

John 14:15-31
February 15, 2026

Tips and Tricks:

The sermon notes are designed to be used as a guide for discussion. Don't feel like you have to use every question. Some questions will take a while to work through and others will be over in a few seconds.

1. Don't teach the lesson. The sermon was just preached. Just ask the questions and let everyone else talk.
2. Let other people ask questions. It's OK to go "off topic" for a while. Sometimes those conversations are more interesting anyway!
3. Have fun. Don't forget to laugh and crack up. Relationships, not curriculum, are the heartbeat of our ministry. Remember: We have to build a relational bridge strong enough to hold the truth!

Agenda for Group Time

1. Ice Breaker - Lighthearted ice breaker question (10 minutes)
2. Discussion - Bible study, sharing and application. (25 Minutes)
3. Prayer - Pray together (5 minutes)
4. Planning - Remember to talk about what's coming up.

Icebreaker: What is one thing you wish you had more control over?

Read John 14:15-31

Jesus is sending the Holy Spirit empower our obedience, to make us His home, and to give us His peace

1. To empower our obedience

V15 — "If you love me, you will keep my commandments."

Question: Why is it important that obedience shows love but does not earn love?

Discussion: How do you think many Christians subtly drift into believing that obedience earns God's favor?

Question: What actually changes when someone "becomes a Christian?" What role does the Holy Spirit play in that change?

V16 — "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper..."

Question: Why is it significant that Jesus calls the Spirit a Helper? What does that tell us about obedience?

Discussion: Where in your life are you currently trying harder instead of depending more deeply on the Spirit?

2. To Make His Home With Us

V18 — "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you."

Question: Why would Jesus' departure have felt devastating to the disciples?

V22 — *Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?"*

Question: Why does it seem that Judas is asking this question? What do you think is motivating his question?

V23 — *"We will come to him and make our home with him."*

Discussion: Beneath many of our prayers is a desire for control. Do you see that in your own life? What situations in your life expose your desire for control?

3. To Give Us His Peace

V27 — *"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you."*

Question: How does Jesus distinguish His peace from the world's peace?

Francis Schaeffer defined personal peace like this: *"To be let alone, not to be troubled by the troubles of other people, whether across the world or across the city—to live one's life with minimal possibilities of being personally disturbed."*

In summary, to be comfortable, untroubled, and left alone

Discussion: Why does personal peace feel so fragile? How do you see this in your life?

Discussion: What is so alluring about control and what is so dangerous about it? What is the hope that Jesus gives instead?

v28 — *You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I will come to you.' If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I."*

Question: What might make some of us uncomfortable about what Jesus says here?

Discussion: In v28, Jesus isn't saying that the Father is more God than He is, but that in taking on a human nature, He submits to the will of the Father. Jesus is also calling us to obedience to the Lord out of love and submission. This is possible through the Spirit who empowers us and lives with us. What would it look like this week to seek the Spirit instead of chasing circumstances?

From the Book of Common Prayer

"A Prayer for Quiet Confidence"

O God of peace, who has taught us that in returning and rest we will be saved, that quiet confidence will be our strength: By the might of your Spirit lift us to your presence, where we may be still and know that you are God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.