

Small Group Discussion Guide — February 28, 2021

- Series: Way, Truth, Life
 - Sermon: Love - Obey - Breathe
 - Scripture: John 14: 15-27 (NIV)
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FOLLOW-UP FROM LAST WEEK:

What things did you notice trying to take the place of lordship in your life this week? Did the reminder that *Jesus is the way* have any effect on your thinking and behavior as you noticed that struggle within your heart?

CONNECT:

1. What stood out to you from this past week's service, and why?
2. What is a random childhood memory that you have? It doesn't need to make sense why you remember it. Share with the group.

ENGAGE:

1. Read John 14: 15-27.
 - According to Jesus' own words, how do we show our love to him?
 - How many times is this idea repeated in this passage? What does that suggest to you?
2. Read the passage again, noting the mentions of the Holy Spirit.
 - What characteristics of the Spirit given here stand out to you right now?
 - What is the significance of the descriptor, "Spirit of truth?" What truths has He revealed to you over time?
 - In verses 18-20, Jesus promises to come back to his disciples (and, by extension, to us). In what ways do these verses help you understand the Holy Spirit and the Trinity?

APPLY:

1. Jesus' statement, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching," is a statement of fact; as humans, we obey what we love. Discuss this idea. As you consider your own life, what do your actions show that you truly love? Where do you see areas in which you need to grow in love for Christ over other things?
2. Jesus promises to give us real peace that is different from the peace the world offers (v. 27). How are they different? Why do you think Jesus promised *peace*, as opposed to wisdom or comfort or happiness? How much of this real peace have you realized in your life, and where is it still lacking?

PRAY:

Father God, thank you for the words in this scripture that remind us that you are faithful, even when we are not. You have not left us alone, but have given us your Spirit to comfort and guide us in the way we should go. Thank you for the peace you give, and for bringing us into relationship with You. Intertwine our hearts with yours. In Jesus' name, Amen.

GOING DEEPER

Not only do we obey what we love, but we also grow to resemble what we love. An often repeated refrain in the Old Testament is that those who make and worship idols will end up like them (see Psalm 115:8). For example, if you worship money, you'll become greedy. If you worship pleasure, you'll become a hedonist, etc. If people observing your life had to guess what you love, what do you think they'd say? What would need to change in your character and/or behavior to show an abiding love for Christ?

SUPPORTING VERSES

Friendly reminder: Download one of the Bible apps on your phone or tablet to have quick access to the many different versions of scripture available.

Luke 12:34

1 John 2:3-5

Psalm 90:1-2

QUOTES

“When the kingdom is a treasure, submission is a pleasure.”

John Piper

“When the will has become enslaved by its need, when the mind has become obsessed with the object of its desire, when the appetite of the body has become master rather than servant, the soul is disordered.”

John Ortberg

“Cooperation with God's gracious work moves us toward the wholeness of Christ. Rebellion against God's gracious work moves us into destructive and dehumanizing emptiness, into increasingly dysfunctional lives that are self-destructive and treat others as objects to be manipulated and used for our own purposes.”

Robert Mulholland

Thomas Merton Prayer

“My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always, though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.”