

## SO WHAT?

### Lesson 3: A Great Promise

This includes:

1. Leader Preparation
2. Lesson Guide

## 1. LEADER PREPARATION

### LESSON OVERVIEW

This is the final lesson in the “So What?” series, and it holds a valuable truth for our lives: Jesus is coming back to take his followers home. He also has given us the gift of the Holy Spirit, is preparing a place for us, and will come again. Jesus has given us peace for today and hope for tomorrow. This promise gives us great power, assurance, and peace for our lives. His promise is the result of his love for us.

### LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. WHAT: Jesus promised to come back and left us God’s Spirit in the meantime.
2. WHY: It is because of God’s great love for us that Jesus left and is coming back.
3. HOW: Students will discuss what it means to experience God’s peace and power in their lives.

### PRIMARY SCRIPTURE

John 14

### SECONDARY SCRIPTURE

Acts 1:8

### TEACHING PREP

The short overview below is designed to help you prepare for your lesson. While you may not want to convey this information word-for-word with your teenagers, you’ll definitely want to refer to it as you lead.

Read John 14.

In the first words of this chapter, Jesus beckoned his followers to not be troubled. Clearly, they were fearful about Jesus leaving them. We, too, are often fearful of change and not feeling God’s presence in our lives.



LEADER  
TIP



Jesus also told his disciples, “I am the way, the truth, and the life.” In some of his last words to his disciples before his crucifixion, Jesus was speaking words of direction, truth, and hope into them. He was replacing their fears with words of peace. And he made some profound promises to his disciples that he was going to prepare eternity for them—for us!—and while he was gone he was leaving the Holy Spirit to live within us.

As you read the first half of the passage, what fears or worries are you facing today? Confess those in a prayer to the Holy Spirit. Continue in reading through the second half of this chapter—how does Jesus describe the role of the Holy Spirit? What characteristics of the Spirit do you need in your life to chase your worries away? Declare in prayer the way, truth, and life in your life again. Spend a few minutes praying for your students by name and for the Holy Spirit’s work in your group.

## **THE BEFORE & AFTER [OPTIONAL]**

### **Text Message Questions**

**We’ve provided a couple of different text message questions to send out to your students prior to your meeting. Feel free to use one or both of the questions below. As with the rest of the curriculum, edit these questions to fit the needs of your ministry.**

- How does Jesus respond to our fears? Come out tonight for peace-filled answers!
- Do you recognize the Holy Spirit working in your life? Share your thoughts when the group meets this week.

### **Parent Email**

**We’ve provided you with an email below that you can send to your parents following the lesson. Our hope is to encourage parents to continue the conversation at home. Feel free to edit and customize the email to fit your ministry needs.**

Dear parents,

We have ended our three-lesson study on “So What?” where we looked at some core passages of discipleship in the New Testament.





It's been a great source of conversation for our students to understand some essential things Jesus taught.

This last lesson focused on Jesus' promise that he is coming back for us and that he would give us the gift of the Holy Spirit living within us to continue and finish the mission he gave us in the Great Commission.

As you go throughout the week, help reinforce this teaching in your teenager's life by asking the following questions as you have the opportunity:

- How are you aware of the Holy Spirit's presence and power in your life?
- Why is God trustworthy to handle your troubles and fear?
- Where do you need the Holy Spirit to give you guidance and encouragement today?

Have a great week!



## SO WHAT?

### Lesson 3: A Great Promise

## 2. LESSON GUIDE

### GETTING THINGS STARTED [OPTIONAL]

Welcome your students and invite them into your meeting area. Open in prayer, and then ASK:

- *Do you have any phobias? If you do, tell us about them—and when you notice them most.*
- *What do teenagers fear the most? What issues or needs are you and your generation most worried about?*
- *Now flip it to the other end of the spectrum. Where do many teenagers go searching for peace?*
- *What brings you peace?*

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** *Today we are going to talk about some important things Jesus said and prayed just hours before his crucifixion. We will see what he told his closest disciples about fear and peace, and the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.*

### TEACHING POINTS



LEADER  
TIP

The goal of the Teaching Points is to help students capture the essence of each lesson with more discussion and less lecture-style teaching. The main points we have chosen are (1) When you're afraid, put your faith and trust in Jesus, (2) Jesus is preparing a place for his followers, (3) We can do great things for Jesus, and (4) The Holy Spirit leads us and encourages us.

