

Discussion Guide

questions to help start or continue conversations about faith

Discussion Guides accompany the weekly message.

We Are Not Home Yet

*To all the travelers, Pilgrim's longing for a home
From one who walks with you, on this journey called life's road
It is a long and winding road, from one who's seen the view
And dreamt of staying on the mountains high
And one who's cried like you, wanting so much to lay down and die
I offer this, we must remember this
We are not home yet, keep on looking ahead
Let your heart not forget, we are not home yet
So, close your eyes with me, and hear the Father saying, welcome home
Let us find the strength, in all His promises to carry on
He said, I go prepare a place for you, so let us not forget
We are not home yet*

(Steven Curtis Chapman)

When you think of home, what words or feelings come to your heart or mind? For some, home here on earth might be a place of comfort, warmth, security, and safety. For others, the experience of home may not be a positive one. But God has a plan to bring us to an eternal home that is perfect, where His joy will never cease. Let's explore the Father's home together.

Passage: Read John 3:16-19 and 14:1-6

Observation (look at the text) & Interpretation (Understand what it means):

John 3:16-19

- God loves you! In His love for you, what did He do? Why?
- What two promises does God give to those who believe in His one and only Son?
- There are no conditions on God's love. He made you and He loves you! But are God's promises conditional? What are the conditions of His promises?
- That's not fair! How can God love me unconditionally and put conditions on His promises! What terms and concepts do we use to describe promises that are conditional in everyday life? What are some examples of conditional promises in our everyday life relationships?
- Read Matthew 11:28-30. How does Jesus describe our relationship with Him? What promises does He give? Again, what is the condition of the promises?
- How does verse 19, describe Jesus, God's only Son? What is the evidence that people love the darkness instead of believing in Jesus and loving the Light? What can we conclude about people who love the Light?

John 14:1-6

Just prior to John 14, Jesus told His disciples He would soon be leaving them. Jesus was their teacher and friend, and they were very sad at this news, and so He said to them, "Do not let your hearts be troubled," then He continued to teach them, and us.

- What is the key to not allowing our hearts to become troubled?
- How does Jesus describe His Father's house?
- What two promises does Jesus give concerning His Father's House?
- Jesus said to His disciples, and to us, "You know the way to My Father's House." What is the way to the Father's House?
- What is the condition of the promises Jesus gave concerning His Father's House?

Application (Apply the Word of God to life):

- Have you believed in the Name of God's One and Only Son? Today is your day of salvation! In your heart, believe in Jesus, the One God sent to give His life for you. Believe in your heart that after giving His life for you, God raised His Son from the dead to give you a new life. Repent of your sin, and speak, "Jesus, I am a sinner. I repent of my sin. Forgive me Jesus. I want you to be Lord of my life." For "if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." (Romans 10:9) When you have believed Jesus, tell someone, and in obedience, be baptized with water to publicly declare you belong to Jesus.

In John 3:3, Jesus said, "No one can see the Kingdom of God, unless they are born again." When you believed in Jesus and in His resurrection, then made Him Lord of your life, you were born again. He gave you a new life in Himself. But for the rest of your days on earth, you live out your new life, in the body, or the flesh of the old life. Theologians call this life in the flesh, the sinful nature.

- John 3:19 & Matthew 11:28-30. The sinful nature loves darkness, and the darkness of this world is a heavy burden you are not meant to carry. If you are struggling with the darkness, struggle in the Light. Are you tired and weary? It is time to go to Jesus and receive rest for your soul. 1 John 1:9 says, if you will confess your sins to Jesus, He is faithful and just to forgive your sins, AND to cleanse you from ALL unrighteousness.
- John 14:1-4. Do you ever stop and think about the home Jesus is preparing for us? Imagine you are with Jesus right now and He is showing you the blueprints for the room He is preparing for you. Take some time to discuss with your small group what your room will be like in the Father's house.