

### The Gospel of John John 14–16

**Memory Verses:** *“I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me”* (John 14:6 ESV).

*“I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing”* (John 15:5 ESV).

#### Background Helps:

This one forecast includes the lessons for the next two weeks based on the Upper Room Discourse of our Lord in John 14–16. In these chapters, the Lord Jesus is preparing his disciples for his soon departure to the Father and equipping them for their life and mission on earth until he returns. (See John 13:33, 36; 14:2-4, 12, 28-29; 16:5, 7, 10, 17, 28.) There are a number of important topics that he addresses, weaving them throughout these three chapters.

The setting for this discourse is the Last Supper, the night before Jesus’ crucifixion, continuing his conversation with his disciples that began in John 13. At one point in the conversation (John 14:31) they begin to leave the Upper Room and proceed toward the Garden of Gethsemane (18:1).

#### Lesson Helps:

Here is a possible overall aim for both of these lessons: My students will learn about Jesus’ Upper Room Discourse to his disciples in John 14–16, so that they will be equipped to serve the Lord until he returns. Each week your lesson could focus on one or more of the topics that Jesus addresses in these chapters, including:

- Peace in the midst of trouble: John 14:1, 27; 16:33
- Heaven (“my Father’s house”): 14:2-6
- The identity of Jesus: 14:7-11
- Prayer: 14:12-14; 15:7-8, 16; 16:23-27
- Love and obedience to Christ: 14:15, 21-24; 15:9-11
- The ministry of the Holy Spirit: 14:16-18; 25-26; 15:26-27; 16:5-15
- The vine and the branches: 15:1-8, 16
- Love for one another: 13:34-35; 15:12-15, 17
- Persecution: 15:18-25; 16:1-4

So, for example, the first week your lesson could focus on the theme of prayer or the theme of the Holy Spirit (using the relevant verses throughout chapters 14–16). The second week you could focus on the allegory of the vine and the branches or facing persecution or the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Or choose your own emphasis. In each case, however, your aim would be to equip your students to serve the Lord on earth while he is away in heaven and until he returns.

**Home Assignment (at the end of the two weeks):**

 Read: John 17

 Memorize: John 17:15 ESV

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