

# Jesus is Divine

**WHY DO WE SAY JESUS IS GOD?**  
**Focal Verses • JOHN 14:1-14**

## Aim for Change

By the end of the lesson, we will EXPLORE the encounter between Jesus and the disciples in the upper room, APPRECIATE the disciples' difficulty in understanding Jesus, and CELEBRATE Jesus' promise to prepare a place for His followers and hear and respond to their prayers.

## In Focus

Robbie stood before his crew at the loading dock, preparing to give them their final instructions before the trucks were loaded and they all set out for their long-haul run across the country. Foremost, of course, was the safety check of the vehicles. They also had to check the bill of loading and ensure that each tractor-trailer was loaded with the correct goods. Robbie had succeeded the legendary "Mr. Jones" as team leader because he was more experienced than the other drivers. Because of that, the company owner asked Robbie to go on another run to make a pickup that required a fast turnaround. He told his crew they would have to go ahead without him and he would join the caravan in a day or so.

"How are we supposed to manage without you?" Andre asked. "We haven't been that way before. At least if we had Mr. Jones we would feel better."

"You get there the same way you navigated every other trip. You haven't forgotten how to read a map, have you?" Robbie said.

"Guys," Robbie said, "have you not been paying attention? I taught you everything I know, and I learned from the best, my dad. I didn't hold anything back. So, really, you learned from my dad too. I believe you can do this," Robbie said. "You should have the confidence you can do this, too."

*How do we cultivate the faith that God will see us through the things outside of our experience?*

## Keep in Mind

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6, KJV).



## Focal Verses

**KJV** John 14:1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

4 And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.

5 Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?

6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

7 If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.

8 Philip saith unto him, Lord, show us the Father, and it sufficeth us.

9 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?

10 Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.

11 Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake.

12 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

14 If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it.

### The People, Places, and Times

**Philip.** He was one of the Twelve Disciples whom Jesus called directly. Philip, along with Peter and Andrew, was from Bethsaida of Galilee (John 1:44).

**Thomas.** Also called Didymus, or "the twin," Thomas was one of Jesus' twelve disciples. He said that he would not believe that Jesus was resurrected from the dead unless he could touch the nail prints in Jesus' hands and the wound from the spear on His side.

### Background

Jesus repeatedly prepared the disciples for His approaching suffering and death during His ministry. Jesus tells the disciples that one of them would betray Him (John 13:21). At the

same time, He also informs the disciples that He will soon be leaving them and that they could not follow Him (v. 33). Undoubtedly, these things disturbed the disciples. When Peter asks Jesus where He is going, Jesus responds that Peter cannot follow Him now but will follow Him afterward. It is not difficult to see why the disciples would have been troubled. They were coming to grips with the fact that the One they had given up everything to follow was telling them that He was about to leave them to go to a place they could not follow. It must have seemed as if they were losing the very reason for which they had existed for the past three years.

*How do we respond to God doing the unexpected in our lives?*

## At-A-Glance

1. The Promise Confirmed (Mark 11:1–6)
2. The Promised One Comes (vv. 7–11)
3. Jesus, the Way to Powerful Living (vv. 12–14)

### In Depth

#### 1. Jesus, the Way to Comfort (John 14:1–4)

Jesus had told His disciples of His approaching suffering and departure (John 13). Now, He aims to calm the turmoil raging in their hearts. Jesus encourages them by telling them not to let their hearts be troubled. Jesus' news throws the disciples' minds into disarray and sends them into a spiritual tailspin, but Jesus provides the key that will lead them out of their mental anguish. He points to Himself as the basis for sustaining peace amid difficult circumstances by telling them to believe in Him if they believe in God as well. Even though He will no longer be present with the disciples physically, He assures them that where He is going, He is preparing a place for them. This wisdom would leave us deeply conflicted if it were not for the One speaking it. It is wisdom that requires faith to apply. Jesus challenges us continually to see that the best wisdom is not a matter of analysis or principle, but flows directly from God. This provides great comfort, not only for the disciples but also for us. Jesus reinforced that His words were trustworthy; we can place our faith in His words because He is faithful to keep them.

*How do you find comfort in difficult situations?*

#### 2. Jesus, the Way to the Father (John 14:5–11)

Thomas is looking for Jesus to give them a location to meet Him. As Jewish men, they were taught the presence of God was at the Temple in Jerusalem. Philip is looking for a private meeting with God so that He can know God.

They had heard the prophets had such marvelous encounters. Jesus rejects both requests. Instead, he makes a radical statement about how to know God. Jesus does not point His followers to a path but to a person, namely, Himself: "I am the way."

Jesus is not claiming to have uncovered some hidden truth the disciples can understand to know God. He is not telling His disciples to practice profound principles to reach God. He is not even telling them they can encounter God at a certain physical location. He is claiming something much stronger than that. We cannot work our way to God at all. Instead, God has come to us in Jesus Christ. Jesus declares anyone who has seen Him has seen the Father (v. 9). If they could not believe it from His words, they could certainly know it by looking at what Jesus had done. Jesus reveals the character and personality of God to us (cf. John 1:18). We are to place faith in Christ as the way to the Father because it is only through Him that we can know the Father as He truly is.

