



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS John 14:1-3

Read John 14:1-3

1. **Look up the following verses and discuss the reasons why Jesus' disciples would have had troubled hearts: John 13:21-22; 13:33; 13:36-38. Now, discuss to what extent we as disciples of Jesus today share the same fears.**
2. **"The antidote to all fear is trust. You cannot truly trust and be afraid at the same time." Discuss whether you agree with this statement. Discuss how Matthew 14:24-33 is a vivid example of this.**
3. **Jesus says that we are to trust in God, yes, but we must also trust in Him. What does this say about who Jesus thinks He is, especially when we take into account OT verses like Proverbs 3:5-6. Discuss what this means for those who say they trust in God but are not followers of Jesus? Hint: John 5:21-23**
4. **Jesus says that He has gone to prepare a place for us. Discuss how Jesus prepares a place for us.**
5. **Think more about the words 'In my Father's house'. Think again that Jesus has now gained us access and given us a place in His Father's house. Share with each other the magnificent encouragement these words are.**
6. **Jesus says He will return to take us to be with Himself. Look up 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 and spend some time encouraging each other with these words.**
7. **Discuss whether you agree with these words, "Jesus did not want heaven without us", in the light of verse 3. Look at what Jesus prays for in John 17:24. Putting this all together, what is the greatest assurance Christians have that if they really are Christians they can never lose their salvation?**
8. **Now taking 14:1-3 as a whole, discuss how what Jesus says stops our hearts from being troubled.**

## Leaders Notes

1. The aim of our Growth Groups is not just to get the Bible right which is why we don't call our Growth Groups 'Bible Studies'. We aim to apply what the Bible says to our lives (which is actually what it means to get the Bible right...). So the aim of this question is to explore in what way we, as disciples of Jesus, can relate to the fears and worries of the first disciples. This way we realise that the Bible is always relevant and always fresh to all God's people in every age.
2. Fear is based on some future danger that we see or think will hurt or harm us. Trust is when we know that something or someone will protect us from that danger. So obviously when you really trust something your fear is diminished. Peter started to give in to his fear when he took his eyes off Jesus. It's a classic example of fear versus trust. Look at how Jesus says to Peter, 'Oh you of little faith, why did you doubt?'
3. Considering that Jesus is talking to devout Jewish believers this is an extraordinary thing to say. This is another example amongst billions (not quite...) of Jesus' claims to equality with God in John's gospel. Those who trust in God but not in Jesus trust in a figment of their imagination. There is no other God but the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
4. In the context of John's gospel, and especially in the context of the 'Upper Room Discourse' (which is what chapters 13-16 are often called), 'going away' means 'going to the Father via the cross'. Jesus is not just meaning 'I'm outta here'. What He means is that He is going to be crucified, buried, rise on the third day and then ascend to the Father. It is this act (and really, dying, rising again and ascending is one 'act') that prepares a place for us. We lost our place. Our sin meant we forfeited our place with God. But Jesus has got it ready for us. His death and resurrection blot out our sins, removes the offence that we are to God, and flings open the gates of paradise.
5. For Jewish believers, God's house was the Temple. This was the Holiest place and no one got to live there. God lives all alone because He is holy and we are not. More than that, this is the place of true joy. There is no joy and no peace and no love like where God is. But we are strangers to this house. We are outside of it. Yet here is Jesus saying that we don't just get to visit God in His house, we get to take up residence there! These words are beyond grasping. It is staggering that we sinners are going to be roommates with God Himself!
6. Christians ought to learn to encourage each other with the words of the Bible. By affirming these words and saying them together and believing them together we get greatly encouraged by each other.
7. True Christians can never lose their salvation for the simple reason that Jesus Christ loves them and will not enjoy heaven without them. He dies for them, prays for them, and promises that He will return again to take them to Himself. As it says in John 17:24, the Father has given these people to the Son. The bottom line is that it is the love of Jesus that guarantees that a true Christian will never be lost – ever. This is our assurance and nothing else. It is not our love for Him that assures us, but His love for us. Obviously if someone falls away they were never really Christians in the first place – obviously.
8. This is the whole point of John 14:1-3. What troubles can we have in the light of what Jesus says? Help people in the group to see this – whatever suffering, whatever fears, whatever hardships lie ahead, nothing can take this rock solid comfort we have in Jesus from us. John 14:1-3 does not promise a trouble-free life. In fact, all the disciples Jesus was speaking to would suffer immensely and many would be martyred. But still, our hearts ought not to be troubled. These temporary inconveniences are gaining for us a glory that far outweighs them all – and John 14:1-3 shows us some of that coming glory.