

**PLEASE DON'T READ THESE NOTES UNTIL YOU HAVE COMPLETED YOUR LESSON.  
HEARING GOD FOR YOURSELF IS WAY BETTER THAN MY COMMENTS!**

## questions

Read John 13:33, 36; 14:1-7.

1. In John 14:1, we learn that the disciples' hearts are troubled. What is the cause of their agitation and distress (13:33, 36)?

Jesus announced that he is going away and will be with his disciples for only a little while longer. He also said that his disciples can't come with him. Nor does he seem to give them a straight answer on where he is going. The disciples have been with Jesus for 3 years. They believe he is the Messiah. They cannot understand why he is going away.

- ♥ Why do you think this fact troubles the disciples so? What do you think they are thinking and feeling?
  - ♥ What troubles your heart? How do people, circumstances and failed expectations cause inward agitation? What do you usually do if your heart is distressed or agitated?
2. Jesus said, "**Do not let** your hearts be troubled." According to Jesus, what is the remedy for a distressed and agitated heart (14:1)?

Trust God and trust Jesus (trust means believe, adhere to and have faith)

- ♥ Generally speaking, why is this a good remedy for a troubled heart? Can you think of other remedies? Trusting in God means that you believe the promises from his Word and you believe that because of his love for you he will take care of you and that he has your best interests at heart. This brings peace to our hearts regardless of our circumstances.

- ♥ Did Jesus practice what he preached (John 12:27-28)? How so?

Jesus, too, turned to the Father when his heart was troubled. He trusted God to take care of him.

3. What three pieces of information did Jesus give his disciples, that, if believed, would help calm their troubled hearts (14:2-3)?

- 1) His Father's house has many rooms
- 2) Jesus is going to his Father's house to get a place ready for each of them
- 3) He is leaving, but he will come back and take them to his Father's house

- ♥ What did Jesus mean when he said he would "come back" after he left (14:3)? How are some ways that Jesus has already "come back"? Do you believe that Jesus will bodily come back to earth some day? Why or why not?

Jesus came back within days of leaving them (by his death on the cross) at his resurrection. 40 days later, he left again and ascended into heaven. He has come back through his Spirit given at Pentecost (who now, with the Father and the Son lives in the heart of every committed Christ follower). He will bodily come back again to earth at the last resurrection and take Christ followers throughout all time to his Father's home. (Some believe that Jesus' second coming will be in two stages, the "rapture" when believers – both alive and dead – will be taken to heaven before the Great Tribulation (told about in Revelations) and then an actual bodily return of Christ to earth at the end of this age.)

- ♥ How would knowing and believing the things Jesus told his followers help quiet your troubled heart when you're fearful, anxious or in difficult circumstances? Does it comfort you? Why or why not?

In mid-eastern culture, the married children (and their families) of a wealthy patriarch would often live in the father's large house, with each family having their own living space. A son who was betrothed to a woman would prepare the new living space in his father's house for him and his new bride and when the father said it was time, he would go and get his bride and bring her to her new home in the father's house.

- ♥ How does the above cultural information help you understand Jesus' statements to his followers about his Father's house having many rooms? How does it make you feel to know that Jesus is preparing a place for *you* in his Father's house?

There is a personal place prepared for each of Jesus' followers in heaven. An earthly house can become overcrowded; an earthly inn must sometimes turn a traveler away because there is no more room. But not so with our Father's house, for heaven is as big as the heart of God and there is room for us all!

- ♥ What are some things you learn about the place where the Father lives from **Hebrews 12:22** and **Revelation 21:9-22:5**?

4. What statement by Jesus prompted Thomas' question (**14:4-5**)?

Jesus told his disciples that they knew the **WAY** (how to get there) to the place where he was going.

- ♥ What would be your response to Jesus' statement in **14:4**? Do you know where Jesus is and could you tell someone else the way to get there? How so?

5. Jesus' answer to Philip's question is considered by many to be the most profound statement Jesus ever made. It is also deemed a statement that sums up the entire message of the *Gospel of John*. Write out **John 14:6**.

Writing out scripture is a great devotional practice. It slows us down and we often see something that we had not seen before. Writing also helps us to remember more than if we just read.

