



For Small Groups meeting the week of February 14

BIG IDEA: JESUS WILL RETURN FOR US

CONNECT with God's family (15 minutes):

1. Do you have a favorite place in the house for Bible reading and studying (i.e., room, chair, etc.)? What makes this your favorite place to meet with Jesus?
2. Can you remember a time when you got lost? Describe what happened.

GROW in Christ (45 minutes):

This week we are going to focus on Jesus' promise to return and the implications for our lives today.

Read aloud this passage in John 14.

John 14:1-6 (NLT)

"Don't be troubled. You trust God, now trust in me. [2] There are many rooms in my Father's home, and I am going to prepare a place for you. If this were not so, I would tell you plainly. [3] When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. [4] And you know where I am going and how to get there." [5] "No, we don't know, Lord," Thomas said. "We haven't any 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."

Discussion questions.

1. In John 14, Jesus is about to be betrayed and crucified. He has warned His disciples that He will be leaving them. What do you think were some of the emotions they were feeling at this point? What comfort does Jesus offer His disciples?
2. Jesus promises His presence in different ways in John 14:3 (physical) and in Matt. 18:20 (spiritual). How are each of these meaningful to you personally? What does it mean to you to have Jesus be with you, in your work, marriage, even in conflicts?

Matthew 18:20 (NIV)

"For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

3. How is it meaningful to you, that Jesus is preparing a place for you right now? And how does that effect how you view your current circumstances?
4. In verse 6 of John 14, Jesus answers His disciples' question: "How can we know the way?" What is that answer? And what are the implications for you?

SERVE others (10 minutes):

In this current message, "Pack Your Bags" Pastor Greg taught us from the Bible about Jesus' promised future return and what that means for his followers. Review the main points of this weeks' sermon.

Pack Your Bags

- Jesus will shout... GET UP
- Michael will say... GIVE UP
- At the trumpet, we will... GO UP

In light of the rapture...

- Live in purity
- Live with urgency

Read aloud 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 (NLT)

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the call of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, all the Christians who have died will rise from their graves. [17] Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air and remain with him forever. [18] So comfort and encourage each other with these words (emphasis added).

1. Think of ways to minister to each other using the promise of Christ's return. How is that comforting and encouraging?

SHARE Christ (10 minutes):

Take this verse with you this week. Cut it out or copy it from your small group material and put it on your mirror or in your car this week. Place it in your mind so God can use it in you and others.

Memory Verse:

"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.

John 14:6 (NLT)

1. Even the disciples asked, "How can we know the way?" Have you ever shown someone else the way to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ? Begin praying for opportunities to lead others into a personal relationship today.

CLASS 401 – Sharing Your Faith will help you develop a personal perspective of the Gospel message, develop your personal story of how God has worked in your life and gain the confidence you need to share your personal story with others. Our next class is Sunday, March 21st from 4 – 7 p.m. (dinner and childcare is provided).

WORSHIP

Prayer is an important part of our relationship with God. He is magnified in our lives as we focus on Him in prayer and song and other ways. Let's encourage each other in prayer this week.

Answer the question, "How can we help you in prayer this week?"

People I am praying for this week:

Occasionally use a song to close your small group discussion time. Even if you just put on a worship CD as you close out your meeting and mingle. It will help focus you on God in an attitude of thanksgiving and praise.