



LEADER GUIDE

THE SIGN OF HIS DIVINITY

BIG IDEA: Jesus is the only way to securing our eternal home in Heaven.

DATE: Sunday, March 15, 2026

SCRIPTURE: John 14:1-18

OPENING QUESTION

What are some sights, sounds or smells that make you think of home? *Perhaps it is the smell of your mom's chocolate chip cookies baking, or the sound of John Madden announcing a Sunday afternoon football game on tv, and the feel of your comfy couch as you sit by your dad watching the game.*

Oftentimes our nostalgia for "home" really isn't about a place – but the people who made it "home" for us. As believers in Jesus, we have an eternal home waiting for us. Scripture uses many descriptions to speak of the next life, including "the eternal Kingdom" (2 Peter 1:11), "an inheritance" (1 Pet. 1:4), and "a city" (Heb. 11:6). But isn't it comforting to know Jesus described it as "home" (v. 14:2). And today we will look at one of Jesus's I Am statements, "I am the way, the truth and the life" and what that means for our eternal home.

SETTING THE STAGE

By the end of John 13, the disciples are overwhelmed. They are grappling with the realization that Jesus, their teacher and Lord, is about to leave them. They are unsettled by the revelation of betrayal within their group, the prediction of Peter's denial, and the call to a life of sacrificial love and humility. In their humanity, the disciples might be confused and afraid about what lay ahead. Yet, in the next chapter, Jesus speaks directly to their troubled hearts. *"Don't let your heart be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me."* (John 14:1) This call to faith is the antidote to their fear and confusion. Jesus invites them – and us – to trust Him fully, even in the face of uncertainty. While John 13 confronts us with the reality of human frailty, John 14 points us to the hope and assurance we have in Christ and the home waiting for us in heaven.

SCRIPTURE READING

JOHN 14:1-18 (CSB)

"Don't let your heart be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? ³If I go away and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself, so that where I am you may be also. ⁴You know the way to where I am going."

⁵"Lord," Thomas said, "we don't know where you're going. How can we know the way?" ⁶Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through

me. ⁷ If you know me, you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him." ⁸ "Lord," said Philip, "show us the Father, and that's enough for us." ⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have I been among you all this time and you do not know me, Philip? The one 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 the Father is in me? The words I speak to you I do not speak on my own. The Father who lives in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Otherwise, believe because of the works themselves.

¹² "Truly I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do. And he will do even greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ Whatever you ask in my name, I will do it so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it. ¹⁵ "If you love me, you will keep my commands.

¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever. ¹⁷ He is the Spirit of truth. The world is unable to receive him because it doesn't see him or know him. But you do know him, because he remains with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ "I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you.

DISCUSSION

WHERE YOU'LL GO

John 14: 1-3

In New Testament times verse 2 would conjure up a cultural image. When a couple wed, they would live with the groom's family. When the groom's father had finished adding on a room to his house or adding a wall to create two rooms out of one, then the wedding could take place. Their room was ready. The father had been preparing it for them.

What do you picture when you think of Jesus preparing a place for you?

When Jesus returns and creation is re-created and redeemed, we find a description of the New Heaven and the New Earth in Revelation 21 -22. While we do not have an exact blueprint for what a dwelling or the rooms in heaven will look like for Christ followers, we do have something of a visual picture.

LEADERS: Recruit someone in your LifeGroup ahead of time who is an expressive reader to read the following out loud to the group. Ask your group to close their eyes as it is read.

A Visual Picture of the Heavenly City based on Revelation 21-22

Imagine yourself standing before a city so vast and radiant that it defies earthly scale.

The Shape and Size: The entire city rises before you as a **perfect cube**, each dimension equal — length, width, and height stretching unimaginably far into the horizon.

Its footprint is a **massive square**, precise and flawless, extending 12,000 stadia (7.2 million feet) in every direction — a scale so large the edges fade into shimmering distance.

The Walls: Surrounding the city is a wall of **144 cubits (or 240 ft)** in thickness. The wall is built of **jasper**, a deep, living green that catches and bends the light like a gemstone brought to life.

The City Itself: Behind the jasper wall, the city gleams with a brilliance unlike anything on earth. The entire structure is made of **pure gold**, but this gold is **transparent**, glowing like molten sunlight yet clear as glass. Light doesn't just reflect — it *flows* through the city, illuminating every surface from within.

