

JOHN 14:6

*the way  
the truth  
the life*



# **holy week**



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# Introduction

On the night before His crucifixion, Jesus spoke words of staggering clarity and comfort: “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6).

This is Jesus strengthening troubled hearts by directing them to Himself. In a moment when the disciples felt disoriented and uncertain, Jesus presented Himself as the destination *and* the path. In Jesus alone, the covenant promises of God find their fulfillment, and humanity finds the way to God, the truth of God, and the life of God.

# Helpful Details

**Author:** The Apostle John, “the disciple whom Jesus loved” (John 21:20, 24). He was part of Jesus’ inner circle along with Peter and James.

**Date Written:** Between A.D. 80 - 95.

**Purpose:** As he clearly states in John 20:31: “*That you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.*”

**Distinctiveness:** Roughly 90% of John’s material is unique compared to Matthew, Mark, and Luke. It emphasizes *theology over chronology*, focusing on meaning rather than merely recording events.

**The Seven “I Am” Statements:** Jesus reveals His divine identity through metaphors like “I am the Bread of Life” and “I am the Resurrection and the Life.”

**Key Themes:** Jesus as the eternal Son of God. Light vs. darkness. New birth and eternal life. Belief and unbelief. God’s sovereignty in salvation.

# Recommended Reading

Free Commentary (TGC)

Articles on John (Ligonier)

Sermons + Studies (Monergism)

Beginner Commentary: Let's Study John by Mark Johnston

Advanced Commentary: The Gospel According to John by D.A. Carson

# The Way - John 14:1-7

## MAIN POINT

Read across the whole Bible, “the way” is the story of how sinners can come near a holy God. John’s Gospel opens with a voice crying, “Make straight the way of the Lord,” an announcement that proclaims: the long-promised arrival path of God’s salvation is a Person.

## GROUP INTRO

If Jesus entered our city today, what kind of vehicle would be bringing Him?

## TEXT

1. Read John 14:1-7. Why does Jesus answer Thomas’ question by pointing to Himself instead of giving instructions or directions?

*Leader help: If the “destination” is the Father, then the only “route” is union with the Son. Jesus is not a guide pointing away from Himself; He is the mediator who brings us to God. This fits the Bible’s whole storyline: sinners don’t climb to God; God provides the Mediator who comes down to us.*

2. In this passage, where does “the way” lead to?

*Leader help is on the next page.*

*Leader help: The way leads to the Father and to the house Jesus is preparing. This route of reconciliation runs through Jesus' own departure. Without His death on the cross, resurrection, and ascension, there is no "way" for sinners to be brought to the Father. But because Jesus is faithful to the Father, He will be the very means of our reconciliation.*

3. Read Isaiah 35 and Isaiah 40:1-5. In the Old Testament, what's "the way" referencing? How does Jesus pick up and fulfill these themes?

*Leader help: The language of "way" reveals God's promise to come and save His people (Isa. 40:3), the return of His redeemed people (Isa. 35:8), and God's solution to the human problem: sinful humans needed cleansing and could only access God's presence through a mediator. Jesus fulfills all of it by being both Immanuel (God with us) and the one who opens access to God as the faithful Mediator/Priest.*

## **APPLICATION**

1. What does life look like for someone who's using Jesus as a navigator or map to find their own way to God rather than surrendering to the reconciliation He's already secured?
2. What's the cost to others, Christians or unbelievers, of softening the exclusivity of Jesus' claim here (He says He is the way, not a way)?

3. Since Jesus is the way to the Father, the “destination” of our discipleship is the Father’s presence. Do we treat discipleship as if this is true?

## **PRAYER**

Pray that, as a group and as individuals, we would all be emboldened to commune with God regularly, trusting that He loves and likes us.

***Passage to guide your prayers: Hebrews 10:19-23***

# The Truth - John 14:1-7

## MAIN POINT

Throughout the Bible, “truth” is connected intimately to God Himself; He is faithful, reliable, and covenantally loyal. Jesus is the fulfillment and embodiment of all God’s revelation; He is the Word made flesh who fully reveals the Father.

## GROUP INTRO

If you had to explain Good Friday to someone who’d never heard of it, how would you describe it?

