

Preparation Questions
John 14.8 – 31
Seeing is not believing

Opener: In what ways might people look for an experience of God, outside of Jesus and the Bible? **Recap:** How has Jesus answered this question in John 13.31-14.7?

Text 1: In what ways is Philip’s question in v8 a good one and a bad one (particularly given 5v16-23, 8v58, 10v29, 10v38)?

Text 2: How does Jesus’ answer to Philip in v 9-21 answer Philip’s question about how the disciples are to experience God and help them see that their relationship with Jesus/God will not suffer as a result of his departure. You may find it helpful to break Jesus’ answer up into chunks – v9-11/v12-14/v15-17/v18-21. (**Context hint:** ch5:20-24 helps us understand what the post-cross ‘greater works’ are?)

Text 3: In v22 Judas seems confused by the idea that Jesus’ Spirit giving work brings such revelation and relationship for them, but not for the world (v17 &19). How does Jesus’ answer in v22-31 a) explain the defining factor of a wonderful relationship with God b) explain where this word is to be found today (what is the disciples’ role in this and how is it unique according to v25 &26?) and c) explain the content of the word (how it will be possible for people from the world to see)?

a)

b)

c)

Sum up and apply: Filling in the table below might help us grapple with the magnitude and wonder of what Jesus is teaching his disciples since 13.31.

What the disciples might have assumed about what’s involved in seeing God’s glory & experiencing his presence, work, etc -	What we might assume today about what’s involved in seeing God’s glory & experiencing his presence, work, etc	What has Jesus actually said about what’s involved in seeing God’s glory & experiencing his presence, work, etc?
It happens in Israel’s temple (‘My Father’s House – 2.16-17’), through Jesus’ victory over earthly enemies, as the nations come to physical Israel, physical miracles, etc and has something to do with their religious performance – obeying the Commandments, requires Jesus’ physical presence, etc.	Signs and wonders Big numbers Buildings	