John 14:1-14 (NRSV)

1 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.

2 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?

3 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.

4 And you know the way to the place where I am going.”

5 Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?”

6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

7 If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

8 Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.”

9 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’?

10 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.

11 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.

12 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. 

13 I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 

14 If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

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**Word Power!!!**

- **Father** – God.
- **Father’s House** – Where God lives.
- **Dwelling Place** – Living space within God’s house that’s specifically designed for those who believe in Jesus.
- **Thomas** – The disciple who tells the other disciples that they should risk death with Jesus by going to Bethany to help Mary, Martha, and Lazarus.
- **Philip** – The disciple who leads two different people to Jesus, but also says that Jesus and the disciples don’t have enough money to feed the huge crowd of people that followed Jesus.

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**GETTING READY!!!**

In the “Great Robot Race” episode of Disney Junior’s animated TV show, *T.O.T.S.*, a scientist challenges the delivery birds to race his robot stork. The scientist believes the robot can do a better job of delivering baby animals because the robot is a faster flyer. The delivery birds believe they can do a better job because they are caring flyers. The scientist chooses Pip and Freddy to race his robot because they are junior flyers. (That means that they are still in training.)

The robot stork sets out to deliver one twin, while Pip and Freddy deliver the other. It looks like the robot will win because he’s moving faster. Then something happens that he wasn’t
prepared for. His baby gets upset and nothing he does makes it happy. When the robot is unable to comfort the twin he’s carrying, he breaks down.

The robot fails because he only knows how to act based on how he was programmed. Since he’s not able to adjust to the unexpected, the robot believes he’s already failed so he gives up. Freddy and Pip could’ve allowed the robot to stay broken, but they don’t. First, they deliver both twins to their parents. Then, they lead the robot back to the T.O.T.S. headquarters so that his creator can make some changes to his programming.

**INTO GOD’S WORD!!!**

Guess what? The disciples from today’s lesson are acting a lot like the robot stork in the *T.O.T.S.* episode. They’re falling apart because they don’t know how to adjust their thinking. They were convinced that the people of Israel would be saved in a certain way; but, Jesus told them it would happen through Jesus’ death. That shook them to their core, so they began to question everything.

Thankfully, the disciples aren’t as stuck in their ways as the people from Jesus’ hometown. Yet, they have a hard time understanding and accepting the plan for salvation that Jesus lays out. However, they’ve been with Jesus long enough not to totally reject what Jesus is offering. Instead, they ask Jesus to make his message clearer.

Jesus really shows how wise he is in those moments, because Jesus doesn’t give up on his disciples. Yes, he’s
annoyed that they don’t get it the first or the second time, but he keeps working with them. Jesus never stops inviting them to wise up and accept that this salvation plan will grant everyone who believes a place with God and a life that pleases God.

**Activity #1 – God’s House Has a Place for Every Believer.**

Use a poster board, pictures of different types of places that people can live in, scissors, glue, and markers to create a *God’s House Collage*. Then add the names of members of your church to different “dwelling places.”

**USING GOD’S WORD!!!**

The two disciples who speak up in today’s lesson found themselves in an uncomfortable position. They had put their hope and trust in Jesus. Philip had encouraged others to follow Jesus. Thomas encouraged the others to keep following Jesus if they had to die doing it. Now, Jesus was telling them that he was going away and that they would have to continue the work without him. That made the two disciples and the other disciples feel uncomfortable.

Jesus knew this so he reassured them. Unfortunately, Jesus’ words didn’t fully sink in until much later. The disciples had to experience him die, rise, and go up to heaven before they fully understood what made Jesus *the Way, the Truth, and the Life*.

Things are a little bit easier for us. The message about Jesus being *the Way, the Truth, and the Life* isn’t new to us. We’ve heard it before. It’s part of our belief system as Christians. That doesn’t mean we’ll be comfortable with the idea of Jesus dying so we can know God, do great things for God, and have a place
with God. It just means that we can’t let our discomfort keep us from accepting that the promise is true.

**Activity #2 – Good and Wise Things that Make Us Uncomfortable.** Look at the list below. Circle the ones that are positive, even though they may make people uncomfortable.

1. A parent says no to something that they know their child isn’t ready to handle.
2. A friend talks you into finishing the homework assignment you’ve avoided doing.
3. A student talks a classmate into taking something off of the teacher’s desk without permission.
4. Your sister encourages you to exercise when you tell her you don’t feel like it.
5. A neighbor gets you to make fun of another neighbor who speaks with a different accent.
6. Your brother tells you to keep eating even though you told him that you’re full.

**REMX!!!**

The disciples had a hard time trusting that Jesus was *the Way, the Truth, and the Life* because they didn’t think the world would be saved through Jesus’ death. It made them uncomfortable to think that they would have to do wise and godly things without Jesus. That’s why Jesus promised that he would continue to help them. Guess what? That promise applies to you, too. Jesus is in heaven doing what needs to be done so you can do great things for God. Will you trust Jesus enough to believe that Jesus is *the Way, the Truth, and the Life*? If so, you’ll get to know God, live your life for God, and have a place in heaven with God.
PRAISE THE LORD!!!

There’s enough room up where God lives
For every believer to take their place
Jesus died, rose, and went up into heaven
To reserve a place for all those who would believe
And to give them the courage, power, and strength they’d need
To share with others this promise of life with God above
That also helps us live well here until Jesus reappears
For this is what makes Jesus the Way, the Truth, and the Life!