

Not as Orphans

JOHN 14:15-27 (BSB) · TEACHER GUIDE · DIGDEEPER.AI

THE BIG IDEA · SAY IT AT LEAST FIVE TIMES

Jesus does not leave his people alone; his Spirit stays with them.

Open with it, bring it back after every section, close with it. By the end they should be able to finish the sentence for you.

- Before this passage (day 21): John 14:1-14, The Way. Its big idea: You don't need a map home. You need to know Jesus.
- After this passage (day 23): John 15:1-17, Abide in Me. Its big idea: Remain in Jesus' love; lasting fruit grows from him, not from us.

Open

Ask: When have you felt left on your own, a first day somewhere new, a hospital waiting room, a house after someone moved out? Read John 14:18: "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you." Big idea: Jesus does not leave his people alone; his Spirit stays with them. Ask one person what stuck from last time.

Run Sheet

1. Another Advocate (John 14:15-20, about 15 min)

The one thing: Jesus answers his friends' fear of being left alone with the promise of the Spirit, who will stay forever.

Ask: Why do you think Jesus chose the word orphans to describe what his friends were afraid of?

2. We Will Make Our Home (John 14:21-24, about 12 min)

The one thing: The God who has a home ready for his people comes to make his home with them now.

Ask: What is the difference between visiting someone and making your home with them?

3. My Peace I Give You (John 14:25-27, about 10 min)

The one thing: Jesus leaves his friends his own peace, and the Spirit to keep his words alive in them.

Ask: How is the peace Jesus gives different from the peace the world gives?

Close (never cut it)

This passage comforts. Read verse 27 slowly: "Do not let your hearts be troubled; do not be afraid." Remind them that Jesus said this to people about to face the worst week of their lives, and let the promise stand without adding homework.

PROTECT THE ENDING

If the last section starts late, skip its discussion question and keep the slow reading of verse 27.

KIDS SIDE ANSWERS

Story order: 2, 5, 4, 1, 3 (top to bottom) · Feelings: The disciples worried, Judas (not Iscariot) worried, Jesus happy, The Father happy · Code: MY PEACE I GIVE

Act it out: One child pretends to leave for a trip and hands a friend a card that says I will come back, while another child stays beside them.

1. Another Advocate

JOHN 14:15-20 · ABOUT 15 MIN · SECTION 1 OF 3

THEIR PAGE, WORD FOR WORD (ANSWERS FILLED IN)

- Jesus is leaving, and his friends are afraid.
- He promises another Helper who will stay forever.
- Because he lives, they will live too.

The Father will give you another ADVOCATE to be with you forever.

I will not leave you as ORPHANS; I will come to you.

Discuss: Why do you think Jesus chose the word orphans to describe what his friends were afraid of?

Jesus answers his friends' fear of being left alone with the promise of the Spirit, who will stay forever.

MUST COVER

- Advocate means one called alongside to help, like a friend beside you in court; another means one like Jesus himself (v16).
- "Because I live, you also will live": their future rests on his life, not their strength (v19).

IF THERE'S TIME

- The Spirit "abides with you and will be in you" (v17): not a visitor but a resident.

Illustration idea: A child at the school gate whose parent says, I am going, but someone you know is coming to stay with you.

RUNNING THE DISCUSSION

- Listen for: They were losing their teacher and felt like children left behind.
- Listen for: Orphans feel unprotected and unwanted; Jesus says they are neither.

If it drifts: If talk drifts into debates about the Spirit's gifts, bring it back to verse 18: the point here is that they will not be alone.

TRY SAYING SOMETHING LIKE

However alone you feel, he has not left you on your own; his Spirit stays.

Short on time? Skip the optional point on verse 17 and keep verses 16, 18 and 19.

Bridge → So who is this promise for, and what does it look like in a life? Verses 21-24 tell us.

2. We Will Make Our Home

JOHN 14:21-24 · ABOUT 12 MIN · SECTION 2 OF 3

THEIR PAGE, WORD FOR WORD (ANSWERS FILLED IN)

- Love for Jesus shows in keeping his word.
- Jesus shows himself to those who love him.
- The Father and the Son come to live with them.

We will come to him and make Our HOME with him.

The one who loves Me will be LOVED by My Father.

Discuss: What is the difference between visiting someone and making your home with them?

The God who has a home ready for his people comes to make his home with them now.

MUST COVER

- Earlier Jesus spoke of rooms in his Father's house (14:2); here the Father and Son come to make their home with us (v23).
- Love and keeping his word go together, but the help comes first: the Spirit is given before anyone proves anything (v16, v23).

IF THERE'S TIME

- Judas (not Iscariot) asks why Jesus will not show himself to the whole world (v22); the answer is personal, not a public show.

Illustration idea: The difference between a guest who stays one night and family who move in for good.