The Foundations: Beneath the walls, the foundations rise in **twelve jeweled layers**, each one a different stone, each glowing with its own color and character:

1. **Jasper** – deep green, shimmering like polished crystal
2. **Sapphire** – rich blue, like a cloudless sky
3. **Chalcedony** – soft, milky blue with hints of lavender
4. **Emerald** – vibrant green, alive with inner fire
5. **Sardonyx** – layered white and red bands
6. **Carnelian** – fiery red-orange, warm as embers
7. **Chrysolite** – golden-green, bright as sunlight on water
8. **Beryl** – sea-green, cool and luminous
9. **Topaz** – golden-yellow, glowing like captured dawn
10. **Chrysoprase** – apple-green, smooth and radiant
11. **Jacinth** – deep reddish-orange, like a burning horizon
12. **Amethyst** – royal purple, rich and glowing

Each foundation layer shines upward, casting colored light across the golden city.

The Gates: There are **twelve gates**, three on each side of the square. Each gate is made from a **single, colossal pearl** — smooth, luminous, and iridescent. The pearlescent glow shifts with every movement of light, creating waves of soft color across the gate's surface.

The Streets: The main street stretches straight into the heart of the city. It is made of **pure gold**, but like the city itself, it is **transparent**, glowing with a warm radiance. You can see light passing through it, as though the street itself is made of solid sunlight.

The River: A river begins at a radiant throne — the throne of God and the Lamb — and pours outward like liquid light. The water is so clear it looks like flowing crystal, shimmering with inner brightness. It runs straight down the center of the city's great boulevard, a wide, gleaming street paved with something purer than gold.

The Tree of Life: On both sides of the river rises the Tree of Life — not a single tree, but a vast, living presence that seems to grow as one across the water. Its branches arch overhead like a canopy of eternity. Its fruit glows with twelve colors, each kind ripening in perfect sequence month after month. The leaves shimmer with a soft, healing light, as if every breeze that touches them carries restoration to the world.

The City: There is no shadow anywhere. No lamps. No sun. Yet everything is illuminated with a warm, living brilliance that comes directly from God Himself. The light doesn't just shine *on* things — it shines *through* them, filling the city with a purity that feels almost musical.

The People: Those who serve God walk the streets with faces lifted, unafraid and unashamed. They look upon His face — something no one on earth could do — and His name rests on their foreheads like a mark of belonging, identity, and love. Their expressions carry a peace that feels eternal, as if time itself has finally stopped hurting.

The Atmosphere: There is no night. No decay. No curse. Only life — unending, unbroken, overflowing. The people reign with God forever, not in dominance but in harmony, like co-heirs of a restored creation.

SAY: Open your eyes. ASK: What amazed you about this description of heaven? How does this stir up passion to not only experience this place but to bring everyone you can with you?

How do you think John felt as he tried to write down the vision of heaven he was seeing?

As dazzling and magnificent as this description is, the focus is not merely about the *place* but the *Person* - Who we will be with. Heaven is wherever God is. As Jesus said, each Christian will dwell in 'my Father's house.'

Why did God give John this detailed vision of heaven?

Jesus said He was preparing a place for us to be with Him forever. Keeping this in perspective gives us hope in the midst of suffering. Measuring our current problems against the hope of heaven allows us to reframe our circumstances with a new mindset.

WHO YOU KNOW

Read John 14:4-11

Which disciple admitted he had no idea where Jesus was going? How did Jesus respond?

How did Jesus explain His connection with the Father?

Thomas voiced what the other disciples might have been thinking. Jesus had withdrawn at times to escape arrest. It's possible Thomas thought Jesus was referring to one of those secret places. Bottom line, Thomas didn't know where Jesus was going or how to get there. Jesus responded with another I AM statement, making it clear that the way is a Person. *He is the Way.*

We don't have to let our hearts be troubled because of Who we know. Jesus made it clear that He and the Father are inseparable. **When we know, see, and hear Jesus, we are knowing, seeing, and hearing the Father.** He is our Way, our Truth, and our Life.

WHAT JESUS BESTOWS

Read John 14: 12-18

Here we see a series of If/then statements. Fill in the blanks below.

If you believe in Me, then you will _____. (do the works that I do - even greater works!)

If you ask Me anything in My name, then I will _____. (do it! I will respond to your requests if they align with My Will and bring Me glory.)

If you love Me, then you will _____. (keep My commands; obey Me.)

Jesus invited His followers to ask for anything. (The fact that Jesus invites us to ask for *anything* is mind-blowing!) He wasn't teaching that if we name and claim our desires, then He delivers like a magic genie. The text qualifies our asking – in Jesus's name. This doesn't mean we can just tack those words onto any prayer and get what we want either. Jesus's name represents His character. Asking in His name means asking in line with His will.

