

# DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week 5: The Way, the Truth, and the Life: A disciple believes Jesus is the way to God.

Main Idea: Jesus is the source of all truth and knowledge about God.  
John 14:1-7

“God said to Moses, ‘I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you’” (Exodus 3:14)

## **OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES IT SAY?**

Gather in groups of three to five people and discuss the Observation and Interpretation sections.

Observation Exercise 1: Jesus’s call to trust

Read John 14:1. What did Jesus tell the disciples not to let happen, and what did He tell them to do instead?

*Suggested Response: Jesus told the disciples not to let their hearts be troubled. He told them to believe in God and believe in Him. The verse presents trust in Jesus alongside trust in God as the response to their troubled hearts.*

Observation Exercise 2: Jesus described His departure

Read John 14:2-3. What did Jesus say about where He was going, what He would do there, and what He promised to do afterward?

*Suggested Response: Jesus said He was going to His Father’s house, where there are many rooms. He said He was going to prepare a place for them and promised He would come back and take them to be with Him. The focus of His promise is that they would be where He is.*

Observation Exercise 3: Jesus’s self-description

Read John 10:14-18. How did Jesus describe Himself?

*Suggested Response: Jesus said He is the way, the truth, and the life, and no one comes to the Father except through Him. He also said knowing Him*

*means knowing the Father and seeing Him means seeing the Father. The passage links access to the Father directly to relationship with Jesus.*

### **INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?**

Interpretation Exercise 1: How does trust help?

Based on John 14:1, why did Jesus connect trust in Him with calming troubled hearts?

*Suggested Response: Jesus connected troubled hearts with the question of where trust is placed. He presented belief in Him, alongside belief in God, as the stabilizing response to fear and uncertainty. The verse suggests that peace does not come from understanding what will happen next but from trusting who Jesus is.*

Interpretation Exercise 2: Why did Jesus need to depart?

Based on John 14:2-3, what does Jesus's description of His departure reveal about its purpose for the disciples?

*Suggested Response: Jesus's departure is presented as something done for the disciples' benefit rather than their loss. His going prepares a place for them and secures their future with Him. The emphasis on returning and bringing them to Himself shows that His leaving is meant to guarantee ongoing relationship, not separation.*

Interpretation Exercise 3: Knowing and belonging

Based on John 14:4-7, what did Jesus mean when He said He is "the way," and how does that shape what it means to know God?

*Suggested Response: Jesus meant that access to the Father comes through relationship with Him, not through a path, system, or set of teachings. Knowing God is inseparable from knowing Jesus because He fully reveals the Father. The passage teaches that apart from Jesus, true knowledge of God is not possible.*

## APPLICATION: HOW DO I RESPOND?

Question 1: Which of Jesus's words in John 14:1-7 felt most personal or relevant to where you are right now?

*Suggested Response: Responses will vary. Encourage participants to name specific words, phrases, or moments in the conversation that caught their attention. Use follow-up questions to invite deeper reflection rather than quick answers.*

Question 2: Jesus told His disciples not to let their hearts be troubled, and then immediately called them to trust Him. Where do you notice troubled thoughts or restlessness shaping your decisions right now?

*Suggested Response: Some may point to uncertainty about the future, strained relationships, or unresolved fears. Others may recognize a general sense of anxiety that influences how they plan, protect themselves, or relate to God. This question helps reveal where trust feels hardest.*

Question 3: Jesus said no one comes to the Father except through Him. Where are you most tempted to look for guidance, security, or meaning apart from Him?

*Suggested Response: Common answers may include relying on personal control, past experience, success, or the approval of others. This question invites honest recognition of the ways we try to find direction without depending fully on Jesus as the way to God.*

Question 4: Jesus linked knowing Him with knowing the Father. What does it look like to know about God without really knowing Him?

*Suggested Response: Some may recognize patterns of religious familiarity without relational closeness. Others may notice how easily information about God can replace dependence on Him. The goal is not to create guilt but to name the difference between knowledge and relationship.*

Question 5: If trusting Jesus as the way means releasing the need to manage access to God on your own, what is one small step of trust you could practice this week? How could our group walk with you in that?

*Suggested Response: Examples might include surrendering a specific fear, resisting the urge to self-direct, or turning to Jesus in prayer instead of immediately seeking control or answers. Group support could include prayer, follow-up conversations, or simply holding that step together with grace and honesty.*