



## Sermon Discussion Guide

March 15th, 2026 | John 13:36-14:7 | Pastor Greg Doty

**Series // The Gospel of John: Taste and See Who I Am**

### Summary

Pastor Greg began his sermon talking about certainty and how in the Gospel of John 13:36–14:7, Jesus teaches his disciples where true certainty can be found. The first certainty is recognizing that **we are not the solution to our own sin and struggles**. Peter confidently tells Jesus that he would lay down his life for him, showing how certain he was in his own strength. However, Jesus reveals that Peter will actually deny him three times, exposing how unreliable human confidence can be. Like Peter, people often believe they can be good enough, better than others, or capable of fixing their own spiritual problems. The good news of the gospel begins when we realize we cannot save ourselves and need Jesus. The second certainty is the **certainty of the future Jesus promises**. Jesus tells his disciples not to let their hearts be troubled because he is going to prepare a place for them in his Father's house. This promise points to the hope of heaven, where everything will one day be restored and made new. Knowing that Jesus is preparing a place for believers gives comfort and hope even during confusion, suffering, and uncertainty in this life. The third certainty is **certainty through belief in Jesus himself**. When Thomas asks how they can know the way if they do not know where Jesus is going, Jesus responds that he is "the way, the truth, and the life," and that no one comes to the Father except through him. This means that access to God and eternal life is not based on human effort but on faith in Jesus. Unlike uncertain systems where people constantly wonder if they have done enough, Jesus provides assurance through his sacrifice. Because he died for our sins and prepares a place for us, those who trust in him can be certain of forgiveness and of their future with God.

### Discussion Questions (Read John 13:36-14:7):

- **Icebreaker Question:** If you had to prepare a dish for someone, what dish would that be?

#### **Certainty that I am not the answer**

- What similarities do you see between Peter's confidence and your own tendencies?
- What are some ways people try to justify themselves or feel "good enough"?
- Why is admitting that we are not the solution such an important step in the Christian life?

### **Certainty in Jesus' future promises**

- What fears or worries tend to trouble our hearts the most?
- How does the promise that Jesus is preparing a place for believers change the way we think about the future?
- In what ways can the hope of heaven give comfort during difficult times today?

### **Certainty in belief in Jesus**

- Why do you think Thomas asked this question? What does it reveal about the disciples' understanding?
- What does it mean that Jesus is the way, not just someone who shows the way?
- How does trusting in Jesus remove the pressure of constantly wondering if we have done enough?

### **Closing Reflection & Prayer**

- Which of the three certainties stands out most to you right now? Why?
- Are there areas in your life where you still rely more on yourself than on Jesus?

**Praise God the Father for what he has done, confess the ways in which you still rely on your own works, thank Jesus for the work that he has done in your place, and ask the Holy Spirit to help you rely in the certainty of Jesus more and more each day.**