What's striking here is the access. Jesus invites us and has made a way for us to converse with the God of creation - the God who is creating our future dazzling home in heaven that we heard about! Through prayer, Jesus bestows on us an avenue to intimacy with God. Don't take this for granted.

A season of grief or struggle gives us a closeness to the Lord that only desperation can bring. Jesus's invitation to ask Him for anything is a precious gift as we cry out for comfort, peace and His presence. As we pray, Jesus bestows the power so that we do not let trouble overwhelm us. The next time anxiety knocks at the door of our mind, we can let prayer answer it!

And then in verses 14-16 we have a promise – Jesus will be with us through the Holy Spirit.

How do you rely on the Holy Spirit to be your "Counselor"? (Who do you turn to when you need to make a big decision – your intuition or the Holy Spirit? How do you tell the difference? Who do you turn to first when you face a trying time?)

How are you living out the truth that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life?

LEADERS – a lot of people call themselves *spiritual* and see Jesus as "a way" but not "the way." Spend some time talking through what it practically looks like for Jesus to be *the* way, *the* truth and *the* life.

WAY- Do you believe Jesus is the **ONLY** way to the Father, to salvation?

TRUTH - Do you turn to Scripture over the latest self-help book? Is He the Absolute Truth in your life by which you measure every decision, every word that you speak to others and to yourself? Remember the devil is the "author of lies."

LIFE - This life is not just about quantity but quality: a deep, vibrant connection with the Father. In the same way that a tree rooted by a stream is constantly nourished and thriving (Psalm 1). Where are they drawing "life" from? He has promised an abundant life! And one day that life will be eternal life in our eternal home where the real beauty will be His presence.

RESPONSE

For troubled disciples – including us – Jesus being the way, the truth and the life provides comfort and confidence. We don't need to rely on ourselves to reach God, discern truth, or earn our heavenly home. Jesus has already done it! And when we receive Jesus as our savior, we can look forward to being with God in a home He is preparing for us.

***Share with your group: Next week in LifeGroup we will study John 15:1-17. Read it this week and come prepared to discuss!**

READING PLAN

3/15 – Matthew 16; 3/16 – Matthew 17; 3/17 – Matthew 18; 3/18 – 1 Kings 18; 3/19 – 1 Kings 19; 3/20 – 2 Kings 2; 3/21 – 2 Peter 1; *Memory Verse* – 2 Peter 1:3

COMMENTARY

Jesus Overcomes our Troubled Hearts - John 14

In John 14:1-18, Jesus gives five reasons why we should trust Him and not let our hearts be troubled. These five reasons are sandwiched between the same call to faith “Believe in God; believe also in me” (v. 1) and, “Believe in me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me” (v. 11). This reinforces the fact that trust is the answer to our troubled hearts. Jesus invites us to lean on Him, just as His disciples needed to, even when life feels uncertain or hard.

Jesus Prepares a Place

The first reason Jesus gives for troubled hearts to have faith in Him is found in verse 2: “In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?” This statement is rich with imagery and assurance. **It paints a picture of God’s house as a welcoming, permanent home for all who put their trust in Jesus.** Unlike a hotel or short-term vacation rental where guests come and go, this is a place where we are meant to stay forever as members of God’s family. Jesus compares God’s Kingdom to a type of home in which rooms are custom designed for each and every family member. He helps us envision the kind of place we would not merely visit temporarily, but a place we would never want to leave because we’d be known, loved, and deeply cared for. It’s an illustration that emphasizes permanence and warmth.

The “many rooms” signify there’s space for everyone *who believes*. Picture a banquet hall with countless seats, each one prepared for a guest. No one is left out; no one is overlooked. Just as the prodigal son was welcomed home with open arms, so too are we welcomed into God’s house. When fear or guilt tries to take root in our hearts, you must remember this: we belong in God’s household. Trust in Jesus, and rest in the assurance that your room is ready, waiting for you to come home.

Jesus Prepares the Way

When Jesus tells His disciples, “I’m going to prepare a place for you” (vv. 2-3), He’s offering more than just a vision of heaven - He’s pointing to the transformative work He’s about to accomplish through His death and resurrection. This preparation is about removing the obstacles of sin and death that stand between us and God. It involves His sacrificial death on the cross. Our sin separates us from God, and only Jesus’s atonement can bridge that divide. On the cross, He bore the punishment we deserve, satisfying God’s justice and demonstrating his countless love.

But Jesus didn't stop at the cross. His resurrection is the ultimate triumph over death, proving that sin's power is broken and eternal life is possible. As Jesus says, "Because I live, you will live too" (v. 19). His resurrection clears the path for us to follow Him into God's presence. Without his death and resurrection, the "place" he speaks of would remain inaccessible.

