



Believe

JOHN

MESSAGE

STUDY GUIDE

GROUP MATERIAL

SONGS

Community Group Material:

Bible Reading: John 14:1-6; 18-23, 28

“Don’t let your heart be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. 2 In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? 3 If I go away and prepare a place for you, *I will come again* and take you to myself, so that where I am you may be also. 4 You know the way to where I am going.”

5 “Lord,” Thomas said, “we don’t know where you’re going. How can we know the way?” 6 Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (14:1-6)

18 “I will not leave you as orphans; *I am coming to you*. 19 In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me. Because I live, you will live too. 20 On that day you will know that I am in my Father, you are in me, and I am in you. 21 The one who has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. And the one who loves me will be loved by my Father. I also will love him and will reveal myself to him.” 22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, “Lord, how is it you’re going to reveal yourself to us and not to the world?” 23 Jesus answered, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word. My Father

will love him, and *we will come to him* and make our home with him.” (14:18-23)

28 “You have heard me tell you, ‘I am going away and *I am coming to you*.’ If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father...” (14:28)

SUMMARY: In his farewell speech, Jesus promised a temporary departure through crucifixion, assuring his disciples of a future reunion in his ‘Father’s House with many rooms.’ After 2,000 years, Jesus’ outstanding promise persists –*I will come again*– Christ’s literal return to Earth. His ‘second coming’ unfolds in two stages: the initial ‘rapture,’ transporting believers to his presence, followed by his descent to establish an earthly kingdom. The ‘Father’s house’ symbolizes the believers’ ultimate

destination of communion with the Trinity, with 'many rooms' implying limitless capacity and individual distinctiveness. John's Gospel and Paul's epistles differ in style, yet they converge on this vision. John 14 aligns with Paul's rapture scenario (1 Thess. 4), and also links Christ's return to his resurrection—a spiritual 'coming' via the Holy Spirit's indwelling. Dwelling in the Father's house isn't solely future; it's already realized through our love & obedience to Jesus. This calls for proactive engagement; let's actively cultivate a deep, personal relationship with God, mirroring that eternal dwelling.

QUESTIONS:

1. Jesus exhorts his disciples to reject fear & embrace faith: "Don't let your heart be Believe in God; believe also in me." (14:1). Today's global & local situation—climate events, military conflict in Ukraine & the Middle East, crime & racial/ ethnic/religious hatred—could cause increased anxiety. Does Jesus' exhortation to our situation? If so, how?
2. Jesus promised his disciples: "In my Father's house are many rooms... I'm going to prepare a place for you ...I will come again & take you to myself, so that where I am you may be also." (14:2-3)
 - a. Is Jesus' "Father's House" equivalent to "heaven"?
 - b. What does the symbol of 'my Father's house with many rooms' add to the general notion of 'heaven'?
 - c. Is Jesus describing our *current* spiritual relationship with God, Christ, & Christians (e.g., as the Church, Christ's Body/ God's Temple)? Or is he referring to Christian believers' eternal/ultimate destiny? Discuss.
3. Jesus' promise —"If anyone loves me, he/she will keep my word. My Father will love him/her, & we will come to him/ her & make our home with him/her." (14:23) —encourages each believer to cultivate a personal, intimate relationship with the Father & the Son. In what ways can we do this? What practices, spiritual exercises, have you found helpful? Discuss.
4. When Jesus said "I'll come again & take you to myself, so that where I am you may be " (14:3) is he referring to:
 - a. Jesus coming to escort each Christian believer to heaven when they die (life-after-death)?
 - b. Jesus' ultimate coming to Earth, when, this "world becomes the kingdom of our Lord & of his Christ, & he will reign forever & ever." (Rev. 11:15)?
 - c. Jesus' return (after his death) to the disciples in resurrection on Easter Sunday & his appearances to his disciples?
 - d. Jesus' coming to his disciples as "another Paraclete/Comforter" —the Holy Spirit?
 - e. Jesus' "secret rapture" of his believers as described by Paul in 1 4:14-17?
 - f. Jesus coming spiritually to indwell the believer's 'heart/spirit/soul' during their current life-time?
5. Some scholars suggest that John's Gospel responds to the "unexpected delay in Christ's return" by writing John 14 in which the literal "*second coming of Christ is reinterpreted as Christ's coming again as the Spirit, the Paraclete*" (Jn. 14:18- 20). Do you agree (or disagree) that this is what John 14 is doing?
6. How do the Scriptures —Hab. 2:3 & 2 3:8-9 —help us understand the (apparent) 'delay' in Jesus' second coming?