

SOH Bible Study for Sunday May 10, 2026

Our texts for this Sunday are:

- John 14:15-21
- Acts 17:22-31

Set-up: This is a continuation of last week's Gospel text, meaning the same conversation Jesus is having with His disciples is still on-going. Last week's Gospel text had Jesus saying "I am the way, the truth and the life" with an invitation that if we know Jesus we know God. And that walking with God is more about a relationship with God than following God's rules. How might this part of the conversation also be leaning into how a relationship with God is meant to shape us?

John 14:15-21 ¹⁵ "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷ This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. ¹⁸ "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹ In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

Vs 15 starts out with "If you love me, you will keep my commandments...." What does it mean to you to obey/keep Jesus' commandments? And what commandments are they? (Hint: John 13:34-35). I mean, how hard can it be?

Why do you think Jesus centers everything (even our identity with vs 35) on loving one another? What makes this command both simple and challenging?

The Greek word that gets translated as "obey/keep" can also mean "to attend to" or "to care for." What practical differences do you see between obeying something and attending to it?

Think about an area of life where you "attend to" something you care about (a relationship, hobby, responsibility). What does that teach you about what Jesus might mean by attending to love?

Jesus' proclamation that He is sending help (the Advocate) comes right after His words of commandment keeping. Do you think the indwelling of the Holy Spirit is meant to help you live this Christian life?

What do you think Jesus means in vs 17 with "You know him, because he *abides* with you, and he will be in you?" *Abide* is not a word we use very much. Synonyms for abide are "continue, dwell,

inhabit, remain, reside, rest, stay, tarry, tolerate and even pitch a tent” How does it feel to rotate one of those meanings in for abide?

How might it feel to have the Advocate/Holy Spirit “pitch a tent” in you? How might the Holy Spirit aid you in “attending to” the commandment to love someone?

Jesus says that love will be the defining mark of His disciples. What does/should that kind of witness look like in our church-or- in your family, workplace, or community?

Acts 17:22-31

22Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. 23For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. 24The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, 25nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. 26From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, 27so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. 28For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we too are his offspring.’ 29Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. 30While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, 31because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

Well, that’s a great way to start a conversation about who God is and what God wants from us with complete strangers 😊. But Paul was talking with an audience that loved to debate heady and hard topics. What nuggets of truth can we take from this conversation?

How do you understand vs. 28: “For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’?” What implications does this statement have for your life? Do you have areas that you’d prefer that *not* to be the case?

Bridge question: Paul speaks about the need for repentance and our Gospel text speaks to the in-dwelling of God’s Holy Spirit in us and attending to God’s commandments. What are your thoughts on the connection between repentance and the in-dwelling of the Holy Spirit in us? Can’t the Holy Spirit prompt us to keep...or stop us from breaking the commandments and therefore our need for repentance? Would you want that to happen?