

## STUDY GUIDE

**Monday, October 5 – Read John 14:1** These were Jesus' last moments with His disciples before everything as they knew it would change. Already, there had been mounting tension and confusion around Jesus' ministry, and that was nothing compared to the days they were about to face. When Jesus had His last chance to tell His disciples everything they would need to know to get them through the coming turmoil, He began with, "Do not let your hearts be troubled." God knows what you've been through, and He knows what is still to come and these words said to the disciples then are the words He says to you now. Regardless of your circumstances, His invitation today is to walk in peace by the power of the Holy Spirit. As you look around at uncertainty, frustration, confusion, loss, and change, remember that *Jesus knows you; He sees you; and He loves you*. Do not let your heart be troubled. What are you troubled about right now? What does it look like today to let Jesus lead through this heartache? How can believing Jesus at His word shape your life today? Take a minute to talk to Jesus out loud or in writing about what is weighing you down. Ask Him to help redirect your heart to what is true.

**Tuesday, October 6 – Read John 14:2-7** As Jesus prepared His disciples for His absence, He also offered them a promise: They would not be alone, He's coming back, and they will be with Him again. He also offered a decisive claim about who He is: the way, the truth, and the life, and no one comes to the Father except through Him. He's not *one* path to the Father, He's the *only* way any person can ever be reconciled to God. Regardless how unpopular or controversial that stance was, Jesus loved His disciples too much to let them think any other path would lead them to eternal life with God. Jesus offers that same comfort and reassurance to you. He's preparing a place for you in His Father's house. And He gave you the map, the directions, and the guide. You need only to follow Him. It might not be popular or convenient, but in the end, you'll experience life in the fullest way possible and live in a deep and meaningful relationship with God through the heartache of earth and through the hope of heaven. What ways, truth, and life have you looked for outside of Jesus? What's different about the way, truth, and life that Jesus invites you into? What comfort and reassurance have you felt in following Jesus? How can you walk in that different way, right now?

**Wednesday, October 7 – Read John 14:8-14** Jesus had just told His disciples that anyone who knew Him also knew the Father. But Phillip needed a little more proof. "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us." Jesus was understandably surprised. Everything He had done was to show them the Father. Did they still not understand? Jesus reminded His disciples that He'd been under the Father's authority throughout His ministry, and that His every word and action revealed His Father. His message was clear: if you know and follow Jesus, you know and follow His Father. Are you still looking for God in the wrong places? If you expect to find Him in good behavior, empty religion, a political system, or vain pursuits, you're bound to be disappointed. If you are casually following God, but constantly asking for more proof, you're missing the evidence already in front of you. Draw near to Jesus, through the Spirit, and you'll know the Father. What are some of the wrong places you looked to find God and were disappointed? How have you both known and seen God as a Father because of Jesus? Do you, like Phillip, still want a little more proof and miss the evidence in front of you? Why do you think that is? What are some ways you can draw near to Jesus to know the Father?

**Thursday, October 8 – Read John 14:15-18** After Jesus explained that He reflected His Father by obeying His commands, Jesus shared that expectation with His disciples. It's not enough to know Him; obedience is the natural act of love. But Jesus knew that He was leaving, and the disciples needed help. So He asked the Father to send a Helper—the Holy Spirit, who would counsel, guide, and mediate. Just as Jesus' disciples knew Him and leaned on Him for truth, now they could know and trust His Spirit. Jesus didn't leave His disciples alone and He has not left you alone. Because of Jesus, you have the Holy Spirit, who helps you and stays with you. If your desire is to love and obey God, take heart in remembering that He has not asked that from you without providing an Advocate to lead you. You're not alone. You're not forgotten. You have not been abandoned. You have access to the very Spirit of God!

Where do you need help when it comes to finding the way forward in this season? Why do you think God sent the Holy Spirit instead of Jesus physically staying on the earth? How has the Holy Spirit helped or comforted you in your life? What are some ways you can walk in the Spirit and in obedience today?

**Friday, October 9. Read John 14:19-24** In this passage, Jesus walked His disciples through the connections between relationship, obedience, and love. Because Jesus loved God, He obeyed Him, and they lived in a constant relationship. Because Jesus' disciples loved Him, they obeyed Him, and they were connected to the Father through Him. This cycle of love, obedience, and relationship would also be how the disciples would reveal Christ to the world. *The key to this connection is love.* Jesus doesn't love you because you obey Him. You obey His teachings because you love Him, just as He obeyed His Father because of the love they shared. If you obey out of obligation, fear, or to earn a reward, you're missing the heart of God. On the other hand, if you claim to love God, but don't feel convicted to obey His teaching, your love is not rooted in the deeply connected affection between Jesus and the Father. The balance only makes sense when obedience is a natural overflow of love. Why does Jesus connect the ideas of obedience and love together? What relationships in your life involve a healthy balance of obedience and love? What does obedience communicate to the people you love in your life? How might God be calling you to walk in His love and obedience?

**Saturday, October 10 – Read John 14:25-31** This chapter ends in the same way it began, with Jesus offering His disciples peace in the uncertainty ahead. Even though Jesus knew He was about to face oppressors, death, and the very forces of darkness, He repeated His earlier command to "not let your hearts be troubled." He promised them peace in what was about to become the darkest moment of their lives—peace that was unlike anything the world could offer. Jesus offers you the same peace. He knows what you've been through and the struggles still to come. He knows there are circumstances that seem unbearable, and the darkness threatens to eclipse your hope. But just like Jesus knew and loved His disciples, and brought them access to the Father and the Spirit, Jesus loves you enough to offer you that same security. As you cling to His love and follow Him faithfully into whatever is coming next, take courage! Do not let your heart be troubled. Why do you think, of all the things Jesus could offer or promise you, that He chose to offer peace? What is different about the peace that Jesus offers you? How does peace help you deal with circumstances and times that are difficult? What peace do you both pursue and offer to others in hard times?

*Adapted from: <https://www.southeastchristian.org>*