

John 14:1-5 Sermon-Based Discussion Guide

Purpose of Discussion: To allow our hearts to long for the home that Jesus is preparing for us and to live with that home in mind now.

Sermon Refresher: Despite death being the only sure thing in our lives, we have become good at trivializing and avoiding it. Jesus tells us how to face death without fear and regret. He has prepared a place for us, the place we have always longed for, the place where we will be with him. Believing this allows us to face the sufferings of this life and even approach death with a happiness that is deeper than the fear and sorrow. This hope also must shape what we live for now.

Icebreaker: When you think of “home”, what experiences come to mind in your life?

Transition: Home can be a powerful word. It can stir a nostalgia for the past, a longing for something present, or even a hope to strive and build towards into the future. While there are moments we get tastes of home, our lives are more characterized by a homelessness.

Discussion

1. Where do you see in our culture and perhaps in your own life the “eternal homelessness” that wandering and never finding a place that satisfies?
2. Read John 14:1-2. From the time that Jesus assures the disciples of this hope, there are many difficulties, beatings, rejections, and moves to new places that stand in front of the disciples. What does Jesus tell us that our life will feel like at times?
3. Read John 14:3-4. Jesus tells us that the home we have always longed for is the Father’s house. Why is this true? Discuss the C.S. Lewis quote below.

C.S. Lewis, “The Problem of Pain”

“There have been times when I think we do not desire heaven, but more often I find myself wondering whether in our heart of hearts, we

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have ever desired anything else...It is the secret signature of each soul, the incommunicable and unappeasable want, the thing we desired before we met our wives or made our friends or chose our work, and which we shall still desire on our deathbeds when the mind no longer knows wife or friend or work."

4. This home is characterized as the place where Jesus is and where we get to be with him. Dave mentioned that there are 318 allusions in the New Testament to the fact that Jesus is going to return to take us to be with him. Why does Jesus' presence make it home for us?
5. How should the hope of the Father's house change the way we live now? How about the way we face death?

Prayer Time ideas:

- Consider having people pray for each other in light of any hardships that they need to go through or any temptations they face.
- Or, consider having people pray for evangelistic efforts in Columbia and abroad: specific people that don't believe yet, ministries that are trying to reach people who don't yet believe, or people at your workplace or neighborhood.

This is the last sermon discussion for the spring