

7th Grade New Testament (Gospels)**Lesson Plan:** Jesus' Farewell Discourse**Learning Goals:** Students should be able to identify the key priorities of Jesus' ministry from the final words spoken to the disciples before his death.**Question:** When you were afraid as a child, how did your mom (or dad) comfort you?

Prayer.

Discuss question on board. (5 minutes)

Read/Watch John 12-17 (long video - lesson needs two days)**Two "I Am" Sayings:**The Way, the Truth, and the Life (14:1-14)

- Jesus is speaking words of comfort to his disciples.
- Context: A Jewish father would add rooms onto his home when his son got married. Jesus going away could refer to the idea that the groom would go away during a yearlong engagement (betrothal) in order to build a home for his bride. He would then return for his bride and take her to her new home. Jesus is going away, but promises to return.
- "Thomas the Honest" - the disciples don't know what Jesus is talking about
- Jesus is saying, "You don't need a road map or an address to type into Google Maps. You need to trust me; I will take you there."

The True Vine (15:1-17)

- Jesus compares our relationship to a vine and branches.
- Jesus is the true vine and we must remain connected to him if we want to bear fruit. We cannot bear fruit on our own. We must depend on the Lord moment by moment.
- As the gardner, God has two jobs: (1) removing the branches that don't bear fruit and (2) pruning the branches so that they can bear more fruit.
- Four blessings that come to those who abide in Jesus:
 1. We will produce much fruit (15:5)
 2. God will answer our prayers (15:7)
 3. Our lives will bring glory to God (15:8)
 4. We will be filled with joy (15:11)

Restatement of Jesus' Command to Love (15:12-17):

- How do we love one another? Love one another in the same way that Jesus has loved us.
- "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends."
- Jesus changes the status of the disciples from servant to friend.
- God has chosen us for the purpose of bearing fruit.

Jesus' Victory (15:18-27)

- The world will treat us the same way it treated Jesus: with hatred and persecution.
- The disciples will be scattered to all corners of the earth (theme of witness).
- Jesus has overcome the world.

The Holy Spirit (14:15-31; 16:5-15)

- The Spirit is described as a Helper. He will do _____ things:
 1. teach you all things (14:26)
 2. remind believers of what Jesus taught (14:26)
 3. convicting the world of sin, righteousness, and judgement (16:8-11)
 4. guide you into all truth (16:13)
 5. glorify Jesus (16:14)

Jesus' Prayer (17:1-26)

- This is the time that Jesus will be fully glorified. (God will glorify Jesus as Jesus glorifies God) - (17:1-5)
- Jesus does not pray to take us out of the world, but to strengthen us (17:15)
- Jesus prays for the unity of all believers, including those that would come later (us). Our unity is a testimony to who God is. (17:20-21)

Possible follow-up Journal:

Have students write a journal entry with the following prompt: Imagine that you have just hours left to live. Take 20 minutes or so to write out one final prayer to God. If time, have students share their prayer (only if they volunteer)

Follow Up Questions:

- What was it like thinking of the end of your life?
- As you look at your prayer, what is important to you? What do you value?
- Who or what did you pray for? Why?

Lesson Summary /Review:

Students should review and highlight the following vocabulary terms and concepts from this lesson in their notes:

- Holy Spirit
- According to Jesus' teaching here, what 5 things will the Holy Spirit do in our lives?
- How is Jesus' saying "I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life" connected to Jewish betrothal practices?