

Small Group Discussion Guide — February 21, 2021

- Series: Way, Truth, Life
 - Sermon: Home
 - Scripture: John 14: 1-14 (NIV)
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FOLLOW-UP FROM LAST WEEK:

Last week, Drew talked about not only loving our enemies but also showing them that we love them. What opportunities did you have this past week to act on this challenge?

CONNECT:

1. What stood out to you from this past week's service, and why?
2. Where exactly is home for you? Is it the place you live currently, some other place from your past, or somewhere you wished you lived now? What emotions do you associate with the word "home"?

ENGAGE:

1. Read John 14: 1-4.
 - Given the context of this passage, how would you characterize the mood and emotions of the disciples?
 - What's the significance that right after Jesus tells them, "Do not let your hearts be troubled..." he begins to talk about our "home" in heaven?
2. Read verses 5-11. How does Jesus answer Thomas' question (v. 5-6)? What is the significance that Jesus says *He* is the way, as opposed to giving Thomas a list of things he must do to come to God?
3. In verse 12, Jesus makes the claim that future generations of believers will "do even greater things than these," meaning even greater things than Jesus did. Do you think he means greater in *power*? Greater in *scope*? What could this mean? (Could the end of verse 12 provide a clue?)

APPLY:

1. For many people, Jesus' words in verse 6 is an obstacle to faith, because it's such an exclusive claim. David pointed out that these pointed words of Jesus were intended as words of comfort, not controversy. How do you react to the statement that the *only* way to God is through Jesus? In what ways could the "black and white" nature of His words bring comfort and assurance to us?
2. We all must answer the question, "What is lord over our lives?" We may assign any number of things to this place - money, sex, social standing, intellect, etc. One clue to discover what is our lord is what outcome it produces in our lives - anxiety, anger, bondage, etc. What emotions or perspectives do you see manifesting themselves in your life that might suggest a need for deeper surrender to Christ? Discuss the idea "Love + Lordship = Life" in terms of Christ's invitation to us.
3. We have heard David describe becoming a Christian as "coming home to life in a relationship with Jesus Christ." How can we make our life with Christ look to the world like coming home to a place of love and understanding instead of a place of judgment?

PRAY:

Father in Heaven, thank you for telling us so clearly that Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and the life, and that he is preparing a loving and safe home for us. Empower us to share your steadfast love and mercy to those around us, so that they too can find this abundant life. In Jesus' name, Amen.

GOING DEEPER

David said, "In America, we have confused the dignity of the individual with the supremacy of the individual." What do you think he means by this? How can this confusion become a stumbling block to us finding truth? Do you see any ways this thinking creeps into your own mind?

SUPPORTING VERSES

Friendly reminder: Download one of the Bible apps on your phone or tablet to have quick access to the many different versions of scripture available.

John 18:37-38

Matthew 16:24

Jeremiah 6:16

Isaiah 30:21

QUOTES

"I was blind but now I see," now took on a new meaning as I understood just how blind to the full nature of the spiritual universe we are on earth - especially people like I had been, who had believed that matter was the core reality, and that all else - thought, consciousness, ideas, emotions, spirit - were simply productions of it.

Eben Alexander, M.D.

Truth matters supremely because, in the end, there is no humanness or freedom without it. In fact, truth is humanness and freedom. The way to a good life and a free life lies in knowing what is true and learning to live in that truth. No concept, in its place, is more essential to the seeker.

Os Guinness

The truth that Christ was God's Son penetrated deep into my soul. I could no longer reject the reality of Christ and be intellectually honest with myself. The impact of that realization was truly a defining moment for me. I now recognized that I was not rejecting Christ for any intellectual reason, but for emotional reasons. I was slowly coming to grips with my rebellion and rejection of Christianity. I began to see that my life of sin was standing between me and a loving God who had sent his Son to die in my place.

Josh McDowell

When we listen, really listen, to the words of Jesus, we know they are for us and that this life has deep, eternal significance. And we are delighted. But we also realize that it is going to demand that we grow up, that we be fully human before God.

Eugene Peterson