- ♥ Jesus said, "*I am* the **way**, the **truth** and the **life** . . ." What is the difference between Jesus pointing the way to the Father and actually *being* the way to the Father? How would you explain to someone what it means to come to the Father *through* Jesus (**14:6**)?

What does Jesus mean when he says I am the way? Suppose you are in a strange town and ask for directions. The person begins to tell you how to get to where you are going by saying, "Take the first left and then the second right and then drive 3 miles . . . , etc." Usually we get lost before we are half way there if the directions are complicated. But if, instead, the person we asked says, "Come and I'll take you there." In that case the person IS the way and we will not get lost. That is what Jesus does for us. He does not only give advise and directions. He takes us by the hand (in personal relationship) and leads us to the Father. We come to the Father **through** him because it is only through his death (which paid the penalty for our sins) and his resurrection (which conquered death) that we can be reconciled to the Father. If Jesus has not done these things, there is no other way for the penalty of our sins to be paid other than by our own eternal death which would separate us from the Father forever. We can come with confidence to the throne of the Father because of what Jesus did for us (Hebrews 4:14-16). If Jesus had not died in our place, there would be no other way to come into the Father's presence.

- ♥ Are there any exceptions to Jesus' statement in **14:6**? Why or why not? How does **Acts 4:12** and **1 Timothy 2:3-6** compare with **John 14:6**? What did Jesus do to become *the way* to the Father?

Because Jesus said, "No one comes to the Father except through me," any other "way" is pretty much ruled out. Other scripture agrees with this view:

**Acts 4:12** (Speaking of Jesus) "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."

**1 Timothy 2:3** This is good, and pleases God our Savior, 4 who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave himself as a ransom for all men—the testimony given in its proper time.

Jesus paid a great price to become the way for us to be reconciled to the Father. If there were any other ways, he died for nothing!

- ♥ If Jesus really is the only way to the Father, what can you do about someone you love who does not believe this? (**John 6:44, Matthew 6:9-10, John 14:13-14 and Mark 11:24** may help you in your answer.)

Jesus said: "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him . . ." This means that no one just decides to come to Jesus nor is anyone won over because of a great argument. All who have chosen to follow Jesus were able to make that choice only because the Father was drawing them to himself (John 6:44). We know that God wants everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:3-4). He is calling and drawing all, but we do not know where each one is on their journey, nor do we always know if they have heard and understood the gospel or even if they have heard but rejected (for now) the gospel. Also, we know that sometimes a person does not see the truth because the god of this world (Satan) has blinded their eyes to the light of the gospel (2 Cor. 4:4).

So what can we do about the person who we love, but who does not know the good news of Jesus being the way to the Father? As we continue to **love them** and **interact with them** as our loved ones (for they are gifts from God to us) we pray for them. We pray that God's will be done in their lives. We pray that the blindness of the enemy will be broken so that they can see the light of the gospel. We pray that, just as we ourselves became aware that the Father was drawing us to Himself, they too, will begin to sense that the Father is drawing them. We pray that they will see their need of a Savior who saves them from the penalty of their sins. We pray that the Holy Spirit (the Spirit of Truth) will show them the truth. We pray that God will bring other Christ-followers into their life, who will live and speak the truth. We patiently pray, believing that our prayers make a difference and that the Father will hear and answer our prayers.

We do need to be ready to share the good news with a loved one when we sense the Holy Spirit is working in their life and they are ready to hear the good news – but we need to be sure that we are speaking out of the Spirit's initiative and not our own. Our words do little good unless the Holy Spirit is working in their life. Prayer with unconditional love is really our best and most powerful course of action. But, we cannot assume that "what will happen, will happen." Prayer really does change situations and people's hearts. We must not choose to NOT pray!

- ♥ How do the three metaphors of the *way*, the *truth* and the *life* relate to one another? The way, the truth and the life really cannot be separated. Jesus is the way, which is the truth and which brings eternal life (the life that never ends). There is no other way to experience the very life of God which is given as a gift when we believe and accept the way and the truth!

**Read John 14:8-15**

6. In **John 14:9-11**, what important fact about himself did Jesus want his followers to understand?

Jesus wanted them to understand that he and the Father were one. To see him was to see the Father. Jesus said that he was in the Father and the Father was in him. He and the Father are both God. The miracles that Jesus did was proved that what he said about himself was true.

