



I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE

SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2024

KEY SCRIPTURE | John 14:1–14

DISCUSSION GUIDE

This week in *I AM*, our message series on the “I AM” statements in the Gospel of John, we look at Jesus’ claim, “I AM the way, the truth, and the life” in John 14:6. This is at the beginning of Jesus’ farewell conversation with His disciples. Jesus pulls His disciples away for an intimate conversation before His impending death. He tells them He is going away (John 13:31–33) and they can’t go with Him yet. But the disciples appear to have anxiety about being left alone without Jesus. Thomas asked an honest question about where Jesus was going, ultimately voicing his despair. We, too, can feel anxious, troubled, or in despair in this life. To cope with how we feel we may chase after money, a bigger house, a better paying job, etc. We want more! We think that if we have those things, it might satisfy us, or bring fulfillment, or alleviate our anxiety. The truth is, we were created for another world. Your home, the place you were ultimately created for, is with the Father—and Jesus is the way to the Father. Jesus is the “more” the world is longing for.

QUESTIONS

Icebreaker: Where is your happy place?

1. Read John 14:1–14 together as a group. Why do you think the disciples were troubled? (See John 13:31–38)
2. What does Jesus say to bring the disciples comfort? (John 14:1–4) (See Digging Deeper)
3. How does this passage bring comfort to you when you feel anxious or troubled?
4. In John 14:6, Jesus says, “I AM the way, the truth, and the life.” What do you think each noun means here (way, truth, life)? What does this tell us about Jesus’ identity? (See Digging Deeper)
5. John 14:6 can be very controversial today as many say there are many pathways to God. How might you explain this to a friend?
6. What is something that is troubling your heart today? What is God asking you to do in order to trust Jesus with that trouble?



NOTES

Full C.S. Lewis quote:

"If we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that we were made for another world. If none of my earthly pleasures satisfy it, that does not prove that the universe is a fraud. Probably earthly pleasures were never meant to satisfy it, but only to arouse it, to suggest the real thing. If that is so, I must take care, on the one hand, never to despise, or be unthankful for, these earthly blessings, and on the other, never to mistake them for the something else of which they are only a kind of copy, or echo, or mirage. I must keep alive in myself the desire for my true country, which I shall not find till after death..."

—C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

DIGGING DEEPER

Question 3:

"Did you notice Jesus' vocabulary? 'In my father's house there are many dwelling places.' For generations we in the West have imposed our cultural lens upon this passage such that we have whole songs dedicated to the "mansion up over the hilltop" that is awaiting us in heaven. But what Jesus is saying to His disciples and to us, is so far superior to the objectives of a consumer culture that it takes my breath away – our ultimate destination as the newly adopted children of the Father is the family compound! And Jesus, the firstborn of His Father's household, is going back to heaven to get your four-room pillared house ready. Why? 'So that where I am, there you may be also.' The goal of redemption is not a marbled mansion, but reincorporation into the [household] of our heavenly Father."

—Sandra Richter, *Epic of Eden*

Question 5:

"Jesus' reply is the ultimate foundation for a satisfactory philosophy of life. First, it is personal. He did not claim merely to know the way, the truth, and the life... but he actually claimed to be the answer to human problems. Jesus' solution to perplexity is not a recipe; it is a relationship with Him...He is the way to the Father because only He has an intimate knowledge of God unmarred by sin. He is the truth because He has the perfect power of making life one coherent experience irrespective of its ups and downs. He is the life because He was not subject to death but made it subject to Him. He did not live with death as the ultimate end of His life; He died to demonstrate the power and continuity of His life. Because He is the way, the truth, and the life, He is the only means of reaching the Father."

—Merrell Tenney, *Expositors Bible Commentary: John*