



The Way, The Truth, The Life

Lesson Overview

1. Trinity

What is the Trinity?

2. Watch a Video

Watch The Way the Truth and the Life at bit.ly/GCEDGospelOfJohn from **2hr 0min 12sec to 2hr 4min 53sec** (4min 41sec).

3. Discuss

Choose questions for discussion.

New Church Concept Way, Truth, Life

The words, 'I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life,' were said of the Lord's Human; for He also says, 'No one comes unto the Father but through me.' His 'Father' is the Divine in Him, which was His own Divine. *Apocalypse Explained* 349.8

The 'Father' is often mentioned by the Lord, by whom is everywhere meant Jehovah, from Whom and in Whom He was, and Who was in Him, and never any Divine separate from Him.... The Lord made mention of the Father, because by 'Father' in the spiritual sense is signified good, and by 'God the Father' the Divine Good of Divine Love. *Apocalypse Revealed* 170

FaithBuilder 3 | Lesson 26 | Gospel of John

Trinity

1. What does the prefix "tri—"—as in triangle, triathlon, tricycle—mean?
2. What is the "Tri-nity" or Trinity?
3. What three aspects of the Lord make the Trinity? (Father, Son and Holy Spirit)
4. As you watch the video, pay attention to the way Jesus talks about His Father. Look out for the word Jesus uses to describe the Holy Spirit He will send. (See John 14:16, 26)

Watch a Video

Watch The way, the truth and the life, John 14:1-31 from *The Life of Jesus . English . Official Full HD Movie*, at bit.ly/GCEDGospelOfJohn. (Enter link in the web browser bar at the top of your screen.) **Start the video at 2hr 0min 12sec. End at 2hr 4min 53sec;** 4min 41sec). This story takes place immediately after the Last Supper, during which the Lord washed His disciples' feet and gave a new commandment, "that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another." (John 13:34) This is the first part of Jesus' farewell to His disciples.

Note: You may find it helpful to have Bibles open to **John 14** when discussing this video.

Discuss

Choose questions for discussion.

1. This chapter is the first part of the Lord's farewell speech to His disciples. What are His main themes? (believe in Him; keep His commandments)
2. What does the Lord want for us?
3. Jesus said, "In My Father's house are many mansions." (John 14:2) What did He mean? How do New Church teachings help you understand this?
4. What does Jesus mean when He says he is going away? Where is He going? Does Thomas understand what Jesus is talking about? (John 14:5)
5. Compare the "Father," "Son," and "Holy Spirit." (see below) Have you experienced the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in your life?

Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Father = the Lord's love

Son = the way the Lord presents Himself or describes that love

Holy Spirit = the good things the Lord does from love by means of wisdom

6. What did Jesus mean when He said, "No one comes to the Father except through Me?"

7. Jesus says that believers in Him will do the same works that He has done. What kind of works has Jesus done? How will believers do this? Is Jesus speaking literally? Or is there a deeper meaning to His words? (John 14:12)
8. Did Jesus said all prayers would be answered. Did He mean this literally? (John 14:13)
9. What kinds of things should we pray for?
10. There is a saying that “God answers all prayers, it’s just that sometimes the answer is “no.” What kind of prayers will probably not be answered, or be answered with a “no?”
11. Can there ever be a time when a person shows that he loves the Lord even though he is not keeping the commandments?
12. Jesus says that there will be “another helper” which will help the Father abide with us forever. Usually this “Helper” is interpreted to be the Holy Spirit. What does the Holy Spirit of the Lord lend a person when he is keeping the commandments? (See Teacher Reference, below)
13. If a person is baptized, says they’re Christian, attends church weekly, but does not attempt to keep the commandments, according to Jesus (John 14:21), does the person truly love the Lord?
14. How is the Lord still present with us even though He has left this world? John 14:25-31) (See Teacher Reference, below)

The Promise of the Holy Spirit

FOR TEACHER REFERENCE

According to all of Jesus’ testimony, there was really only one way for the disciples to demonstrate their love and faith in Him: that was by keeping the commandments. We read, “If you love Me, keep My commandments.” (John 14:15) Of course, it is impossible to keep the commandments by ourselves. We need to ask God for the power to do so. That’s why Jesus now gives the promise: “And I will pray the Father, and He will give You another Helper, that He may abide with you forever, even the Spirit of truth whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.” (14:16-17) One way to understand this promise, is to remember the context in which it is given. Jesus is about to leave the disciples physically, but He promises that the “Spirit of Truth”, will come to them and be *in* them. Traditionally, Christian theology has regarded the coming of the “Spirit of truth” as the gift of the Holy Spirit. It is taught that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the trinity—a separate personality who will inspire a greater love for Jesus in our heart and a greater understanding of His Word in our lives.

Let us see whether this is so. Jesus tells His disciples that they already know the Spirit of truth, for “*He dwells with you.*” (14:17) Jesus is referring, of course, to Himself, for He is indeed with them at that very moment! But He is also promising that if they remain faithful, living according to the commandments and trusting in Him, He will not only be with them, but He will be *in them*. By this He means that after He has departed from their physical presence He will be with them in spirit, as the Spirit of truth. “I will not leave you orphans,” He says. “I will come to you.” (14:18)

Orphans have no parents. Once again, Jesus indirectly suggests that He is more than a brother, or a teacher. When He comes to them again in His resurrected body, He will come as a Divine parent—as their heavenly Father. The promised Spirit of truth, then, is not a separate personality. It is the promise that Jesus Himself will be with us in ways that we have never imagined, inspiring even greater faith, opening our minds to higher understanding, and filling our hearts with deeper love. This is the “promise of the Holy Spirit.”

From *The Gospel of John* by Rev. Dr. Ray Silverman, unpublished manuscript.

New Church Concept The Lord’s Name

He who does not know what ‘name’ signifies in the internal sense, may suppose that where...the ‘name of the Lord,’ is mentioned in the Word, the name alone is meant; when yet all the good of love and all the truth of faith which are from the Lord are meant. See *Arcana Coelestia* 9310

That the name of anyone means not just a name but every quality, is evident from the use of names in the spiritual world. No person there keeps their name from the world...but everyone is there named according to their character, and angels are named according to their moral and spiritual life. Such are meant in these words of the Lord: Jesus said, ‘I am the Good Shepherd. The sheep hear His voice, and He calls His own sheep by name and leads them out.’ (John 10:11,13) See *True Christian Religion* 300

Regarded in itself prayer is talking to God and at the same time some inner view of the things that are being prayed for. Answering to this there is something akin to an influx into the perception or thought of the person’s mind which effects a certain opening of his internals towards God. But the experience varies according to the person’s state and according to the essence of whatever he is praying for. If his prayer springs from love and faith, and if they are wholly celestial and spiritual things about which and for which he prays, something like a revelation is present within his prayer which manifests itself in the affection of the one praying in the form of hope, comfort, or some inward joy. *Arcana Coelestia* 2535