What are some reasons why this fact is so important?

Jesus' statement is important for a number of reasons:

If Jesus and the Father are one, it means that Jesus is God. Because Jesus became a human, it means we can know who God is and what he is like. An object or image cannot adequately depict God – only a person because God is personality. If a personality (Jesus) is going to reveal God to us, than that personality can't be less than God and still do him justice. But because Jesus IS God, he, as a human, shows us who God is and how we can have a relationship with him. We can know who God is through Jesus' words and works. The truth of God filled Jesus' words; the power of God produced his works (miracles).

Because God (Jesus) became one of us and died for us, it reveals that God IS love. Love can be trusted. Love won't abuse or play mind games with the one it loves. We know we can trust God and that he loves us because he, the Creator, became the creation (human) just so he could bring us back into relationship with Himself.

If Jesus is God, then we know we can trust what he says about how to get to the Father's house (heaven). Only God knows the way to God and only God can lead us to Himself. If Jesus and the Father are one, we know that the Father is present in Jesus and Jesus can show us the way to the Father.

Your small group may also come up with other reasons why what Jesus says about himself is important.

- ♥ It is important to see that the Bible agrees with itself. How do the following Scriptures back up Jesus' claim? (**Isaiah 9:6; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Philippians 2:6; Colossians 1:15; Hebrews 1:3**)
  - ♥ In **John 14:11**, Jesus said that the proof of his identity was that his *words* matched his *works*. If you claim to be a follower of Christ, are your *words* and *works* (actions) **compatible** or **contradictory**? Why does it matter?
7. Jesus tells his disciples that his leaving and going back to the Father will be to their advantage. What two things will the followers of Christ experience because Jesus is returning to the Father (**14:12, 13-14**)?

Because Jesus is going to the Father, we will not only do the works that Jesus is doing, but even greater works!

Jesus will do what we ask in prayer (answer our prayers) if it will bring glory to the Father. Jesus puts not limit on what we can ask for if it will glorify the Father.

- ♥ To what degree are these two things part of your everyday experience? How so?
- ♥ Do you think the promises Jesus makes in **14:12-14** are "blank check" promises about prayer? Why or why not? Why does Jesus want to answer our prayers (**14:13**)? When you ask God for something in prayer, how much consideration do you give to whether your requests are for his glory, his purposes, his kingdom and his will being done?
- ♥ In **14:12**, does Jesus mean that we will do works *greater in scope* or *greater in power* than he did? How so?

Generally, Bible scholars seem to reason that as a matter of historical fact the apostles did not perform anything more spectacular in their ministries than Jesus had one in his, and so **greater things** obviously cannot mean "more spectacular miracles." So what was Jesus saying?

Jesus was letting the disciples know that he was not disbanding them since he was leaving. Rather, he expected them to continue his work. Through the power of the Spirit there were more converts after Peter's first sermon at Pentecost, then are recorded in Jesus' entire 3 year ministry. Through the power of the Spirit, the early church spread throughout all the Roman world even though Jesus never left Palestine during his life. Through the power of the Spirit, the church today worldwide and has become the means of salvation for the entire world.

Some scholars argue that the greater works means that regular, ordinary people are continuing the work of Jesus to the glory of the Father. We are also reminded that Jesus' work did not consist only of miracles, but also extending love, service, forgiveness and mercy and grace.

Whatever the greater works are, they are done to the Father's glory and they can only be done through a living, prayerful relationship with Jesus (**14:13-14**).

8. From **14:12-15**, what are the three actions are required of us that will lead to **answered prayer** and our **doing the works of Jesus**?

**14:12** - Faith in Jesus

**14:13-14** - Ask in Jesus name in prayer

**14:15** - obedience to Jesus commands

♥ Why is each action important? How do you rate yourself in each of these actions?

Below are some verses stating why faith, asking and obedience are important:

**Hebrews 11:6** And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

**James 1:6** But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. **7** That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; **8** he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.

