

Group discussion *Each number below includes questions that relate to the scripture. I offer a few answers, but your perspective may be better. The point is to discuss, not to get 100% agreement. Rule of thumb: the fewer questions you ask, the better. Save time for “the big question.”*

Read John 14:1-7 aloud.

1. The setting

Who was Jesus talking to? What was the situation?

Think of this as Jesus’ last words. This is the last supper. Jesus had washed the disciples’ feet, predicted Judas’ and Peter’s betrayals, and told the group he was going to a place they could not go.

What do you think the mood was at this last supper?

How was Jesus’ language different here than it was most of the time with the crowds? *He was rarely so direct with the general public.*

When have you been in a situation where a mentor or parent told you goodbye?

2. Jesus is the way (vs. being lost)

When you get lost, what are you likely to do?

- a. Stop to ask for directions.
- b. Stop to study a map or the GPS.
- c. Keep going until you find a familiar landmark.
- d. I don’t get lost, although sometimes I take the scenic route.

What was Thomas’ question in verse 5, and how well does Jesus answer it?

Thomas wanted to know the destination, along with a roadmap. Jesus showed him the way – be like Jesus. Not exactly an answer, but it definitely addressed the question.

What does it mean when Jesus says he is the way?

How has Jesus been the way for you?

3. Jesus is the truth (vs. confusion)

How do you understand the statement that Jesus is the truth? How

is that different from saying “Jesus tells the truth” or “Jesus knows the truth”?

In your daily life, what are some situations where it is difficult to know the truth?

Which kid started the argument? The customer claims it was broken when he opened the package. What did my co-worker mean by that hurtful remark? The doctors disagree. Someone claims to be true to you but...

How often do you encounter confusing situations?

A Christian post-modern would say that there is absolute truth, but nobody is smart enough to grasp it in its entirety. Everybody is a subjective interpreter of truth. How does knowing Jesus help us counter the notion that all worldviews are equally valid?

Christianity rests on a historical person rather than a set of propositions, so his teachings, life and resurrection validate our worldview. That’s the message of the song from 1883, “I Know Whom I Have Believed.”

[Never mind – this question would kill most discussions. Maybe it could provide confusion for the previous question. Let’s talk if it interests you.]

How does it help you for Jesus to be the truth?

4. Jesus is the life (vs. death and despair)

What causes you to realize life is short? How do you feel when you consider that almost everyone you know will be dead in 75 years?

What are some ways our culture deals with aging?

How do you understand the statement that Jesus is the life?

How does following Jesus give you life?

† **The million-dollar question** *If you ask only one question, let this be it. Allow at least 20 minutes. Go around the circle and give each person an opportunity to answer. It’s okay if they pass, but at least they get a chance to respond.*

When was a time that things were falling apart and you were uncertain about nearly everything and everyone? How did your relationship with Jesus help you through that time?

Resources

Bible notes

A familiar passage. Even though the words are simple and straightforward, the message is as difficult for us to grasp as it was for the disciples.

Prayer ideas

Thank God for the clarity Jesus brings to our lives.
Lay some situations before God where you need comfort and clarity.
Pray for someone who needs to come to know Jesus.

Kid-friendly activity. *An activity designed to help kids and adults grow in faith together. Do this first, then dismiss the kids so the adults can talk.*

Play a game - 2 truths & a lie.

Go around the circle and ask each person to tell three things about themselves – two true and one untrue.

Ask the group to guess which statement is untrue (family members cannot answer).

What was the biggest surprise from this game?

When is it difficult to know the truth?

Read John 14:1-6 aloud. Ask the kids to re-tell this story in their own words.

What does Jesus say about himself in verse 6?

How does it help us to know these things about Jesus?

Offer a prayer of thanks for Jesus giving our lives such a dependable foundation.



May 2, 2010

LIFE Group Guide

John 14 – Jesus is the way

By John Grant (jgrant@collegehills.org)

The theme: **Jesus provides clarity and comfort in a confusing world.**

Kevin will consider the absolute claims of Christianity in his sermon Sunday. How can we say that Jesus is THE way (Acts 4:12), not merely a way for some people? Not politically correct, but true even if some doubt.

Knowing that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life gives us confidence, peace, and joy in a chaotic world. People look to all sorts of guides to organize their lives (Oprah, counselors, self-help gurus, etc.). They can help, but their advice will always fall short. Jesus shows the way and the Spirit helps us along the way because he is the way.

Leadership tip: If you died in a plane crash tomorrow, who would lead your group? Always be training your replacement. Look for ways to give group members responsibilities.

Relate *Use a few to introduce the theme, check everyone's spiritual pulse, and "break the ice." No right or wrong answers – maybe goofy but not wrong! Look for opportunities to affirm and encourage through these questions.*

- ❖ Gimme five...summer jobs you wish you had never accepted?
- ❖ When have you been lost most recently?
- ❖ Why do you think the Old Testament says God is a jealous God? Doesn't jealousy seem petty? How does a marriage provide insight on how God might view his relationship with us?