

# FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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SCRIPTURE PASSAGE/ LECTIONARY WEEK:	John 14:1-31
SOCIAL PRINCIPLES/ BOOK OF RESOLUTIONS REFERENCES:	Students Choice.
OBJECTIVE:	Students will explore how Jesus' promise of peace and presence in John 14 encourages them to live out their faith through justice-seeking love in the world.
SUPPLIES NEEDED:	Paper, Pen, Copies of the Social Principles, Book of Resolutions

## LESSON PLAN STRUCTURE (1 HOUR)

### CENTERING MOMENT (5 MINUTES)

**Pray:** God of truth and love, as we open scripture, open our hearts and to hear your truth, open our eyes to see injustice clearly, and open our hands to respond with love. Guide us by your spirit so that our faith shapes how we live in the world. Amen.

### SCRIPTURE STUDY (25 MIN.)

**Say:** Our passage for today is John 14:1-31. It's a bit long so we will take turns reading the passage together. In the passage, Jesus is speaking to his disciples during a time of fear and uncertainty. He promises presence, truth, peace, and the Holy Spirit not to escape from the world, but strength to stay engaged.

Read the passage in sections, taking turns:

John 14:1-17

John 14:8-14

John 14: 15-24

John 14:25-31

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## Reflection Questions:

- What words or phrases stood out to you?
- Where did you hear comfort?
- Where did you hear challenge?

**Say:** Jesus is speaking to people who are scared about what's coming next. He promises presence, peace, and the Holy Spirit not an escape from the world, but strength to live faithfully within it. Let's explore what that means for justice today.

## Discussion Questions:

- Jesus says, "Do not let your hearts be troubled." What kinds of things trouble your heart when you think about injustice in the world?
- Jesus says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." What do you think it means to live in truth when the world is unfair or harmful?
- Jesus promises the Advocate (or Helper, the Holy Spirit). What do you think the Holy Spirit does when people face injustice?
- Jesus says, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives." How is Jesus' peace different from the kind of justice the world talks about?
- Can peace exist without justice? Why or why not?
- Jesus connects love with action: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." How does love move us to act for justice, not just feel compassion?

## GROUP ACTIVITY (25 MIN.)

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**Say:** Let's connect Jesus' words to real life. I'm going to pass out paper and pens.

On one side of the paper, write:

One injustice that troubles your heart. This could be something local or global.

On the other side write one way Jesus' peace or the Spirits guidance could help you

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respond. This might be speaking up, learning more, praying, showing up, advocating, or caring for others.

*Pause for students to write.*

**Say:** If you are comfortable, share what you wrote.

**Say:** Jesus doesn't promise comfort without responsibility. He promises presence so we are not alone as we live out our faith. The United Methodist Church believes faith is not only personal but it's also public. Jesus promises that the Holy Spirit will guide us. The Social Principles is one way that the church tries to listen to the Spirit for that guidance together. Faith doesn't stop at belief it must become action.

**Say:** Look at what you wrote on your paper and see if you can find the topic in the Social Principles. What does it say? If it is not included in the Social Principles, look at the Book of Resolutions. If it's not there, what would you like it to say?

*Pause for activity.*

Spend time sharing what students discovered.

## CLOSING MOMENT (5 MIN.)

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**Pray:** Jesus, you tell us not to let our hearts be troubled. As we leave this space, help us carry your peace into a world that needs your love and justice. Give us courage to love boldly, wisdom to seek the truth, and strength to stand with those who are harmed or unheard. May your Spirit guide our steps, so our faith becomes action and our peace becomes justice. Amen.