

Bible reading John 14:1-14

Family traits

THIS WEEK WE EXPLORE THE QUESTION: WHO DO WE REPRESENT?

Jesus reassures his disciples that they will be with him. He explains that he is the way, the truth and the life, and that anyone who has seen him has seen the Father. He promises that he will do anything asked in his name.



REFLECT



See if you can 'Guess the celebrity siblings'
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/52649183>

Did you notice any family resemblance? What characteristics would identify you as a child of God? Are there any faith traits that you would like to develop? You could write these ideas down with a wipeable pen onto a mirror, photo, or piece of paper.

Play a game of 'Happy Families', gathering up the different family groups. As you play, notice the characteristics



that identify the different families and are used to represent who they are. Think about the ways in which Jesus represented God to those around him. What does that tell us about who God is?

WALK

Spend time walking around your community, noticing places where God is represented. This might include: creation, relationships between people, particular local services or certain buildings. Thank God for all the things you spot.

Bible notes

Jesus has been speaking of 'going away' for some time in this Gospel (7:33ff, 8:21, 13:33ff), but his disciples still don't understand. Once more Thomas represents their confusion (v:5; cf. 11:16). In verse 6, Jesus speaks of himself as a point of access (in 10:7 he is the gate of the sheepfold), using language drawn from the prophets and Israel's wisdom writings (Isaiah 40:3; Wisdom of Solomon 10:17-18; Ecclesiasticus 4:11-15). Now he promises to open up his relationship with his heavenly Father to his followers.

Jesus represents the Father to them because he embodies the Word of God, and the baptizing Spirit remains on him (John 1:14,32-33). The Father-Son relationship could not be closer. Their mutual indwelling echoes the way God's Wisdom lives in her disciples (Wisdom of Solomon 7:22-8.1), and it makes Jesus the human face of God (v:9). His character is so transparent to God's self-giving love that he reveals the Father's words and works.

The time is fast approaching when Jesus' followers will represent him in the world by extending his works (vv:10,12; 'greater' here is quantitative rather than qualitative). This gives the community's life together in the world a heavenly quality, because Jesus' going to the Father takes them to God's house (v:3). This passage is often used at funerals to provide reassurance that death opens the door to life with God in heaven. But in verses 2 and 3, Jesus is speaking of the coming of the Spirit through his death and resurrection.

First impressions

- In what ways might the lamb recognise or resemble the ewe?
- What things did Jesus do that help us understand what God the Father is like?
- How might we represent God in our daily lives?



A prayer of approach

Almighty God, your Word leads us;
your truth echoes in our minds,
your Spirit touches our lives, your being is within us.
You are more than we see
and more than we know, imagine or wish for.
You are ours and we are yours,
and together, we are your family.
To you be all praise and glory.
Amen.

LISTEN



Play 'You Are Love', Rend Collective on *Organic Family Hymnal*.
<https://open.spotify.com/track/29EJC979W65Nqfx1QHBUqU>
As you listen to the lyrics, think about the opportunities you have this week to show others who Jesus is and what it means to belong to God's family.