



COMMUNITY GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Grow: John 13 - 17, Part 2

LEADER REMINDERS:

Hey guys, what an incredible beginning to the “Grow” Series last weekend! We had so many new people join us and have already heard from several who are planning to stick with us as we go through John together. Reminder, a plan for reading the gospel of John with the rest of Mercy is available at: mercycharlotte.com/readjohn.

One more important thing: Since May 1, we’ve seen over 100 First Time Guests come to one of our worship gatherings! While we are celebrating this season where we are reaching more people, we also want to help these new people find a place to connect here to Mercy Church. As we say all the time, the church is a family, not an audience! For this reason we are hosting one summer starting point on July 24th immediately following the worship service. We provide lunch & childcare, and give them an orientation to life here at Mercy Church. This is a very important next step for weekend audience members to step out of the crowd and into life here at Mercy. I hope you will join me in challenging those in your group who have not been year to join us that day. You are welcome to use the “come with me” line and we’ll cover your lunch too!

RSVP at mercycharlotte.com/startingpoint.

INTRODUCTION

LEADER NOTES: *Each week our Pastoral Intern, Jared Lawson, puts a discussion guide together for us as community groups to reflect on, and dive deeper into, the passage we went through in our weekend worship service. This weekend, Jared was the one doing the preaching. So I (Spence) am jumping in for him on discussion guide duty.*

This weekend, Jared preached through John 14.1-14. This passage has so many layers with so much rich meaning. You could study this for weeks and never stop uncovering rich truths about Jesus and how we relate to him. In this passage Jesus seems to be challenging Thomas & Phillip to see Jesus for who he really is. There is a great warning

and a great comfort for us in the struggle of the disciples to see the real Jesus that we'll look at in this study. If we are to grow as Christ's followers, it will only happen as we begin to see Jesus for who he really is. When we do, then we, like the disciples, will become a people of courage who live by and proclaim the gospel with all boldness.

Opening Questions:

1. If you had to boil the main point of the sermon from this weekend down to one thing, what was it for you?
2. What are you learning about Jesus from your time reading the Gospel of John?

BIBLE STUDY

LEADER NOTES: *The following questions will help you work through the passage(s). Have someone read the passage(s) aloud, dividing among two or three people if needed. If there is a good, fruitful conversation going, you do not have to cut it off to get back to the questions.*

Scripture: Read John 14:1-7

1. Look at verse 1. What about their situation would cause the disciples hearts to be troubled?
2. Look at verse 3. What is the promise in verse 3?
 - a. He promise is that Jesus is bringing us to be with him!
3. In the sermon from this weekend Jared mentioned the question "Would you still want to go to heaven if Jesus wasn't there?" What does our answer to this question reveal about how we "see" Jesus?
 - a. Leader Note: The idea here is to help people get real with themselves a little. People want to *use* Jesus to get heaven. But the point of heaven is to be present with Jesus. Which gets back to true heart motivation. Do you desire Jesus or just his big house?
4. Verse 6 is one worth committing to memory. What does he mean that he is the Way, the truth, and the life? And how is this a pretty offensive statement?
 - a. He's the way – the only way to get to God in heaven is through faith in Jesus. This is an offensive claim!
 - b. He's the truth. – He's the new lens that you see everything through. He's the filter that all decision flow through. He's the goal that all decisions are for. Jesus *is* truth. In a culture that believes truth is relative to what you *think or feel* should be true, Jesus says he ALONE is THE truth. What he says about the world, about

himself, and about you is the only true way to look at it. This is another very offensive claim!

- c. He's the life. Your meaning, your purpose, your affections, your goals, everything that makes up you now flows out of Him. Everything you do is built around who he is.

Read verses 8-11

5. What point does Jesus seem to be driving home in response to Phillip in verses 8-11?
 - a. That he, himself, is God! Leader, if your people take you down the road of "wait, how can Jesus be both God and the son of God?" feel free to go as far down that road as you feel comfortable. While there are MANY resources out there, a couple of timeless classics in terms of articles are Thomas Watson's "[The Trinity](#)" and Herman Bavnick's "[The Divine Trinity](#)" both linked for you from the Gospel Coalition's website.
6. Jesus has made the claim he is God (vv 7-11) and promised to take the disciples with him to be with God one day (vv.1-4). How should this calm their "troubled" hearts?
7. Think about this in your own life. What trouble are you facing right now? *To answer that, think about what makes you anxious or worried most often.*
8. How could or should these two promises help you with your trouble you are facing right now? 1) Jesus is God and, 2) That through his work on the cross you can be *with* him in heaven.
 - a. **Leader Note:** This is where we are getting to gospel application. How does the sovereignty of God and the hope of heaven replace worry with peace & confidence in the trials of this life. Go first to help people understand what you are asking! This could be a great breakthrough question!
9. Try it this week!: What one step, in what one area, could you take to begin resting more in these two promises Jesus has given to you?