## TEXT

1. Read John 14:1-7. Why does Jesus say He *is* the truth instead of saying He *teaches* the truth?  
*Leader help: Throughout John’s Gospel, “truth” is inseparable from God’s self-revelation. As God reveals Himself, truth is seen and known. Since Jesus is the Word made flesh, to see Him is to see the Father. He doesn’t merely communicate divine facts; He is God in the flesh. So Jesus isn’t just a “truth-teller” or a bearer of truth; He’s the incarnation of God’s revelation. He is everything God has been revealing about Himself throughout Scripture and history.*

## 2. When we “look” to Jesus in faith, what truths about ourselves and God are revealed to us?

*Leader help: This is saving, covenantal truth, the truth about who God is (loving, holy, gracious, just, gentle, etc.) and how human beings are sinners in need of reconciliation (we “see” this especially on Good Friday when we recognize the brutality and ugliness of the cross was necessary because of our sin). The “truth” Jesus speaks of is the reliable, ultimate revelation that the Father is known and reached only in the Son. This aligns with John 8:31-32, where knowing the truth (Jesus and His word) brings freedom.*

## 3. How does Jesus embodying “the truth” fulfill the Old Testament storyline?

*Leader help: In the Old Testament, God is repeatedly described as abounding in “steadfast love and truth” (see Ex. 34:6). “Truth” is God’s covenant faithfulness. Jesus fulfills this by perfectly revealing the Father and by securing the covenant promises through His death and resurrection. The knowledge of God that was promised in the Old Testament (see Jer. 31:34) comes through union with Christ, who makes God truly known.*

### **APPLICATION**

1. It can be somewhat easy to slip into a posture of loving truths about God more than God Himself. How would you know whether or not you’re satisfied with theological correctness rather than deeper communion with God Himself?

2. Since Jesus is the truth, then it's Him and His Word that define reality, not our experience. Does your life reflect confidence that the Bible and all it presents as true is actually true?
3. Ignoring Jesus isn't just disobedience; it's choosing to live in lies and fantasies. What are some lies Jesus has freed you from?

## **PRAYER**

Confess the ways you ignore, suppress, or reject truth, and ask God to transform you into someone who loves, seeks after, and tells the truth.

***Passage to guide your prayers: Psalm 51:6***

# The Life - John 14:1-7

## MAIN POINT

"Life" in John's Gospel is not mere biological existence but eternity with God, knowing the only true God and the Lord Jesus. Jesus doesn't just give life; He is its source and embodiment.

Sin brings death, spiritual alienation, and judgment. But Jesus is the Word through whom all things were made, the giver of new birth, the bread of life, and the resurrection and the life. In Christ, the life lost in Eden is restored and surpassed.

## GROUP INTRO

What's one area of your life where you've experienced God's restorative and redemptive power?

## TEXT

1. Read John 14:1-7. What does Jesus mean by "life" in this passage?

*Leader help: In the immediate context, Jesus talks about dwelling in the Father's house. This tells us that the "life" in view is eternal life, an unending communion with God that begins now and culminates when Jesus returns and renews creation.*

2. Re-read the following passages in John: John 5:24, 6:35, 10:10, and 11:25. What's the significance of Jesus once again claiming to be "the life" in this context?

*Leader help: The disciples are going to be "troubled" because they'll see Jesus betrayed, arrested, beaten, and killed. This will look like the victory of death over the Son of God. But Jesus is reminding them of what He's been saying all along: He Himself is eternal life. His giving up of His life is the very way He secures life for His people.*

3. Humanity was given life as a gift from God, and we surrendered it through sin. How, then, does the death of Jesus initiate the gift of eternal life?

*Leader help: Jesus bears the death we deserve, which is God's judgment upon sin, and then resurrects, not just in a display of raw divine power, but as the firstfruits of the new, eternal creation. The life He gives to all who trust in Him is reconciliation and participation on the Triune God, which is a restored fellowship that nothing can destroy or undo. By surrendering to death and the wrath of God, Jesus pays the price and earns the life that Adam forfeited in the Garden of Eden.*

## **APPLICATION**

1. Success, comfort, relationships, pleasure, productivity, and even ministry can become counterfeit sources of "life" for us. Which counterfeit most strongly draws you? Why?

2. It's normal to fear death and suffering, but how can meditating on the resurrection of Jesus and the promise of eternal life strengthen us when we experience this fear?
3. How do we help one another have a relationship with God that's marked by growing communion, joy, and obedience instead of mere religious activities?

## **PRAYER**

Praise God for bringing you to Himself, continually sustaining you, and promising to one day resurrect you in a new creation.

***Passage to guide your prayers: Psalm 36:9***