



HomeGroup **LEADER** Discussion Questions  
Week 7: Feb 13th-19th

**SELECT 2-4 QUESTIONS YOU THINK WILL BE MOST HELPFUL FOR YOUR DISCUSSION, OR USE THESE AS INSPIRATION TO CREATE YOUR OWN QUESTIONS.**

*“There are many paths. Choose one that works for you.”* This is the attitude of our day. Absolute and exclusive claims are out. Pluralism is in; that is, there are many possible paths that lead to the same point. Challenge it, and you’re likely to be charged as intolerant or closed-minded. Jesus apparently wasn’t concerned, then, of how offensive it would be to our ears to hear the claim, “I am the way, the truth, and the life.”

Main Texts: John 14:1-11

**CONNECT**

1. Have you ever been lost and didn’t know the way to go? If so, what happened?  
*Jesus says “I am the way” in our text this week, so this question is aimed at that general idea of needing to discover the way to a destination. For the online sermon, Thomas asks “What troubles you the most today?” This could be a different question you could ask as well.*
2. What did you find most significant in this week’s sermon? What questions did it leave in your mind?

**LEARN**

3. Why do you think Jesus says, “Let not your hearts be troubled” in John 14:1? Why would the disciples have been troubled in that moment? What was going on just prior to this?  
*One commentator, Colin Kruse, sums it up from chapter 13: “After Jesus washed his disciples’ feet, he spoke of deeply troubling matters: one of them would betray him, he was going to leave them, and Peter would disown him.”*
4. Jesus describes a future where His disciples will be in His “Father’s house,” with the purpose being that “where I am you may be also” (vv. 2-3). What does this reveal about God’s mission or plan for all of history?  
*Even though Jesus is leaving the disciples, the point of it all is to prepare the way through the cross, resurrection, and ascension for them to be with Him forever. All of history is slanted toward this outcome: “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God...” (Revelation 21:3)*

5. John 14:6 is one of the most significant stand-alone statements in all of Scripture, but it's also a direct response Jesus makes to Thomas's question in verse 5. What do you think Jesus means in verse 6, given the question just before it?

Given Thomas' question, "How can we know the way?", the main or primary emphasis of Jesus' statement is that He is the way. Not only does Jesus know the way to the Father, but He is Himself the only way to the Father. He is the truth in the sense that Jesus is the true revelation of God to humanity. He is life because He alone has the power to give life, including eternal life. Both truth and life point back to different aspects of what it means for Jesus to be "the way."

6. How would you summarize the claim Jesus is making in verses 9-11?

Here are a couple of statements from commentators that might be helpful:

Gary Burge writes that, "It is not simply that Jesus is sent on a divine mission on behalf of the Father, but that the Father himself is on a divine mission in the life of his Son."

Colin Kruse states that Jesus "wanted them to understand he was not just a prophet, not just a teacher, not just their disciple-master, not only the Messiah; he was the Word made flesh, God incarnate. To be in his presence was to be in the presence of the Father."

#### APPLY

7. Jesus takes the initiative "to prepare a place for" His followers.<sup>1</sup> Then, He also provides the way to it. What difference does it make that Jesus *is* the way versus merely *showing* us the way?

Jesus is making it clear in this passage that He alone is responsible for being the way to the Father's house. An analogy of what He's NOT saying might be a navigation system we'd use to direct us from point A to point B. We get directions but it's up to us to make it there on our own (walking, riding, driving, etc.). Jesus isn't just giving directions about the way—He IS the way. This should (hopefully) give us a heart of gratitude and humility, realizing that Jesus has made possible what we could never accomplish or achieve on our own. We can't earn or perform our way into God's presence.

8. Jesus is making exclusive claims in these verses! How can we lovingly and truthfully explain these to people around us who may believe there are many paths to the same destination?

There are a lot of ways this could be answered. One example might be to talk about how we can help people see that even nice-sounding, "tolerant"-friendly beliefs have an exclusive side to them. We might attempt to point out how even "all roads lead to the same place" is a truth statement that excludes other beliefs, like "Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life!" We might also explain what Jesus did to make it possible for us to be reconciled to God and how this exclusive gift is available to anyone who believes. In that sense, Christianity is incredibly inclusive even while it makes exclusive claims about Jesus.

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<sup>1</sup> Older translations, like the King James Version, used the word "mansion," rather than "room." Commentator Gary Burge explains that the word, "was a seventeenth-century expression for modest dwellings; thus, 14:2 should not build a picture for us of heavenly palatial residences."

9. What differences can you think of between Christian faith and the exclusive claims of other religions or the beliefs of people you know? Is Christianity the only “system” to make exclusive claims?

This could be answered various ways. As a sample, consider these:

- Buddhism claims humanity’s biggest problem is desire for temporary things which leads to the illusion that we exist as individuals. The Bible claims our biggest problem is sin—rebellion against God.
- Hinduism teaches morality through the law of karma which has consequences we can’t escape that follow us into our next reincarnated life. In contrast, Christianity teaches that God is forgiving of our sins in this life. Following this life, there is judgment rather than another lifetime.
- Islam teaches that salvation is achieved by doing more good than bad. Moreover, Jesus—a prophet—did not die on the cross. Christianity’s core is that humanity cannot achieve salvation but God has made the way by His grace.
- The New Age Spirituality teaches that humanity is divine and only needs to gain this understanding through enlightenment. Christianity teaches that humanity is created by God and distinct from Him. We are in rebellion against God (sin) and powerless to save ourselves.

10. What’s troubling you these days (see 14:1)? What comfort, if any, are you able to draw from knowing Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life?

#### GOING DEEPER (a.k.a., Extra Credit!)

One of Calvary’s shaping values is what we call, *Confident Witness*, which can be explained by the phrase, “We communicate in word and deed that salvation is found in Christ alone.”

A barrier to confident witness can be the exclusive nature of “Christ alone”! We might hear opposing voices in our head protest, “How arrogant!” or “How exclusive!”

Ultimately, any claim either in favor or in opposition to Jesus is a truth claim and is exclusive. As a group, think through these statements:

- “Christianity can’t be the only way to God!”
- “We simply can’t know what’s true!”

Are these statements exclusive? If so, how? Are they open to the same charge of being equally “arrogant” as claims about “Christ alone”? Why or why not?

Take time to pray together as a group, asking for the Holy Spirit to give you confidence to lovingly engage with others about the gospel. Ask specifically for confidence—and clear thinking—about Jesus’ exclusive, yet also beautifully inclusive (i.e., available to all by faith) claims.