

# Readings

## Scripture

<sup>15</sup> “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, <sup>17</sup> even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

<sup>18</sup> “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. <sup>19</sup> Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup> In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

<sup>21</sup> Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.” <sup>22</sup> Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, “Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?” <sup>23</sup> Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. <sup>24</sup> Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father’s who sent me.

<sup>25</sup> “These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. <sup>26</sup> But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. <sup>27</sup> Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. <sup>28</sup> 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. <sup>29</sup> And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe. <sup>30</sup> I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me, <sup>31</sup> but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us go from here.

- John 14:15-31 (English Standard Version)

# Sermon Outline

**The Promise of the Father**  
John 14:15-31

*Table Talk in an Upper Room*  
Stephen Baldwin

*Jesus calls his disciples to trust him in the midst of their troubled state, and ties this to their love for him. He then tells them....*

## What should we expect if we love Jesus?

These verses show us two extraordinary things:

Those who love Jesus will obey him, and keep his word (John 14:15, 21, 23)

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Those who love Jesus will receive the Holy Spirit to dwell in them  
(John 14:16-21, 23, 26-28)

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## Reflection Questions

*There are many more questions here than you can examine together in a Community Group. **We suggest that you pick two or three** and discuss them, rather than feeling that you need to try to cover all of them. In your personal study you may want to go more deeply into these areas.*

Note that the break at John 14:14 last Sunday artificially interrupts the flow of Jesus’ teaching during this farewell talk in the upper room. It is important to keep the close connection between what Jesus has just said—the greater things his followers would do, and his promise to answer prayer that is “in his name”—and what he now says about the gift of the Holy Spirit.

- Again we suggest that you read through the passage twice, keeping in mind Jesus’ words mentioned above. Read it and highlight the recurring words and phrases Jesus uses here.
- What are the disciples feeling at this point? Try to put yourself in their place, thinking about their hopes and expectations and how Jesus’ words are landing in their hearts. Have you been in a place like that?
- Next, what is new in Jesus’ teaching? Are there any changes that are more subtle in his emphasis? [It may be helpful to use different colored highlighters].
- What contrasts does Jesus draw when he talks about the Helper and his not leaving them as orphans?
- What other words are used to describe the Helper in footnotes and other versions of scripture? How would you describe the word “helper” as Jesus uses it here? How does this help you today?
- What is Jesus saying that they will know “in that day” that they didn’t know that night? What has changed?
- What is Jesus aiming for the disciples to believe in verse 29? Go back to John 13:19 to review how Jesus explains washing the disciples feet, and tells them that one of them would betray him. (Also see John 8:24-28 and what Jesus said to the Jews in that context).
- What do they need to believe that they don’t yet believe?
- In what ways does the gift of the Father give you hope and peace today? (How is he Helper, Comforter, Counselor in your life)?
- How does he give you purpose and meaning in your journey with him?