Jesus.

1. Believe Jesus will bring us to the Father. (vv. 1-6)
2. Believe Jesus will show us the Father. (vv. 7-11)

3. Believe Jesus will glorify the Father through us. (vv. 12-14)

DISCUSSION



- In verse 1, Jesus told his disciples, “Do not let your hearts be troubled.” What is causing your heart to be troubled today? How do the promises of Jesus in this passage bring you hope in the midst of your circumstances?
- Read verse 6 again. How do we see that following Jesus is both inclusive and exclusive at the same time? Why is this verse “good news”?
- Jesus said in verse 9 “Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.” Are there any inconsistencies between the way you view Jesus and the way you view God the Father? How does what you know about Jesus from the Scriptures need to alter the way you think about the Father? How will correcting your beliefs about the Father help you to trust him more?
- Reread verse 13. How does the last half of the verse help us understand the first half of the verse? How can Jesus’s promise “Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son” change the way that we pray?
- The Big Idea of this message is to “Believe in Jesus.” How can we as a community help each other do that in a way that changes our everyday lives? In what ways can we speak, react to one another, encourage each other, etc. so that we will choose belief in the promises of Jesus instead of fear in the face of our circumstances?

LIFE CHALLENGE



Does your eternal hope in Jesus change the way that you speak with those who don’t have this hope? When you are relating to friends who don’t know Jesus yet, being transparent about your real-life struggles is important to building authentic friendship. How can you demonstrate that your belief in Jesus gives you hope and purpose even in the midst of difficult situations? How can sharing your struggles give you openings to point to the confidence you have in Jesus as the way?

Discuss what this balance looks like. Share the name of one friend that is coming to your mind now and pray together as a group for opportunities in conversation this week to point to Jesus as your hope.

CLOSING PRAYER



Dear Father in Heaven, thank you that you have shown us who you are through the life of Jesus. Give us the power to believe that Jesus is *the* way, and please use that belief to change how we speak with hope, live in faith, and pray with confidence. Please glorify yourself through our lives! Amen