

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6

2. The Way The Truth and The Life

*Without Context.

John 14:6 Matthew 4 Matthew 3 John 14:5 Deuteronomy 30:11-20

RECAP & DISCUSSION STARTERS:

John 14:6 - The Way The Truth and The Life

John 14:6, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" is often misunderstood about Jesus trying to keep people out of what they perceive to be heaven (our own personal pleasure factory). Instead, Jesus is trying to reframe our understanding of how we approach God from ritual and sacrifice to Jesus' sacrifice for us. When Jesus claimed to BE these three things, He was making a revolutionary statement that relationship with God now comes through Him personally, not through law-keeping. Heaven isn't a "pleasure factory" but rather restored relationship with God, and while Jesus's exclusivity offends modern culture, it's actually inclusive - anyone can come to the Father through Christ, whereas previously only the high priest could enter God's direct presence.

- How might our modern cultural assumptions prevent us from understanding what Jesus was teaching? Are there other beliefs or practices that are misinterpreted today?
- What is the difference between communicating at someone versus communicating with someone? When have you experienced each approach?
- How does viewing a relationship with God, rather than personal satisfaction, as the ultimate goal change how we live day-today?
- What "laws" or systems do we rely on today to feel acceptable, successful, or worthy to God, others, or ourselves? What would it mean to shift from performance-based acceptance to relationship-based acceptance?
- Our culture has cartoon-like misconceptions about heaven (harps, clouds, eternal singing). What other important concepts might we have oversimplified or misunderstood? How do these misconceptions affect our decisions and relationships?
- What do you feel has kept you from "coming home" to God? What would it look like to "come home" today?