

# Way, the Truth, and the Life

Seven times in the book of John, Jesus says "I am ...". These statements are not metaphors about Jesus, but rather Jesus stating that He is God. Each statement reveals part of God's character and who He is in us, making it possible for us to say, "I am new."



## INTRODUCTION

Today we examined the most fundamental and exciting and yet seemingly controversial claim of Jesus when He told His disciples, "I am the way, the truth, and the life..."

## STARTER QUESTION

Upon inquiry by His disciples, Jesus boldly proclaimed that He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. How does this compare to the belief systems in other religions? What does it mean to have a Savior who fulfills these three descriptions? What is available to us as we trust in and follow Christ in our everyday lives?

## INTO THE WORD

1. Compare Proverbs 14:12 with John 14:6. Why do you think "other ways" to get to heaven seem right to some people? What is the result for those who trust in those "other" ways?
2. We learned that God wants to move us from trouble to trust. John 14 reminds us of the following five truths: God has a place for you, Jesus opens the way for you, Jesus is enough for you, God is close to you, and God will always be with you. What examples within or portions of Scripture remind you of these truths? Consider Psalm 121, Luke 12:22-34, and Joshua 1:1-9 for examples.
3. The Gospel (good news) from John 14:6 is unique! Jesus offers us LIFE and life more abundantly. One way He does this is by giving us joy and peace for us as we walk with Him. How does He demonstrate His joy and peace in our lives? What examples do we see of His joy and peace in His Word? Consider the following examples as a starting place: John 14:27, John 15:9-17, John 16:22-24, and John 16:31-33.

## APPLICATION

4. Some religions try to reach God through surrender/sacrifice, meditation, or by being a good, moral person. The Bible speaks about all these things in a positive way; however, they are not the path to salvation. The world's perspective of these things is greatly warped in contrast with what we read in the Bible. What is the difference between the world's view of these practices and how God views them?
5. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." People in our world see this as narrow-minded and/or exclusive. How can we respond to someone who expresses this belief?
6. How can we allow the Holy Spirit who lives inside of us to practically manifest Jesus in our world? In other words, how can we let Jesus to be the way, the truth, and the life through our words and actions in our everyday lives?

## PRAYER

Father in heaven, thank you for revealing Your Truth to us. We find comfort in realizing that You already know what we need, yet we still have so many requests and desires. May Your Holy Spirit move inside our hearts to align our actions with obedience to Your Word. Help us walk the walk, and not just talk the talk. Give us opportunities to show how much we love You and change our desires to want what You want...to pray that Your will be done so that our prayers will be answered, and You will receive all the glory due Your name. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

## SUGGESTED ANSWER GUIDE / MORE FOOD FOR THOUGHT FOR SELECTED QUESTIONS:

### Question 1:

Jesus presented His followers with some of His most challenging teachings on the night before His crucifixion. He told them He was *the way, the truth and the life*, which meant that any other way - including those followed by the pagans and the Jewish religious leaders - was not true or valid. Only branches connected to the true Vine (Jesus) could bear genuine fruit. Understandably, such a position would cause bitterness and opposition for those who did not accept it, just like it continues to cause opposition in the world we live in today. Thus, Jesus warned His followers to expect to be hated... just as He was hated.

In *The Bible Recap, by Tara-Leigh Cobble; page 332*) she writes:

"Proverbs 14:6 gives us an interesting twist on seeking wisdom; it describes a person who appears to be seeking wisdom but is really a scoffer disguised as a seeker: 'A scoffer seeks wisdom in vain, but knowledge is easy for a man of understanding.' Scoffers prefer questions to answers; answers are a threat, because they require something of us - they require us to submit to the answers we find. If someone is truly seeking, they'll be delighted when you give them what they're after!"

### Question 2:

These five truths are embedded throughout Scripture. However, some specific examples could include Psalm 23, .Psalm 121, Luke 12:22-34, Joshua 1:1-9, Genesis 16, Genesis 39 to 47 (account of Joseph's life), and Psalm 27.

### Question 3:

- John 14:1 "*Let not your heart be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in Me.*"
- John 14:27 "*Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let them be afraid.*"
- John 15:11 "*These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.*"
- John 16:33 "*I have said these things to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.*"
- John 16:22-23 "*You have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you. In that day you'll ask nothing of me.*"

### Question 4:

**Sacrifice & surrender** – The world sees these things as something that we do grudgingly, or at the very least as something that goes against our own desires. 2 Timothy 1:7 says, "For God gave us a spirit, not of fear, but of power and love and self-control." When we surrender to or sacrifice something for God, (whether it is our time, our money, our plans, our struggles, etc.) God changes our desires and perspective to match His. Our sacrifice is joyful, not a burden.

**Meditation** – When the world meditates, the idea is to empty ourselves and focus on the moment, often by thinking of nothing but our breathing. The goal is self-care and heightened awareness of the present moment. While neither of those things are bad (we should be taking care of ourselves and being attentive of the present, rather than dwelling on the past or worrying about the future), it is incomplete. Read Psalm 119:15, Philippians 4:8, Psalm 143:5, and Isaiah 26:3. These verses, as well as countless others, stress the importance of meditating on God, His word, His promises, and what He has done for us. It is only through focus on Him that He changes our lives and hearts, gives us peace, and makes us the people He wants us to be.

**Being Moral** – Many people seem to think that it is a matter of “balancing the scales,” so to speak. They think that if the good out-weighs the bad, then they are fine. Romans 3:20-24 says that no person will be justified (made right with God) by his works. It goes on to say that we all fall short, and it is only through God’s gift of grace that we are justified. In Matthew 7:21-23, Jesus confirms that works alone will not save us.

### **Question 5:**

Romans 5:8 – God loves and died for us while we were still sinners. He does not say that we must change ourselves, *and then* He will love us. All He asks from us is that we accept His gift and love Him. He will take care of changing us

John 3:16 – There is a reason this verse is one of the most well-known and quoted. There is so much hope! “God so loved the world” and “whoever believes in Him.” You can’t get any more inclusive than that!