

## GROUP LEADERS NOTES – STUDY 5

### QUESTION 1

- a) A number of things had happened that these disciples were struggling to come to terms with: the foot-washing; the departure of Judas; the prediction of Peter's denial; and of course the fact that Jesus is going to leave them (13:33).
- b) Ultimately they are going to see their Master crucified; and even when he is resurrected it will not be long before He is taken away from them into heaven.
- c) Notice that in this verse Jesus is linking Himself directly with God.
- d) A first century Jew knew that it was their first duty to trust God. Jesus was telling them to trust in Him in the same way. This is a declaration of His deity.
- e) It is a trust that must be total.

### QUESTION 2

- a) The word 'rooms' here (or 'mansions' in AV) has been interpreted in many ways. The word speaks simply of an 'abode' or 'place to live'.
- b) Jesus is showing that there is room enough for all those who will be called by grace.
- c) This was also a call to trust Jesus' word. He would not tell them something that was not true.
- d) Note that the second part of the verse can be translated in two ways (see margin note in ESV). Although a different emphasis, we do not need to concern ourselves over these alternatives. The principle is the same; they need to trust Jesus' word.

### QUESTION 3

- a) It was not that Jesus had to go and do the building work or choose the curtains. It is already there and prepared.
- b) The 'going' was a reference to the cross. That was the preparation so that we could have access to eternal life in heaven.
- c) In other words; it was Jesus' going from them, and the manner of it, that prepared for them a place in heaven and eternal life.

### QUESTION 4

- a) Jesus had made it clear that He would return to the Father (e.g. **John 3:13; 6:62; 7:33**).
- b) He had also shown His disciples that the way He was going would be the way of the cross and the resurrection (e.g. **Matthew 16:21; 17:23; Luke 9:21-22**).
- c) Jesus knew that His disciples had not yet grasped what was about to happen. He invites the question of verse 5.
- d) Thomas seems to take Jesus' words about the way to heaven as being geographical. Once again Jesus is stressing the necessity of the cross.

### QUESTION 5

- a) Jesus moves from talking about the way He must take to return to the Father; to deal with the way His disciples must take to follow Him.
- b) Because Jesus' own way was the way of the cross; He became the way for others so that they need not suffer God's wrath.
- c) Notice that He is not 'a' way; but 'the' way!
- d) Jesus reveals the truth about God and the truth about the world. Jesus is the way to God because He is the truth about God.
- e) Jesus did not speak some truths; He came as the truth.
- f) Jesus is the life because there is no life except through Him. He possesses the life of God which is imparted to us.

### QUESTION 6

- a) Jesus is reinforcing the fact that salvation from God comes through Him alone.
- b) There is no other way; there is no other truth; there is no other source of life.
- c) Here lies the uniqueness of the Christian faith. Access to this faith is not through good works; law-keeping; idols etc.
- d) If we are to come to the Father is it through Christ's death on the cross and His resurrection. It is not through religious observance.
- e) Although all roads ultimately lead to God in the sense of all standing before the judgement seat; salvation from God is accessible through one means: **Acts 4:12**.