



Week 7
5 - 11 June 2022

**SMALL GROUP WEEKLY
DEVOTIONAL MATERIAL**

EASTER to TRINITY SUNDAY

CONTENT:

Weekly Sunday Sermon Bible readings, worship song, reflection, small group questions and family time

Daily Bible readings, a memory verse and a prayer for individual contemplation

Week 7
Week 8

Sunday 5 June
Sunday 12 June

Jesus the way to the Father
The disciples' grief will turn to joy

Week 7: 5 June

| Easter Year C | First reading | Psalm | Second reading | Gospel |
|------------------|---------------|----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Day of Pentecost | Acts 2:1-21 | Psalm 104:24-34, 35b | Romans 8:14-17 | John 14:8-17, (25-27) |



Praise and Worship: <https://youtu.be/CqybalesbuA>
Chris Tomlin – Good Good Father



John 14:8-17

Jesus the way to the Father

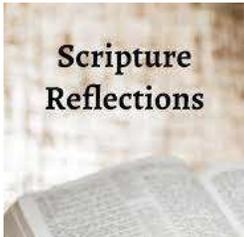
⁸ Philip said, 'Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.' ⁹ Jesus answered: 'Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? ¹⁰ Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. ¹¹ Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

Jesus promises the Holy Spirit

¹⁵ 'If you love me, keep my commands. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever – ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

John 14:25-27

²⁵ 'All this I have spoken while still with you. ²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.



WRITTEN BY: REV KAMOGELO MONOAMETSI

I grew up not knowing my father and why he chose to abandon me. Certainly, my case is not an isolated one, there are many other people who have similar experiences of growing up without the presence of their fathers in their lives. In my mid thirties I started to give attention to this issue in my life: I tried to recall everything my mom told me: where my disappeared father lived, and who I met when I was first introduced to his family. Growing up without a father can be very daunting, it raises many questions about one's identity, belonging, you search for the meaning of life and it can easily make you vulnerable. It is an inevitable human question; we cannot ignore or suppress: "Who is my father?" Your approach to this question will determine how far you are willing to go to understand the meaning and explore the emotional depth of it.

Essentially Philip's request is fundamentally human oriented, it is a request of someone who is in search of his identity, desire for a deeper relationship, revelation of greater truths of inner love, freedom, trust, intimacy, belonging. Imagine a young boy or girl saying to their mom "show me my father"? "Where is my father"? Real hardcore human questions were also asked by Philip and the disciples.

Such a request can never be based on conceptual reasoning and abstractions, because it is deeply human and seeks to search for something deeper than just a rational response. We are talking here about the mystery of the presence (*mysterion*) understood to mean something that is endlessly unknowable. It is multilayered and pregnant with meaning and never totally admits to closure and resolution.

Did Jesus really understand Philip's question? Did he understand what it constituted? Was Philip's question about a physical gazing upon God or was it about a transference and sharing of *Being* in order to enable him to be more grounded, gracious and loving like God. I presume the latter was the main point of focus. Jesus's response shows that he understood the depth of the request. "If you have seen me you have seen the father", I am the embodiment of God's presence, the everlasting truth, infinite love, and grace. Those who had an encounter with me have experienced the presence of God and therefore 'know the father'.

In essence Jesus implies that if you have seen him you have had a firsthand experience of God's loving presence because I am the revelation of God, I am the resemblance of God's glory, my works are his works, I can't do anything that my father did not approve.

Once one has experienced Jesus Christ and learned to know him one cannot think of God except in terms of Christ: "Thus there is always a great leap of inner authenticity that is associated with true mutual presence, because in being received graciously, we are able to receive ourselves at an ever deeper level yet recognize that we are both part of something greater" (Rohr 2000: 64).



It is through the presence of Christ that we get an opportunity to receive the perfect gaze of the Father, to be mirrored by the father, then the negative voices of the human crowd have little power to hurt us. Standing before the Father unites us, not only our psyche but it also unites our desires. It reconciles us with the perfect Being of the Father and brings us in union with our creator. The relationship we have with the father through Christ becomes the truth and real, not an idea or abstract thought. It creates a room for exceptions, for the infinite understanding created by intimacy, for the possibility to give back and to give something to you. In this relationship with the father there is room to apologize,

to forgive and be forgiven, to change, to surrender, there is room for suffering and deliverance, for mutual passion and mutual pity. There is room for a mutual everything!

Small Group Questions:

1. What are your thoughts on John 14: 8 “Show us the Father”?
2. “I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me” What do you make of this text and how is it applicable to your relationship with the Father?
3. Which spiritual practices have you adopted for yourself to enhance your relationship with the Father?
4. Share some practical ways in which we can listen and follow the guidance of the Advocate, the Spirit of truth.

