**1. Motivate**

When has your life taken an unexpected turn?

* auto accident
* fall off a ladder
* unexpected pregnancy
* loss of job
* job transfer to another state
* financial hit
* got Covid
* won the lottery!
* son or daughter failed an important course
* son or daughter got a full ride scholarship
* weather incident damaged/destroyed your home

**2. Transition**

God is with us, no matter what life brings.

* We can trust Jesus because He is The Way, The Truth, and The Life.

**3. Bible Study**

3.1 Trust God, Not Yourself

Listen for a promise and a prediction.

John 13:36 - 14:1 (NIV) Simon Peter asked him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus replied, "Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later." 37 Peter asked, "Lord, why can't I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you." 38 Then Jesus answered, "Will you really lay down your life for me? I tell you the truth, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times! 14:1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me.

What are some reasons the disciples might have been troubled?

* lack of understanding
* completely confused about Jesus’ comments about coming events
* Jesus’ ministry was riding high
* lots of followers, triumphal entry, many successful healings
* now Jesus talks like it’s all over

What corrective did Jesus offer for their troubled hearts?

* don’t let your hearts be troubled
* trust in God
* trust in ME

What kinds of things trouble *your* heart?

* health issues, finances, current economy might mean I lose my job
* worried about kids, grandkids

Display these responses for later consideration

* political mess, terrorism
* the car is making a funny noise
* one of my kid’s teachers has it in for him/her, other problems in schools
* our house has cracks in the foundation

How do you usually handle worries that trouble you?

* lose sleep
* get mad … kick the dog … yell at the family
* take more Pepto Bismol
* go for a walk
* pray about it
* tell everyone on Facebook

How did Jesus want His disciples to respond to the troubling news of His departure?

* not in fear
* not with troubled hearts
* with faith, trust in God
* trust in Jesus

Why is it sometimes hard to trust God with our problems?

* God seems far away
* His help sometimes seems intangible
* don’t feel we have a written guarantee
* claim we “don’t have enough faith”
* afraid it is too little/too big for God (both are a lie from Satan)

What does it *look like* to trust Jesus when your heart is troubled?

* concerned, but not “freaked out”
* talk to God a lot
* claim God’s promises
* make sure to thank God when He resolves the problem

Look at our list of headline issues that trouble us today. How do Jesus’ reassurances speak to *our* worries?

* Jesus is not surprised at these situations (we might be, He is not)
* God is still in control, even though the world seems out of control
* God is at work outside of time and will reenter our time and space when Jesus comes again
* Like Peter, even when the failure is ours, God is concerned for us, will forgive us, will draw us back to Himself

3.2 Jesus’ Provision

Listen for where Jesus is going.

John 14:2-3 (NIV) In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

Why do you suppose the disciples needed reassurance like this?

* they didn’t really understand what the future held
* if Jesus left, what would they do?
* what was to become of them?
* Jesus wanted them to know that He was at work in their lives (and ours) in a long-term sense
* Jesus is working on our behalf for our union with Him beyond this life

What kinds of preparations do we make for the future?

* savings
* education
* retirement
* preventative health care
* exercise
* stock up on supplies in case of a power outage or similar disaster

In what way is *Jesus preparing you* to be with Him?

* shaping and molding my life to be more like Him
* works us like a potter or a sculptor
* adds things to our lives that we need
* removes things that shouldn’t be there

How are *you preparing* to be with Jesus?

* allowing God to work in your life
* filling your mind and heart with Who Jesus is and what He is doing
* involvement in Kingdom ministries
* “fix your eyes on Jesus” Heb. 12:2
* “set your hearts on things above” Col. 3:1

Have class members look up these references

* “set your minds on things above” Col. 3:2
* “declare His praises” 1 Peter 2:9
* “in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord” 1 Peter 3:15

Shape, circle

Description automatically generated

3.3 Trusting Jesus, the Only Way

Listen for the “I Am” statement.

John 14:4-6 (NIV) You know the way to the place where I am going." 5 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" 6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

In what ways does Thomas’ question indicate he (and the others) still did not understand what Jesus had been saying to them?

* they didn’t see the coming death and resurrection at all
* they were still thinking along the lines of a Messiah who would gain political or military victory
* they knew Jesus could accomplish miracles, how could He be killed off by His enemies?

Consider the “I Am” statement Jesus used to answer Thomas.

* What Jesus came to accomplish is the ultimate Truth for all time.
* He is the *only* Way to have a right relationship to God.
* To know and believe in the Truth of Jesus is Life eternal.

What are some ways that people suggest that they can get to heaven?

* good works
* parents were Christians
* do more good than bad, they are put on a balance
* refrain from doing really bad things (murder, robbery, abuse)
* God will let everyone in, eventually
* go to church
* baptized as a baby

Why does it bother people when they are told there is ***only one way to God***?

* what about other world religions?
* what about someone who is really sincere
* surely God could not be so exclusive!!

How do we answer someone who objects to this exclusiveness? They question how anyone could believe that a loving God would not accept everyone into heaven if they do their best to live right?

* God has made provision for their entry into heaven
* it is the personal choice of the person to accept or reject that provision
* God is not willing that any should perish (in eternal death/separation from Him)
* God is sovereign and holy and righteous and can do as He pleases … God can be exclusive if He chooses to be
* Actually, God has done infinitely much to make it possible for us to join Him in heaven

Use the last page as a handout so your learners can take home the application points of this week’s lesson.

Application

Trust.

* Think of an area of your life in which you tend to trust your own abilities.
* How can you rely more on Jesus and less on yourself?

List.

* Make a list of times or events when you experienced the trustworthiness of Jesus.
* Place the list where you can find it when your heart is troubled.

Share.

* Meet a friend or family member who does not share your spiritual beliefs about Jesus.
* Pray for the opportunity to begin a conversation about Jesus as the only way to God.