**Matthew 7:7** "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. **8** For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

**John 14:23** Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.

**John 15:10** If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love.

**Acts 5:32** We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

**Romans 6:16** Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?

Read **John 14:16-20; 25-27**

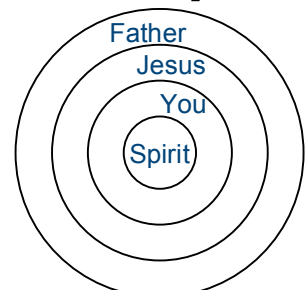
9. Jesus told his disciples that even though he was leaving, they would not be alone because the Father would send someone else to be with them - another *Counselor (Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengtheners, Standby, Friend)*. Fill in the following chart, listing the specific things you learn about the Holy Spirit.

Verse	Facts about the Holy Spirit
14:16	He is sent from the Father and the Son; he will be with us forever
14:17	He is the Spirit of Truth; he is not for the world because they can't see him understand him; the Christ-follower will know him because he is with us and in us
14:26	he will teach us all things and remind us of everything Jesus has said

- ♥ What is something new you learned about the Holy Spirit from these verses that you did not realize before? How will this new truth make a difference in your relationship with God?
- ♥ Jesus said that the Holy Spirit lives in the person who is a disciple of Christ. How are you aware of the Holy Spirit's presence in your life? How are some ways your life would be different if the Holy Spirit did not live in you and if he was not always with you?

10. When the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost (**Acts 2**), a new, interactive relationship was established between God and the person who loves and obeys Jesus. If we could visualize this relationship, what might it look like? Use what Jesus says in **John 14:20** (and **17**) and **assign a circle for each person in the relationship**.

- ♥ How does this diagram help you in understanding your relationship to God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit)? How does this make you feel? What practical difference will it make in your life?
- ♥ Will the Holy Spirit ever leave you once he has made his home in you (**14:16-17**)? Why is this important?



## Read John 14:21-24

11. If a spouse, family member or friend declared that they loved you, what are some basic **actions and attitudes** you would expect from them that would demonstrate the sincerity of their words?

Everyone's answers may be different, but will probably be similar. The point is that saying the words, "I love you" is not enough. They must be accompanied by action to validate them.

What is the test of your love for Jesus (14:15, 21, 24)?

Obedience to Christ's commands. This is why knowing the Word of God is so important; we won't know Jesus commands if we don't know his Word.

- ♥ Why do you think Jesus links *love* and *obedience*? Is it be possible to love Jesus and not obey his commands? Why or why not?
- ♥ If a stranger was watching your life, what conclusions would they come to about your love for Jesus?

## **Response**

In what area of your life right now do you most need the peace that Jesus offers (14:27)? How is Jesus' peace different from the world's peace? How can you experience the peace that Christ offers? Is there something you need to do?

## **Encounter with Jesus**

See yourself sitting at the feet of Jesus, eager to hear what Jesus has to say (perhaps as Mary did in **Luke 10:39**). Ask Jesus a question you have about something in **John 14** or ask him how a particular truth that you discovered in this chapter personally applies to you. Remain quiet in Jesus' presence, keeping the eyes of your heart on him. The Holy Spirit (who lives in you and teaches you all things) will bring thoughts to your mind from the mind of Christ. Write down what Jesus says to you. Ask him any other questions you might have. Listen for his reply. Thank Jesus that he lives in you and continues to show himself to you.

**BELOW IS THE EXTRA SCRIPTURE FOR LESSON 10 THAT YOU CAN PRINT OUT FOR SMALL GROUP TIME.**

## NIV

**John 12:27** “Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. **28** Father, glorify your name!” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.”

**Hebrews 12:22** But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly,

**Revelation 21:9 – 22:5** One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.” **10** And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God. **11** It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. **12** It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel. **13** There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west. **14** The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

**15** The angel who talked with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city, its gates and its walls. **16** The city was laid out like a square, as long as it was wide. He measured the city with the rod and found it to be 12,000 stadia in length, and as wide and high as it is long. **17** He measured its wall and it was 144 cubits thick, by man’s measurement, which the angel was using. **18** The wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold, as pure as glass. **19** The foundations of the city walls were decorated with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, **20** the fifth sardonyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst. **21** The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was of pure gold, like transparent glass. **22** I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. **23** The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. **24** The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. **25** On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. **26** The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it. **27** Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

**22:1** Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb **2** down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the

tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. **3** No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. **4** They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. **5** There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever.

