



WEEKLY STUDY

Week 1

In our year-long study of the book of John, we have come to some of my favorite words of Jesus. Jesus' address to his disciples in the hours leading up to his death on the cross is full of perspective-shifting promises. Jesus promised to go before his disciples to prepare a Way and a place for us with God. In order to enter into that Way and place, Jesus simply says, "believe". May your faith in Jesus Christ grow exponentially this week and beyond as you listen to his promises.

Peace of Christ,
Dr. Mark Youngman
Pastor of Discipleship

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional questions at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected to a Providence Small Group visit prov.church/smallgroups.

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture and follow the daily prayer prompt. You might also pray this prayer of confession that we prayed at the end of the message.

*Almighty God,
I put my faith in you today. I believe in your promises. What you say is true. So speak loudly and clearly to my heart. Drown out all distractions and draw me closer to you.
Amen.*

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: JOHN 14.1-2

Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. ² My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?

- The movement that was initiated and is sustained by Jesus began as a promise to a small group who followed him. In the power structures of this world, this movement makes no sense—yet it has

continued for thousands of years. Whatever happens in this world, Jesus is preparing a place for you.

- *Jesus, thank you for this promise. As I walk through life in this world, strengthen my belief in your promise of eternal life.*

TUESDAY: HEBREWS 11.6

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

- We spend so much of our lives trying to please others. Some of us get caught up in the idea that we could do enough or say enough to please God. But God simply wants our hearts. God wants us to believe that what He says is true. A prayer that pleases God is this,
- *God, I believe in your promises, help me in my moments of unbelief.*

WEDNESDAY: ISAIAH 43.10-11

“You are my witnesses,” declares the LORD,

“and my servant whom I have chosen,

so that you may know and believe me

and understand that I am he.

Before me no god was formed,

nor will there be one after me.

¹¹ *I, even I, am the LORD,*

and apart from me there is no savior.

- Our relationship with God is the foundation of a faithful life. We are witnesses and servants of the one true God who is our Savior. This knowledge must move from our head to our heart. It is one thing to know that God is the one true God, and another thing to live in relationship with him.
- *God, there is no other God but you. I put my life in your hands. Let me serve you and point others to you.*

THURSDAY: MARK 1.14-18

Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God.¹⁵ “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”

¹⁶ *As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen.¹⁷ “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.”¹⁸ At once they left their nets and followed him.*

- You can sense the urgency in the invitation from Jesus. *The time has come!* In his day, people had been waiting for God to show up and do a new thing. They didn't know it at first but Jesus was that

new thing God was doing. Jesus is the new thing God is doing still. So he is the physical representation of the Kingdom of God coming near. Now is the time to repent and believe the good news. When Jesus shared this, he wasn't using a scare tactic to make people come to belief, he was giving an invitation to an awakening. Are you ready to respond and follow him?

- *Jesus, I am ready to follow you more closely. Make me aware of your kingdom that has come near.*

FRIDAY: EPHESIANS 1.17-21

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people,¹⁹ and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength²⁰ he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

- Paul wanted Jesus followers to continue learning about who Jesus is. He asked God to give them a Spirit of wisdom and revelation. The Holy Spirit can guide us to know God better—to believe in Jesus Christ. That belief leads us to hope and an experience of the same power that raised Jesus from the dead. The same resurrection power—in us who believe. Are you praying regularly for that power? What might change in your life if you did?
- *God, I pray this prayer along with Paul—that I might know you better through the power of your Holy Spirit. And that the same power that raised Jesus from the dead would live in me.*

SATURDAY: JOHN 14.27

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

- If what Jesus says is true, we can experience his peace. He gives it to us freely. In what ways are you pursuing peace? What things besides Jesus do you turn to?
- *Jesus, Would you remove any fear that lingers in me and give me peace? I need your peace. The peace of Christ.*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Here's a quote from Pastor Jacob's message:

"If what Jesus says is true, you get peace. He's got a lot to say in John 14, check it out, but he says what I'm giving you is peace. So, don't let your hearts be troubled, and do not be afraid.

I have a lifelong struggle with anxiety. Man, I hate to say it. I wish I could say, I used to have a struggle with anxiety, but that's not true. There have been times in the last year for me that have been the worst it has ever been. I wish it wasn't my struggle, my thorn. I wish it was like plantar fasciitis and I had all these plantar fasciitis stories. I don't even know what that is. It's not funny I'm sure. Going to get plantar fasciitis emails. But we don't get to choose our struggle. This one's mine and it is real for me.

But if what Jesus says is true, I've got my peace coming my way. If what Jesus says is true, I get peace left to me from him, not as the world gives. And so I don't have to be afraid."

- Consider the challenges you face in your life today. Now hear this, "If what Jesus says is true _____." How would you fill in the blank?