Remember: All throughout these lessons, it's up to you to choose (1) how many questions you use, and (2) the wording of the main points—keep ours, or change the wording to make it clearer for your audience.



LEADER  
TIP

Read John 14 together as a group. Consider dividing verses among your students so everyone has a chance to read.

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** *Let's jump into this chapter and see what we can learn from some of Jesus' last words to his disciples before his crucifixion.*





## 1. When you're afraid, put your faith and trust in Jesus

### ASK:

- *How do you react when you're afraid or fearful? What does fear do to you?*
- *The beginning of John 14 comes right after Jesus predicted his betrayal and predicted that Peter would deny knowing him. How does that context help you understand why the disciples' hearts were troubled?*
- *Tell us about a time you were fearful and you called out to God. What happened?*
- *Why is God trustworthy to handle your troubles and fear?*

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** *In this life, we will have times of trouble and fear, but Jesus offers a solution: placing our trust and faith in him. He replaces our fears with peace. Jesus knew that life wouldn't always be easy, but he promises that God's Spirit would be with us. He also promises that we have a reason for hope—something eternal and amazing waiting for us when this life is over.*

## 2. Jesus is preparing a place for his followers

### ASK:

- *When you think of heaven, what do you imagine it will be like?*
- *When Jesus said he's preparing a place for us, what do you think that means?*
- *Look at verse 6. Which of those three words—way, truth, and life—do you find most meaningful to your life right now? Why?*

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** *In order for us to join Jesus in eternity, he needed to go to prepare our home for us. And while it was incredible for the disciples to have Jesus walk with them for a few years, the Holy Spirit is even more powerful because God is with all of us who are followers of Christ. When Jesus was here in human form, he could only be in one place at a time—and the Holy Spirit could not live within us if Jesus had stayed on Earth. Jesus' return to heaven after his resurrection set in motion a number of amazingly, powerful things!*





### 3. We can do great things for Jesus

#### **ASK:**

- *In your own words, what do verses 12-14 mean? What do those verses not mean?*
- *Have you seen Christians today do “even greater things”? Share about your experience.*
- *What does it mean when you ask for something in God’s name and he doesn’t do it? How do you handle that kind of situation?*
- *What does it say about Jesus’ belief in us to give us the kind authority and power he talks about in this passage?*

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** *When Jesus gave us all his authority and power, he did it so the Father would receive even more glory. Instead of great work and miracles and powerful ministry only being done by Jesus, he shared that power with his disciples. It is because of God’s incredible love for us and his desire to “make all things new” that he’s given us his power to do great things for God.*

### 4. The Holy Spirit leads us and encourages us

#### **ASK:**

- *What are specific times in your day or week that you most need to experience God’s presence?*
- *What are some characteristics and roles of the Holy Spirit that we see in verses 15-31?*
- *What do intimacy and power have to do with each other?*

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** *Though we were once orphans when we were separated from God, we are now adopted into his family if we have accepted the gift of forgiveness and eternal life through Jesus. Because we know him, he’s promised he will never leave us. Even better, he’s given us the gift of the Holy Spirit’s peace and presence to fill our lives.*





## ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION [OPTIONAL]

Ask students to form groups of two or three for these questions.

### ASK:

- *How is the experience of adoption similar to the experience of becoming part of God's family?*
- *What would you like the Holy Spirit to do in power in your lifetime? How might God want to use you to accomplish that?*
- *Read Acts 1:8. How do these words from Jesus echo the passage we explored today?*



PAIR SHARE

Bring everyone back together, and ask for volunteers to share answers to the previous questions, as time permits.

## APPLICATION

### ASK:

- *Jesus said if we love him, we would do what he says. What's Jesus asking you to do this week?*
- *Where do you need the Holy Spirit to give you guidance and encouragement today?*
- *Where do you need to experience the gift of God's peace in your mind and heart today?*
- *If you haven't made the decision to follow Jesus as the way, truth, and life, is that a decision you want to make today? If so, can we pray with you as you take this amazing step of faith?*



## SUMMARY



End your lesson here. Provide your teenagers with a quick summary or take-home challenge based on (1) the content of this lesson, (2) the dialogue that took place during the lesson, (3) your understanding of the issues and struggles your teenagers are facing, and (4) the big picture of your youth ministry and what your leadership team wants accomplished with the teaching and discussion time.

## FOR KEEPS [MEMORY VERSE]



Encourage and/or challenge your teenagers to memorize the verse below.

*"I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid" (John 14:27).*

