BIG IDEA: Still in the upper room with the disciples, Jesus continues encouraging them before He leaves. He clearly states that those who believe in His message will carry on His work. Jesus promises that, through them, an even greater work will be done with the aid of a Helper, who will be with them as they accomplish Christ’s purpose. These disciples will continue the work of Christ in extending the grace of the gospel throughout the world.

1. TO BE CONTINUED – READ John 14:12-14; Acts 1:8
CONTEXT: Jesus grabs the attention of His followers by emphasizing their next steps in John 14:12. As followers of Jesus, there is a direct correlation to the works of Jesus and our purpose. These words of Jesus, as perplexing as they are at one level, are powerfully inspiring and encouraging when you ponder them in their context. Jesus isn’t saying that His followers will do similar and greater miracles to those which John records. He’s saying, that the work of Christ to save, will be greater in scale. Meaning, it will be the disciples who take the message of God’s grace to the ends of the earth.

A. What type of work is Jesus referring to in John 14:12? How might the Church be fulfilling the work that Jesus began?
B. How would you answer Brad’s question from Sunday, “What is it that you are praying for right now that only God can do?” What does it mean for us in our location and time to be reliant on the Holy Spirit to accomplish the spread of the gospel?
C. What other passages define the way we understand and fulfill Jesus’ work of taking the gospel to the nations? How do we contribute to this mission individually and as a Life Group? What are the Austin equivalents to the Acts 1:8 reference, “Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth?”

2. A HELPER TO OUR AFFECTIONS – READ John 14:15-24
CONTEXT: Throughout this section, love for Jesus is the overriding theme. In it, we see exactly what love for Jesus looks like. It’s not just that we go to church weekly, read, or even study our Bible often. Obedience to the commandments of Jesus is evidence of a love for God. This doesn’t mean as followers of Christ that we’re sinless, but as we follow Jesus, we sin less. It’s no wonder that Jesus knew we would need a Helper to lean on as we follow Him.

A. How is the promise of the Holy Spirit meant to encourage the disciples? What can we learn about the work of the Holy Spirit in John 14:16-17? Why is it that the “world cannot receive” Him? How might you describe the Holy Spirit to someone new to the faith?
B. What does love for Jesus look like in this passage? Are our works a response to God’s love or a way to earn His love? How might you describe the relationship between loving Jesus and keeping His commandments?
C. How does disobedience short-circuit our love for Christ? In what ways does your love for Jesus get most easily distracted?

PRAYER & ACTION
A. PRAYER: Pray together for those you know who might be skeptical or cynical of Jesus’ teaching. Ask the Holy Spirit to open our eyes to opportunities to lovingly share the light of Christ with them.

B. ACTION: Map out a few ways that your group can grow in reaching out to those who are far from Jesus. Ask the Lord to give your group a burden, and passion to see His Kingdom expand here, in your community.