“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.”

Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.
VOCABULARY

- **Troubled** – To feel anxious or upset.
- **Believe** – To have faith or confidence in God.
- **Prepare** – To make ready, arrange.
- **Dwell** – Live.
- **Glorified** – Honored.

INTRODUCTION

Mr. and Mrs. Barnes asked to have a family meeting after dinner. They made sure all four of their children were present.

“Your mother and I want to have a meeting to discuss an important issue. We finally made the last mortgage payment on the house last week.” Mr. Barnes waved his hands in praise to God. “Thank God for blessing us to do it in less time than we imagined. We worked extremely hard and made sacrifices.”

“Dad, that is so wonderful,” Ken replied.

Scott raised his glass of juice to propose a toast to his parents. All his siblings raised their glasses. “Mom and dad, we thank God for providing a way to pay off the house completely.”

“Thank God for his goodness towards us. Your father and I have decided to leave the house for all of you after we die. We want to make sure if you desired to stay here the house would be paid in full.” Mrs. Barnes used a napkin to wipe tears from her eyes.

“All we have done was to prepare this home for you to enjoy without any stress about paying the mortgage. Your future is now a little bit more secure.” Mr. Barnes reached over and held his wife’s hand.

*Why is preparing for the future important? In today’s lesson,*
we will evaluate Jesus’ promises to his followers about their futures after Jesus departs.

BIBLE STORY

The apostle John wrote this book to prove that Jesus is the Son of God, and that all who believe in Jesus will have eternal life. John was the son of Zebedee and Salome, and brother of James. The book was written after the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70 and before John’s exile to the island of Patmos.

Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem was the beginning of the end of his ministry on earth (vs. 12:12-19). While in the upper room, Jesus predicted his betrayal and death. Moreover Jesus predicted Peter’s denial (vs. 13:37-38). Jesus offered comfort to the disciples since they had just received disturbing news.

Jesus did not want the disciples to be troubled about Jesus’ death (vs. 14:1-4). If we trust in God, we can also trust in Jesus and Jesus’ actions. Jesus had to leave to go prepare a place for his followers in God’s house. So when we die, we can go with Jesus to our new heavenly home. Our future is secure. Jesus told the disciples they knew the way to get to their eternal home. Do you know the way?

The disciples did not have a clear understanding. Jesus provided clarification that Jesus was the only way to the Father. “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (v. 14:6). Many think there are other ways to heaven and Christianity is just one option. This passage from the Gospel of John states that we cannot go to the Father except through Jesus.

Jesus rebuked Philip for his desire to see the Father (v. 14:8). Jesus then questioned the disciples’ faith and belief in Jesus as truth and expected them to focus their attention on God working inside Jesus. Jesus proclaimed that faithful believers will imitate Jesus in their actions and will do works that are even greater
than what Jesus does (v. 14:12). Jesus declared that anything done or asked in his name which brings glory to the Father will be successful. Our prayers must be part of God’s divine plan.

**LIFE APPLICATION**

How well do you know Jesus? It is important to know the truth about Jesus. Read the statements and determine if it is true (T) or false (F). Place a “T” or “F” beside each statement.

1. Jesus’ hometown was Nazareth.  ____
2. Jesus was conceived after Joseph and Mary married.  ____
3. Mary and Joseph had other children besides Jesus.  ____
4. Jesus is a good man but not the Son of God.  ____
5. Jesus was baptized in the Nile River.  ____
6. Jesus is the only person who has the power to forgive our sins.  ____
7. Jesus died through crucifixion on the cross.  ____
8. Jesus’ body was stolen from the grave.  ____
9. Jesus does not heal people.  ____
10. Jesus has the power and authority to resurrect us from the dead.  ____

**Jesus is the Only Way to the Father**

(On the following page start on left side of the maze to reach the destination on right)
SUMMARY

We have to know the truth about Jesus so we do not follow the wrong path. It can be difficult when we do not always understand everything about Jesus. We can pray and ask for wisdom. The answers will come as we seek to know the truth. The truth will strengthen our faith in God’s promises, and keep us until we are united with Christ in heaven. Heaven is a prepared place for faithful servants of God and followers of Jesus.

CLOSING DEVOTIONS

Prayer: Promise-keeping God, thank you for this day. We are comforted through your promises. We appreciate that you have prepared a place for us to spend eternity with you. Amen.

Closing Hymn: “Jesus Loves Me, This I Know” (#549 - AME Church Hymnal)