

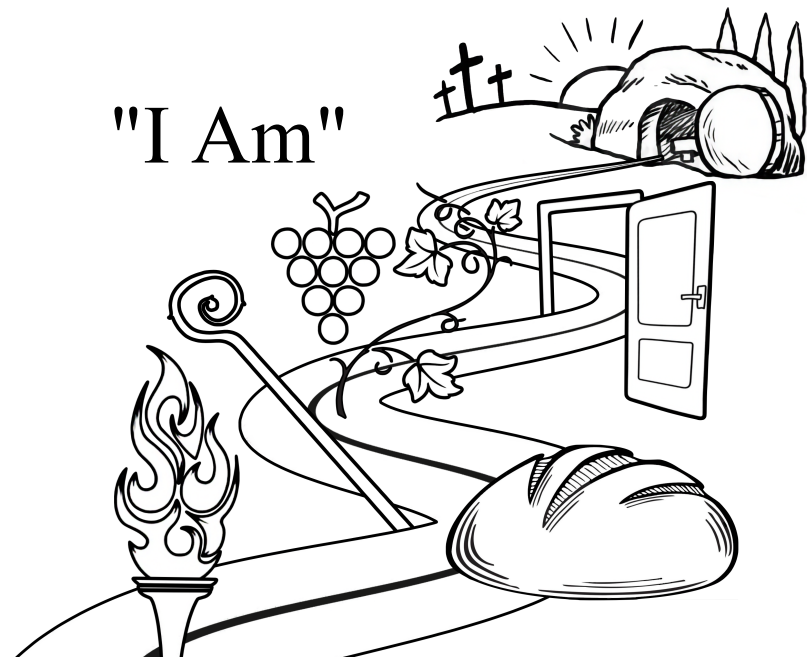
3. Discuss what these verses mean to you and your relationship to Jesus?

vv. 16-17, 25-26

vv. 18-20

vv. 21, 23

v. 30



a study of

## The Gospel According to John

Summer 2025 - Spring 2026

Lesson 17

John 13:31ff through John 14

***"It's All About Love"***

*(–Jesus, to my father, on his death bed)*

Footnotes:

[1] Aish, Ask the Rabbi > Hebrew > Numerology (Gematria)

<https://aish.com/the-number-40/>

## REVIEW: "Snippets"

Lessons of John 12 and 13:

- Jesus preaches to Gentiles
- John reveals that the ruler of this world has blinded our eyes and hardened our hearts.
- Jesus reveals he is not here to judge the world, but to save the world
- Jesus is one with God; God is one with Jesus
- The footwashing story is all about Judas

## VOCABULARY:

**To Glorify:** δοξάζω (doxazó) to honor, praise, magnify (give attention to), to ascribe weight by recognizing real substance (value). *"Attention is the beginning of devotion."* Mary Oliver What are tangible ways of glorifying God? We are to pay attention to God's words. (Romans 12:1)

**Name:** ὄνομα (onoma) the manifestation or revelation of someone's authority and character, i.e. as distinguishing them from all others. In ancient Hebrew thought, a name is inseparable from the person's character to whom it belongs, i.e. it is something of his essence. It is also thought that if you know someone's name, you acquire access to their authority and power. Onoma is likely derived from two ancient Greek roots: *Oninemi* meaning "to be of service or benefit to others," and *ginosko* referring to a process of knowing someone's name or character through personal, intimate experience, as in: Adam knew his wife and conceived a son. *Ginosko* describes a working knowledge gained through firsthand experience, or practice.

**Believe:** πιστεῦω (pisteuó) to trust or cling to. This is an action verb, not a mental assent.

## BRIEF HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL CONTEXT:

John's story continues this week as Jesus and his closest followers relax around the table after celebrating the Seder. He begins his farewell address, which extends through chapter 17. This is a final private conversation with his closest followers.

Numerical insights: Jesus introduces the one commandment: "that you love one another as I have loved you" near the end of chapter 13. Following this statement, the word "LOVE" is mentioned nine times in John 14, twenty-four times in John 15, once in John 16, and six times in John 17, totaling 40 mentions (9+24+1+6).

The number 40 has great significance throughout the Torah and the Talmud. The number 40 represents transition or change; the concept of renewal; a new beginning. The number 40 has the power to lift a spiritual state.<sup>[1]</sup>

## CONTEXT (continued)

After this evening the relationship between Jesus and his followers will be forever changed, renewed into a new spiritual state, as Jesus introduces the indwelling of God's Spirit. We will see the men still do not understand him, or his mission.

The intent is for the reader to think differently about the scriptures and sit with a new concept, while avoiding the temptation to fall back into traditional gender roles. The key is that God is "other." Our Creator is all gender, and more than gender. It helps us as humans to refrain from boxing God into one gender role to allow the Spirit to speak to our souls, regardless of our gender.

John 14 captures the core of Jesus' earthly ministry prior to his death. Through Jesus' words, John reveals a remarkable shift in God's relationship with humanity. There are several warnings and serious calls for obedience to God's commandments and Jesus' words, with life-changing promises to whosoever will follow the Way.

## Read John 13:31 through John 14 (from the insert, noting Greek )

Discuss your thoughts on the non-gender language.

1. Describe the relationship between the Father, Jesus and Jesus followers.
2. What do vv. 36-38 say about Jesus' love for Peter while having foreknowledge of Peter's upcoming denial? (...and what does that say about Jesus' love for you?)
3. "Do not let your hearts be troubled." What is Jesus' remedy for this?
4. What place is Jesus alluding to in 13:36 (*Peter*) and 14:1-5 (*Thomas*), and how does one hold that in view of verse 23?
5. Let's make verse 6 a positive declaration rather than negative:

*Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. Everyone who comes to the Father, comes through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."*

Discuss your thoughts on this.

## John 14:8-14

1. What have the disciples failed to understand about Jesus?
2. Discuss the connections between Jesus' *words* and his *works*. i.e. Who is doing the *works*? Who besides Jesus will do *works*?
3. What does it mean to "ask in my name?"

## John 14:15-31

1. In verses 22-26, what is Jesus' answer to Judas in your own word?
2. How will the Holy Spirit teach and remind us, and how do we prepare for that?