

***The Challenge of Jesus: “How can we know the way?”***

*Focus Passage:* John 14:1-14

*Larger Context:* The last night of Jesus life before His crucifixion ... right after eating the Passover before praying and being arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane.

*Other Passages Referenced:* Mark 8:17–18

***Comments:***

During the summer series *Re-Cover*, we will change the Sermon Follow-up resources a bit on. Instead of questions specifically customized to the passage, we will experiment with frameworks for personal Bible study (You can also use the same frameworks to lead others in a Bible study). You will find 5 questions to ask of this week’s passage in the *Allow the Word to Speak* section. Those questions can be applied to any passage you want to study. Lower in the document (after you’ve gone through the passage yourself to answer the questions) you’ll find a section titled *Some Answers to the Bible Study Framework Questions*.

**Sermon Recap**

In John 14:1–14, the disciples are confused and questioning Jesus about his statement that He will be leaving them soon to go “prepare a place” for them. Jesus says, “And you know the way where I am going” (John 14:4) Jesus responds to their confusion and questions by admonishing them to “believe.” When Thomas says, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus declares, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through me.” Jesus makes a very exclusive claim that there are no other ways to God than the Way He embodies and makes.

In this exchange, Jesus is reassuring His disciples that all of the signs and wonders they had witnessed over the past three years were signposts pointing to the reality of their future when they would be living in God’s presence in a perfectly restored state. Because of sin and our imperfect understanding, we are prone to mistake the signposts themselves as our final destination. Sin is what we experience every time we try to find the way to God on our own, apart from Jesus. We can get sidetracked into pursuing things like healthy bodies and minds, meaningful work, and the joy of loving and being loved as ends in themselves, rather than signposts pointing us to our true home.

When Jesus says, “I am the way,” “The way is not fixing our appearance. It is someone who has appeared. The way is not a personal achievement, though the way is quite personal. The way is not about net worth, but someone of incalculable worth. The way is not something you learn about but someone you get to know. The way is not an idea, philosophy or principle, The way is a person, and that person is Jesus” (Travis Simone). We need to ask ourselves, “Where, in my life, am I trying to find my own way apart from Jesus?”

Jesus declares that He is “the” exclusive way to a right relationship with God the Father. Of all the world religions, only Jesus claims that the way is a person rather than a list of dos and don’ts. He is the way because He is God who made His way to us that we might make our way to God. The way to the WAY is through faith. The word translated “believe” in most of our English translations has the idea of “trust, surrender, exercise full reliance upon, desperately depend on, give allegiance to.” This kind of believing requires us to trust God to unclthe us from a self-centered life to put on a life centered around Him.

Will you embrace the only way to God by trusting, surrendering, depending upon, and giving allegiance to Jesus? All the good you have experienced in your life is a signpost of something even better He has prepared for you.

## Group Gathering

### Group Check-in — Care, Celebration, Encouragement (About 1/3 of meeting time)

1. Informal conversation to allow individuals to catch up with one another.
2. Ask if anyone would share how they've been hearing and obeying God's direction.

### Allow the Word to Speak — Be Hearers of the Word (About 1/3 of meeting time)

*READ John 14:1–14*

1. Does the passage reveal a promise from God to trust?
2. Does the passage reveal a command from God to obey?
3. Does the passage reveal a principle to live by?
4. Does the passage reveal understanding about who God is, how He works, or about His Gospel?
5. Does the passage reveal understanding about who Satan is, how He works, or sin?

### Put the Word into Practice — Be Doers of the Word (About 1/3 of meeting time)

1. How should I apply the truths of the passage to my life?
  - a. How have I or am I currently trying to make my own way rather than depending on Jesus as The Way?
  - b. If I find I'm not obeying the commandments from the passage, what do I need to do differently in order to start obeying them?
2. Pray accordingly:
  - a. LORD, give me faith to trust your promise, even when I can't see how you will keep it.
  - b. LORD, give me the will and strength to obey your command.
  - c. LORD, teach me how to apply this principle in daily living.
  - d. LORD, thank you for revealing yourself and your character through these verses. I worship you.
  - e. LORD, deliver me from the evil one. Thank you for showing me how he is working to keep me from following you.

**The Big Question:** What do you sense God's Spirit saying to you and what concrete action will you take in response? Share your answer with the group or another trusted Christian and ask them to pray for you.

### Some Answers to the Bible Study Framework Questions

1. Promises
  - a. I go to prepare a place for you
  - b. I will come again and will take you to myself
  - c. Whoever believes (faiths) in Jesus will do the works that He did and even greater works
  - d. Whatever we ask in Jesus' name will be granted
2. Commands — Note that these are imperative commands rather than suggestions :)
  - a. Let not your heart be troubled
  - b. Believe in God
  - c. Believe also in me (Jesus)
  - d. Believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me or believe on account of the works themselves

3. Principles — None noted
4. Revelation about God/Gospel
  - a. The way to God is found exclusively through Jesus. No one comes to God apart from Him.
  - b. Jesus is in the Father and the Father is in Jesus
  - c. The reason the disciples will do greater works is “because Jesus is going to the Father.” This has to do with His promise to send the Holy Spirit in John 14:15–20.
  - d. Jesus is not speaking on His own authority but on the authority of the Father who is in Him.
  - e. God wants us to be where He is
5. Revelation about Satan/sin — None noted

**SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES:** Click [here](#) for some good opportunities.

**“I have come home at last! This is my real country! I belong here. This is the land I have been looking for all my life, though I never knew it till now. The reason why we loved the old Narnia is that it sometimes looked a little like this...Come further up, come further in!”**

***C.S. Lewis, The Last Battle***

**And Jesus, aware of this, said to them,  
“Why are you discussing the fact that you  
have no bread? Do you not yet perceive or  
understand? Are your hearts hardened?  
Having eyes do you not see, and having ears  
do you not hear? And do you not remember?”**

***Mark 8:17-18***

**“Midway along the journey of our life I woke to find myself lost in a dark wood, for I had wandered off from the straight path.”**

***Dante, The Divine Comedy***

**“I really never understood well enough how patients feel,” he said. “Even though I’m convincing patients to take a feeding tube, and encouraging them, saying, ‘even though it looks dark now, it will get better and you’ll get through it,’ I really never understood how dark it was.”**

**He approaches those moments differently now: ‘I was there are very powerful words for patients.’”**

***I had never faced the Reality of Death:  
A Surgeon Becomes a Patient  
New York Times, June 4, 2021***



## **The Challenge of Jesus — *John 14:1-11***

- **Where in your life are you trying to find a way other than Jesus?**
- **Jesus is the only way.**

**Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God,**

**let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.**

***Hebrews 10:19-22***

# **“Believe” in John 14:1-11**

- **v.1 (x2)**

- **vv.10-11 (x3)**

**“Then the lion said—but I don’t know if it spoke—you will have to let me undress you. I was afraid of his claws, I can tell you, but I was pretty dearly desperate now. So I just lay flat down on my back and let him do it.**

**The first tear he made was so deep that I thought it had gone right into my heart. And when he began pulling the skin off, it hurt worse than anything I've ever felt. But, he peeled the beastly stuff right off — and there I was as smooth and soft as a peeled switch and smaller than I had been.**

**Then he caught hold of me—I didn't like that much for I was very tender underneath now that I'd no skin on—and he through me into the water. It smarted like anything but only for a moment. After that it became perfectly delicious and as soon as I started swimming and splashing I found that all the pain had gone from my arm. After a bit the lion took me out and dressed me.”**

**To believe in Jesus is to allow him  
to undress you and to redress you.**