**Acts 4:12** Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”

**1 Timothy 2:3** This is good, and pleases God our Savior, **4** who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. **5** For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, **6** who gave himself as a ransom for all men—the testimony given in its proper time.

**John 6:44** “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.

**Matthew 6:9** “This, then, is how you should pray: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, **10** your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

**John 14:13** And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. **14** You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

**Mark 11:24** Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

**Isaiah 9:6** For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**2 Corinthians 4:4** The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

**Philippians 2:6** Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,

**Colossians 1:15** He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

**Hebrews 1:3** The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

## NLT

**John 12:27** Now my soul is deeply troubled. Should I pray, 'Father, save me from what lies ahead'? But that is the very reason why I came! **28** Father, bring glory to your name." Then a voice spoke from heaven, saying, "I have already brought it glory, and I will do it again."

**Hebrews 12:22** No, you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to thousands of angels in joyful assembly.

**Revelation 21:9 – 22:5** Then one of the seven angels who held the seven bowls containing the seven last plagues came and said to me, "Come with me! I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb."

**Revelation 21:10** So he took me in spirit to a great, high mountain, and he showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God.

**11** It was filled with the glory of God and sparkled like a precious gem, crystal clear like jasper. **12** Its walls were broad and high, with twelve gates guarded by twelve angels. And the names of the twelve tribes of Israel were written on the gates. **13** There were three gates on each side—east, north, south, and west. **14** The wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them were written the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

**15** The angel who talked to me held in his hand a gold measuring stick to measure the city, its gates, and its wall. **16** When he measured it, he found it was a square, as wide as it was long. In fact, it was in the form of a cube, for its length and width and height were each 1,400 miles. **17** Then he measured the walls and found them to be 216 feet thick (the angel used a standard human measure).

**18** The wall was made of jasper, and the city was pure gold, as clear as glass. **19** The wall of the city was built on foundation stones inlaid with twelve gems: the first was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, **20** the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoptase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst.

**21** The twelve gates were made of pearls—each gate from a single pearl! And the main street was pure gold, as clear as glass.

**22** No temple could be seen in the city, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. **23** And the city has no need of sun or moon, for the glory of God illuminates the city, and the Lamb is its light. **24** The nations of the earth will walk in its light, and the rulers of the world will come and bring their glory to it. **25** Its gates never close at the end of day because there is no night. **26** And all the nations will bring their glory and honor into the city. **27** Nothing evil will be allowed to enter—no one who practices shameful idolatry and dishonesty—but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

**22:1** And the angel showed me a pure river with the water of life, clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb, **2** coursing down the center of

the main street. On each side of the river grew a tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, with a fresh crop each month. The leaves were used for medicine to heal the nations. **3** No longer will anything be cursed. For the throne of God and of the Lamb will be there, and his servants will worship him. **4** And they will see his face, and his name will be written on their foreheads. **5** And there will be no night there—no need for lamps or sun—for the Lord God will shine on them. And they will reign forever and ever.

**Acts 4:12** There is salvation in no one else! There is no other name in all of heaven for people to call on to save them."

**1 Timothy 2:3** This is good and pleases God our Savior, **4** for he wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth. **5** For there is only one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and people. He is the man Christ Jesus. **6** He gave his life to purchase freedom for everyone. This is the message that God gave to the world at the proper time.

**John 6:44** For people can't come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them to me, and at the last day I will raise them from the dead.

**Matthew 6:9** Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may your name be honored.

**10** May your Kingdom come soon. May your will be done here on earth, just as it is in heaven.

**John 14:13** You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, because the work of the Son brings glory to the Father. **14** Yes, ask anything in my name, and I will do it!

**Mark 11:24** Listen to me! You can pray for anything, and if you believe, you will have it.

**Isaiah 9:6** For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. And the government will rest on his shoulders. These will be his royal titles: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**2 Corinthians 4:4** Satan, the god of this evil world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe, so they are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News that is shining upon them. They don't understand the message we preach about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.

**Philippians 2:6** Though he was God, he did not demand and cling to his rights as God.

**Colossians 1:15** Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before God made anything at all and is supreme over all creation.

**Hebrews 1:3** The Son reflects God's own glory, and everything about him represents God exactly. He sustains the universe by the mighty power of his command. After he died to cleanse us from the stain of sin, he sat down in the place of honor at the right hand of the majestic God of heaven.