*How have you tried to make following Jesus harder than the simple way He showed us?*

#### 3. Jesus, the Way to Powerful Living (John 14:12–14)

Christ then notifies His disciples that placing their faith in Him will cause them to lead lives that exhibit the power of God (vv. 12–14). We will do greater works than those Christ did in His earthly ministry because He is with the Father. It is important to note that Jesus says the works testified to His relationship with the Father. These were not gratuitous or pointless displays of power, but a demonstration of His authenticity as the Son of God. Furthermore, Jesus lets us know that the Father is at work through Him. This reveals the unity of Jesus and the Father.

Placing all our trust in Jesus produces two results. First, faith in Christ yields fruitful lives that both demonstrate our relationship with Him and glorify the Father (John 15:8). Christ

comes to give us “abundant life,” promising to do anything we ask in His name, to the glory of the Father. Of course, this is not a blank check given to us with which we can expect to receive all of our wildest desires. When we ask for things in Jesus’ name, we are to ask for things that are consistent with His character and purpose. Putting all our trust in Christ guarantees that we will experience power-filled lives because He aims to glorify His Father’s name. Second, placing faith in Christ gives us the power to live the Christian life. Before ascending into heaven, Jesus delivers a parting promise to His disciples: the Holy Spirit will come to them. The only way we can live powerful lives that reflect Christ’s presence is by the Holy Spirit dwelling in us. The Holy Spirit gives us power, desire, and knowledge to live the Christian life, and the Spirit is only accessible through faith in Christ.

*What is the biggest request you’ve ever asked for in Jesus’ name? How has He responded?*

### Search the Scriptures

1. How did Jesus tell the disciples to deal with anxiety in their hearts (John 14:1)?
2. According to Jesus, how can we know the Father (John 14:6–7)?
3. What does it mean to “ask in Jesus’ name” (John 14:13–14; 15:7)?

### Discuss the Meaning

1. How does Jesus challenge the way we typically think about religions as ways to get to God?
2. How is the wisdom that Jesus shares in John 14 different from other types of wisdom?

### Liberating Lesson

We live in a society where many consider it arrogant to claim that there is only one way to the truth. Accordingly, a popular view is that all religions are the same. This is not the view expressed in Christian Scripture. Anyone who

studies religion beyond the surface knows that the truth claims or theologies are different across religious traditions. It is a great irony that it is in Western secular societies that used to be most Christian that claims of sameness are most often made. These claims can disregard the ways diverse peoples around the world articulate their own faith traditions. It is a different sort of arrogance to dismiss the distinct faiths of millions of people in order to impose on them convenient uniformity and false tolerance. To water all religions down to being “all the same” is to not take them seriously for what they profess. That does not mean different faiths do not have similarities; they do. Many faiths agree on some aspects of ethics or prescribed actions. Many of them have similar values and behaviors: for instance, the desire to pursue peace, the condemnation of violence, the importance of care for others, and the value of all life. Yet the truth claims remain distinct. Jesus declares there is only one way to God: through Him, Jesus. As Christians we must embrace the claim of Jesus, recognizing that we are claiming something different than other religions.

In a world where people try to suppress religious differences, we would be wise to advocate for freedom to choose our faith. Christians should be advocates for true compassion and religious freedom.

### Application for Activation

Our God loved us enough to come to us in the flesh. As Christians, we can boldly claim that our way, truth, and life are not a principle, place, or pursuit but a person, Jesus Christ. Jesus invites us to seek Him for wisdom and guidance. For us, His way is always the best way. Take time this week to pray, read Scripture, and seek God for His wisdom concerning your day or more important decisions. He is faithful in giving wisdom if we posture our hearts to obey His directions.

## Follow the Spirit

What God wants me to do:

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## Remember Your Thoughts

Special insights I have learned:

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### Sources:

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Tenney, Merrill C. *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*. Edited by Frank E.  
Gaebelein. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1981.

## Say It Correctly

Gnostics. NOSS-tix.  
Chalcedon. KAL-ceh-don.  
Bethsaida. beth-SAY-duh.  
Didymus. DIH-dih-mus.

## Daily Bible Readings

### DAY 225

Matthew 13:1–13:52  
Psalm 90:7–12

### DAY 226

Matthew 13:53–14:36  
Psalm 90:13–17

### DAY 227

Matthew 15:1–16:4  
Psalm 91

### DAY 228

Matthew 16:5–17:23  
Psalm 92:1–8

### DAY 229

Matthew 17:24–18:35  
Psalm 92:9–15

### DAY 230

Matthew 19:1–20:16  
Psalm 93

### DAY 231

Matthew 20:17–21:27  
Psalm 94:1–7

## Notes

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