

While I'm Away

Harvest Pastors | John 13:31–14:31

NOTE: As a guide, use these questions to help with group and family discussion or for personal reflection. Not all questions are needed. Select the ones that will best serve your group as you grow in Christ together through His Word. *Soli Deo Gloria*.

For a brief recap, the sermon's title was: **While I'm Away**

Main Points were: (1) Love one another; (2) Let not your hearts be troubled;
(3) Obey through the Spirit

Ice Breaker

What's been your favorite part of this fall season?

Understanding the Text in Context

With such a long text, read the three sections together, noting the summary point for each section: John 13:31-38 (Love One Another); John 14:1-14 (Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled); John 14:15-21 (Obey through the Spirit). As you read and hear, what themes do you notice woven through the text? What does Jesus want his disciples to think about? To care about? And to do?

How is Peter's confidence in himself (Jn 13:36-37) corrected by Jesus (Jn 13:38)? Discuss how such correction is loving. Is it easy to hear, to receive? Why or why not?

What is the connection between loving Jesus and obeying Jesus (John 14:15, 23-24; compare to 1 John 2:4-6)?

Connecting to Jesus and His Gospel

What's the *same* about the "new commandment" (John 13:34) from the previous commandment (Lev 19:18)? What makes it "new"? (Note the standard and the motivation in Lev 19:18 compared to John 13:34-35. Also note Ephesians 5:2 and 1 John 3:16-18).

Throughout the Bible, we see God's desire to love and dwell with His people, in Eden and after the Fall of Man through the Tabernacle and the Temple. In John 14, Jesus reveals a new way that God intends to dwell with His people. What does the "Helper" (the Holy Spirit) do? How does He benefit believers? (John 14:15-18; 26-28). How has He benefited you with such "good news"?

Living Out the Truth

With the disciples troubled that Jesus is going, Jesus repeatedly refers to His return (John 14:3, 18, 23, 28). How can Jesus' promised return provide comfort and encouragement as you go through troubles?

As you look back over the fall so far, how evident has your love for Jesus been seen in your obedience to Jesus? Were there missed opportunities? Describe when loving obedience was a blessing to another.

Jesus emphasizes a new commandment in this passage to love one another as he has loved them. This command becomes shocking after Christ dies for them. How can we love others in radical ways like Jesus? Think of specific people and specific actions for them. Brainstorm together. Pray together. As able, ask another to follow up with you this week to hear about your actions of obedient love.

Parenting Moment and Family Focus

- Describe what sacrificial love means. True love is always accompanied by action. Go around and share as a family what is one way you can love one another this week like Jesus loved. Remind them that even though sacrificial love is difficult, God has provided the Holy Spirit to help us obey God.
- Make sure to check in mid-week to see how your family is doing with loving one another sacrificially.

Further Study

About the particular and exclusive – and wonderful! – claims of Christ (John 14:6):

- [Jesus Is Awkwardly Exclusive, Radically Inclusive, and Stubbornly Objective](#)

- [7 Ways the Particularity of Scripture Underlines the Exclusivity of Christ](#)
- [“One Way Is the Only Way” Is Just Good Math](#)

About the “greater things” (John 14:12):

- [What Did Jesus Mean When He Said We Would Do Greater Work Than He Did?](#)
- [The Works We Will Do](#)

About the Holy Spirit:

- [10 Key Bible Verses on the Holy Spirit](#)
- [7 Things the Holy Spirit Does in and for Our Salvation](#)
- [Should We Pray in, for, or to the Holy Spirit?](#)