

## Worksheet #15: John 14:1–38

**Summary:** In chapter 14, Jesus continues the Farewell Discourse. Following the conversation about his departure begun in 13:31, Jesus now focuses on his coming departure in 14:1–14. He explains that his disciples will someday have access to new heavenly dwellings (14:1–4), an exclusive privilege granted to those who accept him as “the way, the truth, and the life” (14:6). Their privileged status as Jesus’ followers grants them much more than a future hope of glory, however. Through their relationship with Jesus, they have a relationship with the Father that includes benefits in the present, such as the ability to do the Father’s works and the assurance of effectual prayer (14:9–14).

As followers, disciples are responsible to keep Jesus’ commandments (14:15). This is made possible by Jesus’ promise to request the Father to send them “another Helper” (*paráklētos*) who will “abide” (*ménō*, meaning “remain, stay”) with them “forever” (14:16). In this promise, Jesus refers to the indwelling work of the Holy Spirit, which occurred first at Pentecost and consistently indicates regeneration in Scripture.<sup>1</sup> This indicative function of indwelling is foreshadowed here with the mention that this “Spirit of truth” cannot be received by “the world” in 14:17. Within the context of the Farewell Discourse, Jesus describes several aspects of the work of the *paráklētos*. He fills the void created by Jesus’ departure (14:17b–18), he preserves the disciples’ favored relationship with the Father (14:21), he enables obedience to Jesus’ word (14:23–24), and he provides instruction in “all things” (including regarding the things that Jesus had said; 14:25–28). Jesus’ rationale for telling the disciples these things is twofold—he desires for them to know (and consequently believe) when the gift of the *paráklētos* has come, and he wants the world to know that he was faithful to the will of the Father in going to the cross (14:29–31).

### Abbreviated Outline<sup>2</sup> (current passage in bold):

- I. INTRODUCTION: THE WORD MADE FLESH (1:1–18)
- II. THE BOOK OF SIGNS: THE SIGNS OF THE MESSIAH (1:19–12:50)
  - A. *The Forerunner and the Coming of the Messiah* (1:19–51)
  - B. *The Cana Cycle: Jesus’ Inaugural Signs and Representative Conversations* (2:1–4:54)
  - C. *The Festival Cycle: Additional Signs amidst Mounting Unbelief* (5–10)
  - D. *Final Passover: Climactic Sign, the Raising of Lazarus, and Other Events* (11–12)
- III. THE BOOK OF EXALTATION: PREPARING THE NEW MESSIANIC COMMUNITY AND THE PASSION OF JESUS (13–20)
  - A. *The Cleansing and Instruction of the New Covenant Community, including Jesus’ Final Prayer* (13–17)
    - 1. Cleansing the Community (13:1–30)
    - 2. **The Farewell Discourse (13:31–16:33)**
      - a. **Jesus’ Departure and Sending of the Spirit (13:31–14:31)**
      - b. Jesus the True Vine (15:1–17)
      - c. The Spirit and the Disciples’ Witness to the World (15:18–16:33)
    - 3. Jesus’ Parting Prayer (17)
  - B. *The Passion Narrative* (18–19)
  - C. *Jesus’ Resurrection and Appearances, Commissioning of Disciples* (20:1–29)
  - D. *Concluding Purpose Statement* (20:30–31)
- IV. EPILOGUE: THE COMPLEMENTARY ROLES OF PETER AND THE BELOVED DISCIPLE (21)

<sup>1</sup> For example, see Acts 2:4, 38, 4:8, 31, 8:15, 9:17, 13:52, 19:2.

<sup>2</sup> Adapted from Andreas Köstenberger, L. Scott Kellum, and Charles L. Quarles, *The Cradle, The Cross, and The Crown: An Introduction to the New Testament* (Nashville, Tenn: B & H Academic, 2009), 307–308.

**Interpretation:** *Read through the passage, and then review and make notes under the questions below.*

1. John 14:2 refers to many “mansions” (KJV; NKJV) that are present in the Father’s house. How is this word translated in other versions? What does Jesus seem to be emphasizing in this verse, and why?  
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2. What does Jesus emphasize with his description of himself as “the way” to the Father (14:4–6)? Why is this important for the disciples to know prior to the cross?  
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3. What does it mean for the Father to indwell the Son, and for the Son to indwell the Father (14:10–11)? What evidence does Jesus offer us if we struggle to understand this, and how is this helpful for explaining this relationship (14:11)?  
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4. In what sense do believers accomplish Jesus’ works (14:12)? How is doing his works connected with prayer (14:13–14)?  
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5. Who indwells believers, according to 14:17? Based on the near context, when should the disciples have expected this to occur? When does this occur now?  
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6. What does it mean for the Holy Spirit to “teach” believers “all things” (14:26)?  
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7. What does it mean for the world to “know” that Jesus loves and obeys the Father in the cross (14:31)?  
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**Application:** *Take time to reflect on the implications of this passage for your own life today.*

8. What does this passage tell us about Jesus? How does it help us to understand “his place in the sweep of redemptive history”?<sup>3</sup>  
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9. What does this passage mean for your walk with the Lord?  
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10. How does this passage challenge the way you think about situations in daily life? What should you do about that?  
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<sup>3</sup> D. A. Carson, *The Gospel according to John*, Pillar New Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1991), 102.