

I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life

Week Five

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Talk About

"It's impossible to fully appreciate the value of a trail until you've been forced to walk through the wilderness without one."¹ Have you ever been lost, having strayed from a road or path with no quick way of regaining your bearings? What was that like? How did you find your way back?

Read John 14:1-6.

Talk About

In John 14 Jesus is coming to the end of his mortal ministry. After washing their feet, he predicts his own betrayal from within the disciples. He also announces he is leaving and going somewhere he cannot be followed. To say the least, the apostles are concerned and confused.

- If you were a religious Jew and had just wandered into the room and heard Jesus making this "I am" statement--knowing nothing else about him--what would you think?
- How might the disciples' understanding be different?

Read Hebrews 10:20.

Talk About

Quite a bit of the Old Testament is devoted to a description of the temple and temple rituals. The inner sanctum of the temple, called the "holy of holies" represented the dwelling space of God on earth.

- In light of Jewish understanding about this way to God through the temple curtain, what would Jesus' claim to be "the way" mean to early believers?
- Can you think of other meanings behind Jesus calling himself "the way"?

Read John 18:37-38.

Talk About

- What was Pilate's attitude about "truth"?
- What did Jesus mean by referring to everyone who is "of the truth"?
- What does it mean to have an absolute reference point for truth?

Read John 11:25-26 and John 1:4.

Talk About

- When did you first believe that Christ was the resurrection and the life?
- If we sincerely believe this is true, why does the death of a loved one still hurt so much? Why did Jesus, Life himself, cry in the face of death?
- Why is fear of death still a struggle for some believers? How can we come alongside mourners as we await the resurrection?
- Can you think of other meanings behind Jesus calling himself The Life?
- Which is most meaningful to you right now in your Christian walk, knowing that Jesus is your Way, your Truth, or your Light? Why?

¹Robert Moor, *On Trails* (Simon and Schuster, 2016).