

Connection Group Discussion Questions

For the week of August 7, 2016

John 14:1-11

These questions are to be used as a spring board for discussion.

Answers may or may not be found in the sermons.

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. 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, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to the place 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 know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? 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; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves.”

New Living Translation (NLT)

“Don’t let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. ²There is more than enough room in my Father’s home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? ³When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. ⁴And you know the way to where I am going.”

⁵*“No, we don’t know, Lord,” Thomas said. “We have no idea where you are going, so how can we know the way?”*

⁶*Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. ⁷If you had really known me, you would know who my Father is. From now on, you do know him and have seen him!”*

⁸*Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.”*

⁹ Jesus replied, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don't know who I am? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father! So why are you asking me to show him to you? ¹⁰ Don't you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I speak are not my own, but my Father who lives in me does his work through me. ¹¹ Just believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Or at least believe because of the work you have seen me do."

Connection Questions:

1. If you were trying to prove the existence of God, what would be some of the issues that would make it difficult to prove?

2. What are some of the issues that make it easier to believe in God?

3. Can you prove the existence of God? Why or why not?

4. Share personal stories that have made it possible for you to believe in God.

5. In our text, Thomas and Phillip express some doubts about their journey with Jesus and believing in God. Discuss why you think it was difficult or challenging to trust Jesus' message after being with Jesus up to this point.

6. Do you think asking questions and having doubts about your faith indicates a lack of spiritual growth? Why or why not?

7. If possible, share stories in your life that have caused you to have questions or doubts about God. Were you able to get past those issues? If so, how?

8. Jesus says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." Discuss what you think this means in relationship to salvation. Do only Christians have an opportunity to experience eternal life?

9. Jesus says, "My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you." How is the peace Jesus talks about different from the way the world defines peace?

10. Theologian Marcus Borg says, "The Christian life is not about believing or doing what we need to believe or do so that we can be saved. Rather, it's about seeing what is already true, that God loves us already, and then beginning to live in this relationship." What do you think he means?