

**Green County Church of Christ  
Vacation Bible School – 2015**

*Standing on the Promises*



**Lesson Two: Jesus' Promise that...**

**"I go to prepare a place for you"**

**John 14:2**

**Primary Series Aim:** Students will be encouraged to believe and obey the gospel that they might become partakers of the promises Jesus made, that through Him alone they may receive eternal life.

**Secondary Series Aim:** Students will know what Jesus said about subjects of eternal and spiritual importance regarding promises He made to us.

**Lesson Two Aim:** Students will believe that Jesus' promise to prepare a place for us in Heaven is true, and that those who love Him will enjoy a relationship with Him forever in that place when He returns.

## **Lesson Plan:**

### **First Session (40 minutes):**

- Discussion
- Questions
- Activities

### **Second Session (40 minutes):**

- Review
- Testing
- Crafts

**Special Note to Teachers:** Please try hard to get the main points across and test to see if students understand the purpose of the study. This material is provided to serve you and not you, it. God bless you in efforts. (Separate question/activity sheets will be given to students)

## Memory Verse for Today

*"I will come again and receive you unto myself" John 14:3*

### *SATAN WANTS YOU TO THINK:*

- Heaven is not real. Like all things 'Christian,' it is made up to help people make it through life with a sense of hope. It is a crutch that people do not need.
- The only life to be had is the one we have now, so live it any way you wish, it is yours to be used any way you want.
- Jesus promised this world is where we will spend eternity; it will just be changed to something better when He comes back.

### *GOD WANTS YOU TO KNOW:*

- Heaven is real. Jesus promised to go and prepare a place for us, so that when He returns He can take us there to be with Him forever.
- Jesus is preparing a place for us with Him, so it is vitally important that we listen to Him, trust and obey His commandments, and remain faithful unto death that He will consider us worthy of it.
- The earth and all it contains will be destroyed by fire at the great Last Day. The place we will live with Him will be new, free of sin, suffering, death, and Satan. (Please read 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10; Matthew 13:37-43; 2 Peter 3:10-13; Revelation 22:1-5 on this vital point).

*Who will you and I believe?*

**TODAY'S TEXT: JOHN 14:1-18**

## Summary

The occasion is the Last Supper. It has been completed, and now Jesus is telling His disciples (except for Judas Iscariot who had left to betray Him) what He planned to do after His death, burial, and resurrection. He told them not to be worried, to believe in God (the Father) and Him. He told them He was going to prepare a place for them, and since He was, He would be back to “receive” them to Himself. When Thomas showed some confusion, Jesus explained that only He was the way to God, knew the truth about God, and held life with God – He alone could get people to the Father. He also indicated that, although He was a separate entity (being) He was one with the Father. He promised to send the Holy Spirit to be Counselor and Guide to them and that He would not leave them as orphans; He would return again.

### QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What was the occasion of this teaching?  
Answer: The Last Supper – it was nearly the time for Jesus to die.
2. What did Jesus say about His Father’s house?  
Answer: There were many places to live; many rooms.
3. Why was it necessary for Jesus to go away?  
Answer: He went to prepare a place for His faithful disciples.
4. Was Jesus saying He would come back to be with us, or that He would return to receive us to Himself? Answer: He would receive us to Himself.
5. What reason did Jesus give for His return?  
Answer: That where He was, we would be also.
6. Which disciple told Jesus they did not know the way?  
Answer: Thomas.
7. Who do we see when we view and examine Jesus?  
Answer: The Father, God.
8. What three things did Jesus say He was in relation to God?  
Answer: The way, the truth, and the life.
9. Who asked Jesus to show them the Father?  
Answer: Philip.
10. Who did Jesus say was responsible for His words and works?  
Answer: God the Father.
11. What did Jesus say He would do if His disciples asked in His name?  
Answer: Anything.

12. What did Jesus say is proof of love for Him?  
Answer: Keeping (observing and obeying) His commandments.
13. Who did Jesus say He would send in His name?  
Answer: Another Counselor – the Holy Spirit.
14. How long did Jesus say the Holy Spirit be with us?  
Answer: Forever, always.
15. Why can the world not receive the Holy Spirit?  
Answer: Because it cannot see or know Him.
16. What did Jesus call the Holy Spirit?  
Answer: Counselor and the Spirit of Truth.
17. Where did Jesus say the Holy Spirit will dwell (reside)?  
Answer: In Jesus' disciples.
18. What did Jesus say He would not leave His disciples as?  
Answer: Orphans.

### **POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES**

- FIND-A-WORD
- CROSSWORD PUZZLES
- COLORING PAGES

### **VITAL TOPICS FROM THE TEXT**

Where did Jesus promise to take those who love Him?

- Jesus promised to come again and receive us to Himself. This is important because it sets forth the teaching that we go to be with Him. It is in heaven that God the Father resides and the location where Jesus is preparing a place for us. Therefore, when Jesus returns, He will take us with Him there. Those who love Jesus may expect to be with Him for eternity where He is – Heaven.

What conditions must we meet to be with Jesus in eternity?

- Jesus made it clear that only those who believe in Him and love Him by obeying His commands will be permitted to enter Heaven. Since He is talking to those who did, His disciples, He did not say what would happen to those who did not; that is found in John 15. If we want to live and enjoy life forever, we must trust and obey Jesus. The way of entrance into a relationship with Him is found in the New Testament – the gospel plan of salvation. If you are interested, ask your teacher about it.

What did Jesus say is the surest proof that we love Him and what does it mean in practice?

- We prove our love to Jesus by obeying His commands. Anyone can say they love Him, and sing it in songs, but the real proof is whether or not we are really listening to Him and trying hard to do as He asks us. Those who pretend to be followers of Jesus, but who give themselves over to sin and love for the world's sinful habits, practices, and ways, are hypocrites (two-faced). Jesus will one day show them for what they truly are.

### **TESTING CONCEPTS**

HAVE EACH STUDENT PREPARE AN 'EXIT SLIP' (A SLIP OF PAPER DESCRIBING ONE OR MORE THINGS THEY LEARNED FROM THE CLASS). WHEN THEY ALL ARE FINISHED, EACH ONE TAKES THEIR TURN READING IT TO THE CLASS AND MAKING REMARKS (IF DESIRED). YOU MAY COMMENT ON THEM ALSO.

ALTERNATELY, YOU MAY PREPARE A WRITTEN OR ORAL TEST OF YOUR OWN TO GIVE TO THEM. YOU MAY USE THE QUESTIONS ABOVE IF YOU WISH.