RUNNING THE DISCUSSION

- Listen for: A visitor leaves; someone at home stays and belongs.
- Listen for: A home is where you are known and do not have to perform.

If it drifts: If someone turns verse 21 into a test of whether they love God enough, read verse 16 again: the Spirit is given first, as a gift.

TRY SAYING SOMETHING LIKE

He has not left you alone; he comes to make his home with you.

Short on time? Drop Judas's question and keep verse 23.

Bridge → And what does he leave them with, on his way out of the room? Verses 25-27.

3. My Peace I Give You

JOHN 14:25-27 · ABOUT 10 MIN · SECTION 3 OF 3

THEIR PAGE, WORD FOR WORD (ANSWERS FILLED IN)

- The Spirit will teach and remind them.
- Jesus leaves his own peace as a gift.
- His peace is not the world's kind.

He will teach you all things and will REMIND you of everything I have told you.

PEACE I leave with you; My peace I give to you.

Discuss: How is the peace Jesus gives different from the peace the world gives?

Jesus leaves his friends his own peace, and the Spirit to keep his words alive in them.

MUST COVER

- The Spirit reminds them of Jesus' words; John shows the disciples understanding them only later (2:22; 12:16).
- "I do not give to you as the world gives": his peace does not depend on circumstances going well (v27).

IF THERE'S TIME

- Peace (shalom) means wholeness and rightness with God, not just calm feelings.

Illustration idea: A parting gift that is not an object but a person's own calm, handed to someone frightened.

RUNNING THE DISCUSSION

- Listen for: The world's peace lasts until something goes wrong.
- Listen for: His peace stays even when things do not get better.

If it drifts: If people start listing ways to feel calmer, return to the words My peace: it is his to give, not ours to produce.

TRY SAYING SOMETHING LIKE

You are not alone, and the peace he leaves you is his own.

Short on time? Skip the optional note on shalom.

Bridge → Read verse 27 slowly together and let it land.

With One Friend, Over Coffee

ABOUT 30 MINUTES · FOR A FRIEND WHO IS CURIOUS, OR NOT SURE

1. Start with being left. Ask about a time they felt left on their own. Listen more than you talk.
2. Read verses 15-20. Read it together. Notice that Jesus names his friends' fear: being left as orphans.
3. Explain the Advocate. Say plainly that the Spirit is God himself with his people, someone called alongside, not a force or a feeling.
4. Read verses 23 and 27. God comes to make his home with people who love Jesus, and Jesus leaves his own peace.
5. Leave the question with them. Ask what it would mean if the God who made them wanted to make his home with them. Leave it open; there is no rush.

QUESTIONS YOU MAY HEAR

"Isn't the Spirit just a feeling people talk themselves into?"

Jesus ties the Spirit to his words, not to feelings: the Spirit teaches and reminds people of what Jesus said, which you can read and weigh for yourself.

"Why would God only show himself to some people?"

Judas asked the same thing (v22). Jesus' answer is that he makes himself known to anyone who loves him and keeps his word. The door is not closed to anyone who comes.

"Do I have to be good enough first?"

No. Jesus promises the Spirit as a gift before anyone proves anything, to friends who would run away that very night.

"What does his peace actually change?"

It does not promise that problems disappear. It promises that you do not face them alone, and that your standing with God does not depend on how the day goes.

Evergreen Principles

Four standards every week. The rest rotate: each lesson brings the few that fit its passage best.

EVERY LESSON

1. Pray before you prepare

Teaching the Bible is spiritual work first (John 15:5).

If you're new: Pray for your class by name during the week.

If you've taught for years: Pray for the one person you find hardest to reach.

2. Study the text first

Understand the passage yourself before any help.

If you're new: Read it in two translations; write your own questions first.

If you've taught for years: Don't lean on old notes. What did you miss last time?

3. Teach one big idea

People remember one sentence, not four points.

If you're new: Write it in 12 words or fewer before anything else.

If you've taught for years: Test every story against it. If it doesn't serve it, cut it.

4. Point to Christ

All of Scripture points to him (Luke 24:27).

If you're new: Ask: what does this show about Jesus?

If you've taught for years: Show grace as the reason for obedience, not just the rule.

FOR THIS LESSON

1. Let the Bible do the talking

The passage's own words carry the comfort better than our explanations.

If you're new: Read verses 18 and 27 aloud twice and let them stand.

If you've taught for years: Trace monai in 14:2 and monē in 14:23 and let the class discover the turn.

2. Plan for the skeptic and the grieving

Orphans and being left alone will touch people who have lost someone.

If you're new: Have a tissue box nearby and a quiet word ready for anyone who goes silent.

If you've taught for years: Name gently that grief is real and Jesus speaks into it, without rushing anyone to feel better.

