

3d - The Father and the Son

Read John 13:31-14:11

"No one may see me and live," the Lord said to Moses. "No one has ever seen God," John echoes in his Gospel. "Whom no one has seen or can see," says Paul. Yet how can we relate to an invisible God? We cannot see him or touch him. Is he listening? Is he even there? At times we feel as though we are talking to ourselves!

At the Last Supper, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus told his disciples he was returning to the Father. He explained his gracious purpose in going there. Then he made a bold and startling claim: the invisible God has become visible. We can see him if we know where to look. We can come to him if we know the way. It is vital for us, as it was for those disciples, to grasp what Jesus is saying.



1. What are some of the difficulties you experience in relating to an invisible God?
2. Read John 13:31-14:11. God is glorified when his character is revealed. How will Jesus glorify God, and how will God glorify Jesus (John 13:31-32)?
3. If you had been with Jesus for three years and had placed all your hopes on him, how would you respond mentally and emotionally to his statement in John 13:33?
4. To what extent can you identify with Peter's response (John 13:36-38)?
5. How would Jesus' words in John 14:1-4 calm the troubled disciples?

How can these words be a special comfort to people approaching the end of physical life?

6. Thomas asserts they do *not* know what Jesus claims they know (John 14:4-5). What has Thomas failed to grasp (John 14:6)?

7. How would you explain each aspect of Jesus' claim in John 14:6?

8. What is involved in embracing Jesus as our way to the Father?

9. Philip assumes they have *not* seen what Jesus claims they have seen (John 14:7-8). What has Philip failed to realize (John 14:9-11)?

On a daily basis, how can we get to know the Father through Jesus?

10. In the previous study Moses was unable to receive a full revelation of God ("You cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live"). How has Christ overcome this barrier?