Jesus Takes Us to Himself

Jesus's promise in John 14:3 is deeply personal and profoundly comforting: "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself, so that where I am you may be also." In these words, **Jesus offers more than the assurance of a destination in heaven - He reveals that the essence of heaven is being with Him.** This promise has implications for both the future and our present lives, giving us a hope that steadies troubled hearts. The promise of heaven is not just about a physical place but about a Person somewhere: Jesus Himself. **Wherever Jesus is, that is where we belong.** This intimate relationship with Christ defines the Christian hope. Heaven isn't merely about golden streets or pearly gates - it's about dwelling in the presence of our Savior.

We often associate "home" with safety, belonging, and love. But earthly houses are temporary, and even the best ones can't fully satisfy our hearts. Jesus offers something greater: an eternal home in Himself. His death and resurrection make this possible. By paying the price for our sins and defeating death, He opens the door to a relationship with God that begins now and lasts forever. And when Jesus says, "I will come again and take you to myself," He speaks of both His return at the end of time and His continual presence through the Holy Spirit. **His promise is not just for the distant future; it's a reality that gives meaning to our lives today. Because Jesus is with us now, we can face life's challenges with confidence.**

Jesus and the Father are One

When Philip said, "Show us the father, and that's enough for us" (v. 8), he was expressing a desire many of us share: to see God tangibly, to experience His presence unmistakably. Jesus's reply is profound: "The one who has seen me has seen the Father" (v. 9). With this statement, Jesus reveals the truth central to the Christian faith - He and the Father are one. Trusting Jesus is not just a step toward a future experience of God; it's the way to encounter God's presence right now. Jesus's words emphasized that He is the perfect representation of the Father. As Hebrews 1:3 puts it, "The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact expression of His nature." When we look at Jesus - His love, compassion, wisdom, and power - we are looking at God Himself. This means that knowing Jesus is not just a religious exercise; it is the way of experiencing God's love and presence in our lives. What Jesus is pointing out to us in this passage is that He is no mere "glimpse of God" - He *is* God in the flesh, fully present with us.

Jesus is with Us Through the Holy Spirit

Finally, Jesus's promise in John 14: 16-18 provides profound comfort to a troubled heart: "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another counselor to be with you forever[...] I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you." These words assure us that even though Jesus specifically left the earth after His resurrection, His presence remains through the Holy Spirit. **The Spirit is not a substitute for Jesus but the very continuation of His presence, ensuring that we are never abandoned.** This promise offers hope, strength, and peace in every season of life.

Jesus's promise of the Holy Spirit is a reminder that we are never alone. No matter what we face, the Spirit is with us, providing strength, peace, and the assurance that Jesus is near. **This truth**

transforms our struggles into opportunities to experience God's power and presence, reminding us that we belong to him forever.

Conclusion

When Jesus declares, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6), He is speaking directly to His disciples' troubled hearts. His words are meant to comfort assure and guide us by revealing that He is the key to our relationship with God and our ultimate hope. These truths are equally powerful for us today when we face uncertainty and fear.

When Jesus says He is "the way", He assures us that our access to God is secure through Him. In John 14, the disciples were likely unsure how they could follow Jesus after He had gone, but Jesus explains that He Himself is the bridge to the Father. They don't need to worry about finding the path - it is already provided in Him. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus clears every obstacle - sin, shame, and death - allowing us to approach the Father confidently. As Hebrews 10:19-20 says: "We have boldness to enter the sanctuary through the blood of Jesus. He has inaugurated for us a new and living way."

Jesus also declares that He is "the truth." For Jesus's troubled disciples, this was a vital reminder. Their world was about to be turned upside down by Jesus's arrest, crucifixion, and resurrection, and they needed an anchor in the chaos. By claiming to be "the truth", Jesus is saying that everything about Him - His words, actions, and promises - perfectly reflects God's nature and plan. For us, this means that when life feels uncertain or the world's voices compete for our attention, we can turn to Jesus as the ultimate source of truth. His teachings and promises remain steadfast, offering clarity and direction.

Finally, Jesus proclaims that He is "the life." This reassures us that our future is secure in Him, even beyond death. Through Jesus, we will experience eternal life - an unbroken relationship with God that begins now and lives forever. **This life is not just about quantity but quality: a deep, vibrant connection with the Father. In the same way that a tree rooted by a stream is constantly nourished and thriving (Psalm 1).** Jesus sustains and enriches our lives, even in the midst of trials. As John 10:10 reminds us, Jesus came so we "may have life and have it in abundance."

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