3. Let the passage land the way it lands

This passage comforts; it does not assign homework.

If you're new: End on verse 27, not on a task.

If you've taught for years: Resist turning verse 21 into a guilt test; keep verse 16's gift in front of it.

BEFORE CLASS

- ☐ Read the passage three times
- ☐ Big idea in one sentence
- ☐ Opening and close chosen
- ☐ Know what you'll cut
- ☐ Handouts, pens, extra Bibles
- ☐ Prayed for the class by name

Openings, Closings & Hard Moments

Pick one opening and one close; rotate so class doesn't get predictable.

OPENINGS

- ask a real-life question: When have you felt left on your own?
- use an object: Hold up a house key: the difference between a visitor and someone who lives here.
- start in the text: Read verse 18 and ask who in the room has ever felt like an orphan.

CLOSINGS

- restate the big idea: Jesus does not leave his people alone; his Spirit stays with them.
- allow quiet reflection: Read verse 27 slowly, then give thirty seconds of silence.
- send them out with a verse: Send them out with John 14:18.

WHEN CLASS GETS HARD

- Someone in the room has lost a parent, and the word orphans hits hard.: Acknowledge it gently, do not explain it away, and let verse 18 be a promise rather than a lesson.
- Someone says they have never felt the Spirit and wonder if they are left out.: Point to verse 26: the Spirit's work is tied to Jesus' words, not to feelings; and verse 16: he is a gift, not a prize.
- Silence after a question: Wait. Then rephrase simpler, or ask them to talk to a neighbor first.
- One person dominates: "Thanks. Let's hear from someone who hasn't spoken yet." Talk privately if it continues.
- A question you can't answer: Say so, write it down, bring an answer next week.
- A tangent takes over: "Great question. Let's catch it after class so we can finish the passage."

READ THIS WEEK

- Ezekiel 36:26-27
- Romans 8:15-16
- John 20:19-23

Free at digdeeper.ai/devotionals/john/14-15-27/lesson

Not as Orphans

JOHN 14:15-27 (BSB) · WHO DO YOU SAY I AM? · DIGDEEPER.AI

Key verse: "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you." John 14:18

THE BIG IDEA

Jesus does not leave his people alone; his Spirit stays with them.

1. ANOTHER ADVOCATE · JOHN 14:15-20

- Jesus is leaving, and his friends are afraid.
- He promises another Helper who will stay forever.
- Because he lives, they will live too.

The Father will give you another _____ to be with you forever.

I will not leave you as _____; I will come to you.

Discuss: Why do you think Jesus chose the word orphans to describe what his friends were afraid of?

2. WE WILL MAKE OUR HOME · JOHN 14:21-24

- Love for Jesus shows in keeping his word.
- Jesus shows himself to those who love him.
- The Father and the Son come to live with them.

We will come to him and make Our _____ with him.

The one who loves Me will be _____ by My Father.

Discuss: What is the difference between visiting someone and making your home with them?

3. MY PEACE I GIVE YOU · JOHN 14:25-27

- The Spirit will teach and remind them.
- Jesus leaves his own peace as a gift.
- His peace is not the world's kind.

He will teach you all things and will _____ you of everything I have told you.

_____ I leave with you; My peace I give to you.

Discuss: How is the peace Jesus gives different from the peace the world gives?

Read this week: Ezekiel 36:26-27 · Romans 8:15-16 · John 20:19-23

For Kids: Not as Orphans

JOHN 14:15-27 · NAME: _____

Big idea: Jesus never leaves his friends alone.

1. PUT THE STORY IN ORDER! NUMBER THE BOXES.

- ☐ Jesus says he is going away.
- ☐ Jesus gives them his peace.
- ☐ Jesus promises the Holy Spirit.
- ☐ Jesus eats supper with his friends.
- ☐ His friends feel scared.

2. HOW DID THEY FEEL? CIRCLE ONE.

The disciples: happy · sad · worried

Judas (not Iscariot): happy · sad · worried

Jesus: happy · sad · worried

The Father: happy · sad · worried

3. WORD SEARCH

A R E M I N D T H
D C O O N P K R O
V P G V Y D G U M
O E L O V E O T E
C A C Y V Y K H K
A C B U F N D P D
T E S P I R I T O
E Y F H P P R V P
K D O R P H A N S

SPIRIT · PEACE · ORPHANS · LOVE · ADVOCATE · TRUTH · HOME · REMIND

4. SECRET CODE

1=A 2=C 3=E 4=G 5=I 6=M 7=P 8=V 9=Y

6 9 7 3 1 2 3 5 4 5 8 3

5. DRAW IT!

Draw a house with Jesus inside it, and you there too.

6. MEMORY VERSE

"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you." John 14:18 Say it to a grown-up: ☐ ☐ ☐

Jesus never leaves me alone because... _____