

The Upper Room Blueprint – Lesson 2

“Seeing God through Jesus:
Restoring Confidence in God’s Nearness”

Summary

John 14:7–14 shows that Jesus perfectly reveals the Father and restores our confidence in God’s nearness. By seeing Jesus, we see God’s heart. Jesus then invites believers into the Father’s ongoing work, empowering them through the Spirit and prayer in His name.

Scripture

John 14:7–14

1. Introduction

Opening Thought

Every believer—no matter how long they’ve walked with God—has moments when they quietly wonder, “God, where are You?”

It’s not rebellion. It’s not unbelief. It’s the ache of the human heart longing for reassurance in seasons when God feels distant.

Life has a way of creating spiritual fog.

- A sudden crisis.
- A prayer that seems unanswered.
- A season of emotional exhaustion.
- A transition that shakes our sense of stability.

In those moments, we often echo Philip’s request in John 14:8:

“Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.”

Philip wasn’t asking for a theological lecture—he was asking for reassurance.

He wanted to see God again.

He wanted to feel God’s nearness.

He wanted something that would settle his soul.

And Jesus responds with one of the most profound statements in Scripture: “He who has seen Me has seen the Father.” In other words: “Philip, you’re asking for God to show Himself. He already has—right in front of you.”

This lesson explores how Jesus restores our confidence in God’s nearness by revealing the Father through His own life, character, and works.

2. Jesus Reveals the Father's Nature (John 14:7)

Jesus begins with a bold claim:

“If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also.”

Jesus is not merely similar to the Father—He is the perfect revelation of the Father.

To know Jesus is to know God.

To see Jesus is to see God's heart, God's character, and God's intentions toward humanity.

When you feel unsure about God's character, look at Jesus.

His compassion, His patience, His mercy, His truthfulness—this is what God is like.

Biblical Illustration

Hebrews 1:3 calls Jesus “the express image” of God's person.

Everything the Father is, Jesus displays.

3. Philip's Request and Our Human Longing (John 14:8)

Philip says, **“Show us the Father.”**

This is not ignorance—it is longing.

Philip wanted something visible, tangible, reassuring.

We often want the same.

It's okay to ask God for reassurance.

It's okay to admit when you feel spiritually distant.

Jesus meets us in that longing.

Biblical Illustration

Moses prayed, “Show me Your glory” (Exodus 33:18).

Human hearts crave divine nearness.

Seeing the Father through Jesus

In John 14:7–8, Jesus teaches that knowing Him is the true pathway to knowing the Father. Philip's request, “Show us the Father,” reflects the human desire for reassurance of God's nearness. Jesus responds by revealing that the Father has already been made visible in His own life and character. To see Jesus is to see the Father—affirming their unity and restoring confidence that God is not distant but present in Christ.

4. Jesus' Response: "He Who Has Seen Me Has Seen the Father" (John 14:9–10)

Jesus Reveals the Father's Heart

- His compassion toward the broken.
- His patience with the disciples.
- His mercy toward sinners.
- His boldness in truth.

Jesus Reveals the Father's Works

- **"The words I speak... the works I do... the Father does them through Me."**

Jesus is not a messenger of God—He is God's self-revelation.

- If you want to know how God feels about you, look at Jesus.
- If you want to know how God responds to weakness, look at Jesus.
- If you want to know how God treats sinners, look at Jesus.

5. Jesus Restores Confidence in God's Nearness (John 14:11)

Jesus says, **"Believe Me... or believe the works."**

Jesus gives multiple pathways to restored confidence:

- His words
- His works
- His presence
- His character

When God feels distant, rehearse what Jesus has already shown you:
His faithfulness, His provision, His comfort, His guidance.

Biblical Illustration

Psalm 34:18: "The Lord is near to the brokenhearted."
Jesus embodies that nearness.

6. Jesus Invites Us Into the Father's Work (John 14:12–14)

Jesus shifts from revelation to participation:

"He who believes in Me... greater works than these shall he do."

Greater Works

- Not greater in quality—greater in scope.

- Jesus' ministry was geographically limited to Israel.
- The disciples' ministry would spread across nations.
- The gospel would reach millions through the Spirit's power.
- The "greater works" are the global, Spirit empowered expansion of the gospel.

Prayer in Jesus' Name

- To pray in alignment with His character
- To pray according to His mission
- To pray under His authority
- To pray for the Father's glory (v. 13)

Jesus' Promise: "I Will Do It"

- His ongoing involvement in the Church
- His active role in the believer's life
- His commitment to the Father's glory
- His nearness to His people

Prayer is not a magic formula—it is partnership with the Father's heart revealed in Jesus. When you pray in Jesus' name, you are praying with the confidence that the Father hears you because you are praying in alignment with His revealed will.

7. Discussion Questions

- Why do you think Philip asked Jesus to "show us the Father"?
- How does Jesus' statement "He who has seen Me has seen the Father" reshape your understanding of God's character?
- What part of Jesus' life most clearly reveals the Father's heart to you?
- How does knowing Jesus restore your confidence in God's nearness during difficult seasons?
- What does it mean to pray "in Jesus' name" in light of this passage?

8. Closing Thoughts

John 14:7–14 reminds us that God is not distant, hidden, or unreachable. He has shown Himself fully in Jesus Christ. When our hearts long for reassurance, Jesus invites us to look at Him and see the Father's love, compassion, and nearness. Confidence grows not from perfect circumstances but from a clear view of Christ.

Challenge for the Week

Each day this week, read one Gospel story about Jesus. After reading, ask one question:

"What does this show me about the Father's heart?"

Let Jesus reshape your confidence in God's nearness—one encounter at a time.