

# ELEMENTS

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LESSON

## New Person in Christ

WHO YOU ARE NOW THAT YOU ARE "IN CHRIST"



Talk about what you think...

**NOW THAT YOU HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD MANY THINGS HAVE CHANGED ALREADY.**

HOW DOES A PERSON'S IDENTITY AFFECT THE WAY THEY ACT OR RELATE TO OTHERS?

YOUR IDENTITY OR SELFWORTH CAN BE BASED ON A NUMBER OF THINGS. WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF IT WAS ONLY BASED ON HOW PEOPLE VIEW YOU, ON YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS, ON YOUR STATUS AT SCHOOL OR POSITION AT WORK?

DO YOU THINK THAT HAVING A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD IS GOING TO CHANGE YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH FAMILY OR FRIENDS? WHY OR WHY NOT?

Engage with the Bible...

Study

### JOHN 14:1-21

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. <sup>2</sup> In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. <sup>4</sup> You know the way to the place where I am going." <sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" <sup>6</sup> Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup> If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him." <sup>8</sup> Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us." <sup>9</sup> Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? <sup>10</sup> Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. <sup>11</sup> Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves. <sup>12</sup> I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup> And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. <sup>14</sup> You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it. <sup>15</sup> "If you love me, you will obey what I command. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever— <sup>17</sup> the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. <sup>18</sup> I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. <sup>19</sup> Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup> On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. <sup>21</sup> Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him."

In this passage Jesus spends some of his last days with his disciples before he is crucified on the cross. He knows that his time is short so he wants to use it to explain some very important things to them. He shows them a clear picture of what their lives are like because they now know him. There are some amazing changes that take place in us when we begin a relationship with Jesus. These verses talk specifically about your new identity and the benefits of that identity.

# 1 Discovering the key themes

## 1 What happens when?

What happens to you when you begin a relationship with God and start to live it? As you can see, Jesus uses the phrase “in me” often in this story. (“trust in me” v2, “believe in me” vs 11, “faith in me” vs 12 “you are in me” vs 20). What do you think it means to be “In Jesus”?

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Being “in Jesus” reflects our new identity when we put our faith in him. It means that once we are connected to him, his power, love, leading, and help can be a daily part of our lives.

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## 2 A place for you...

In verses 2-3 he says he will be preparing a place for you. What place is he preparing for you? And what is the significance of having Jesus prepare the future for you?

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Jesus is preparing a place for us in heaven. He is going ahead of us to get ready a place where we can live with him. As it says in Jeremiah 29:11, God knows the plans he has for you, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a future and a hope.”

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## 3 Closer to God

In verse 8-10 Philip asks Jesus to show them the father. Jesus says, “Anyone who has seen me has seen the father.” How does seeing Jesus or believing that the father is in Jesus help get you closer to God?

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Now that we are closer to God this also means that we have received forgiveness of sins. Because of Christ’s sacrifice for our sins we experience forgiveness and we are closer to the father - like a son or a daughter.

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## 4 Anything in my name

In verses 12-14 Jesus says you can ask for anything in his name and he will do it. What do you think he means by this?

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Now that we are “In Christ” we experience answered prayer. God will listen to our prayers and promises to answer them.

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## 5 Who is the Holy Spirit?

You are promised the Holy Spirit as Jesus says in verses 16-17. Who is the Holy Spirit and how does he relate to you?

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So we are also promised the Holy Spirit now that we are in Christ. The Holy Spirit connects us to God while we are living here on earth and helps us to discern between what is truth and what is a lie. Later on in this passage(v. 26) it says that the Holy Spirit will remind us of all Jesus’ words, and lead us into all truth.

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## 6 Experiencing God’s love

In verse 21 what does he promise will happen if you love him? How do you experience God’s love every day?

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The word love here means love without boundaries or conditions. God wants to give us everything he has so that we can experience him and feel secure in his love. We can now experience genuine intimacy and love from God and from Jesus in our life.