Daily Bible Reading, Memory Verse and Prayer:



MONDAY, June 6, 2022: [Psalm 48](#); [Joel 2:18-29](#); [1 Corinthians 2:1-11](#)

MEMORY VERSE: “Great is the Lord, and most worthy of praise, in the city of our God, his holy mountain”. Psalm 48:1

PRAYER: Almighty God creator of heaven and earth, redeemer of humankind, and sustainer of all honor and glory be unto you. As we begin this week may we experience your unwavering and unceasing greatness in all our endeavors and daily activities.

TUESDAY, June 7, 2022: [Psalm 48](#); [Ezekiel 11:14-25](#); [1 Corinthians 2:12-16](#)

MEMORY VERSE: “The Spirit lifted me up and brought me to the exiles in Babylonia in the vision given by the Spirit of God.” Ezekiel 11:24

PRAYER: Spirit of the living God fall afresh on us, break us, mold us and shape us to be the representatives of your kingdom. We depend on your guidance to live our lives in harmony with your will and justice. Strengthen us to be focused in our daily duties and call to faithful discipleship.

WEDNESDAY, June 8, 2022: [Psalm 48](#); [Numbers 24:1-14](#); [Luke 1:26-38](#)

MEMORY VERSE: “Like valleys they spread out, like gardens beside a river, like aloes planted by the Lord, like cedars beside the waters. Water will flow from their buckets; their seed will have abundant water.” Numbers 24:6-7

PRAYER: God of creation, you live and exist in what you created through love and divine power. When creation turn its back against you remind us that you created the valleys, the sea, the mountains and the rivers. Bestow upon us your abundant blessings in all areas of our lives.

THURSDAY, June 9, 2022: [Psalm 8](#); [Proverbs 3:13-18](#); [Ephesians 1:17-19](#)

MEMORY VERSE: “Blessed are those who find wisdom, those who gain understanding, for she is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold” Proverbs 3:13-14

PRAYER: Lord God bless us with your everlasting knowledge in order to have deeper understanding of your love, and grace in our lives. We desire to live our lives in light of your wisdom and be guided by it in all aspects.

FRIDAY, June 10, 2022: [Psalm 8](#); [Proverbs 3:19-26](#); [Ephesians 4:1-6](#)

MEMORY VERSE: “Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace” Ephesians 4:2-3

PRAYER: God our heavenly divine parent, you call us to follow you and participate in your mission and ministry. Give us the wisdom to be humble, patient, and gentle with each other as we serve you and communities around us.

SATURDAY, June 11, 2022: [Psalm 8](#); [Proverbs 4:1-9](#); [Luke 2:41-52](#)

MEMORY VERSE: “Why were you searching for me?” he asked. “Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?” But they did not understand what he was saying to them.” Luke 2:49

PRAYER: God our parent and friend we continue to search for your truth and grace in the midst of many challenges of this world. We search for you in the deepest dark areas and messy parts of our lives, we search for you in places of disappointment and failure. Loving God we are reminded that you are not confined to houses of worship, but we can experience and gaze upon your beauty in our workplaces, families, churches and sectors of society.



It is important for parents to take time to lead the conversations of family time and to be honest with their children in these conversations.

BY JENNY BLAKE – CHILDREN'S PASTOR
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Sunday 5 June

Pray daily: Set up family time for prayer and devotions and stick to this arrangement. All devotions should always begin by with a prayer. Ask a family member to pray or one of the children.

Scripture Reading: [John 17:20-26](#)

Activity/Family Moment:

Watch these videos:

- For younger children: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OMQKyIMx49M> **God Sends the Holy Spirit** by 'Saddleback Kids'.
- For older children: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oNNZO9iIGjc> **Holy Spirit** by 'The Bible Project'

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. give you another Helper, to be with you forever, And I will ask the Father, and he will even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. -John 14:15-17

Ask: If you could ask God for something, what would you want? What is Jesus talking about here?

Explain that Jesus is promising to send something remarkable that will help us do amazing things. The "Spirit of truth" came from God and it can live in all of us.

Also note that Jesus says, *"If you love me, you will keep my commandments"*. We know that our salvation does not come from what we do...however, it's important to do what God asks because that demonstrates we do truly love Him and desire to do what He asks.

"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live." - John 14:18-19

This is not the first or the last time in the Gospels that Jesus promises to stay with us. He admits that the world won't see His physical body after a little while, but "you will see me".

What might this mean?

When we have Jesus in our hearts, we know that He is present, even without seeing Him.

And how do we live in Him?

Well, we can read His Word, talk to Him, and worship in and out of church.

Doing things like that is not a duty or obligation, but a joyful way in which we can stay connected to God.