



WEEK 5

## I Am the Way the Truth and the Life

*John 13:36-38; John 14:1-7*

### OPEN

This is our fifth week of our series called “I Am” where we have been exploring the 7 “I Am” statements of Jesus throughout the gospel of John. John’s gospel is focused on introducing the *person* and *purpose* of Jesus which he does through these “I Am” statements. Each statement not only reveals the true identity of Jesus, but also serves as an invitation to respond to the type of relationship that Jesus the “I Am” offers each of us. So far we have learned how Jesus is the *bread* of life, the *light* of the world, the *good shepherd*, and the *gate for his sheep*. This week we will learn how Jesus is the **way, the truth and the life**. As Jesus prepares to fulfill his ultimate purpose he explains that the way to the Father is the way of the cross. This is not a path but a person; Jesus himself.

### READ

- **Read John 13:31-31** *CONTEXT: The first half of John focuses on Jesus’ life where the second half here focuses on his coming death. With the cross ahead Jesus begins to prepare his disciples.*
  - This section begins a lengthy farewell between Jesus and his disciples before he goes to the cross. What does this intimate moment teach you about Jesus words of comfort and concern for his friends before he leaves them?

One of Jesus’ final commands is to “love one another” as *he has* loved them. Jesus has just defined love through foot washing (13:4-17) a picture of *servanthood* and *sacrifice* something he is about to do again on the cross.

- How is Jesus’ call to love others different from the worldly view of love?
- **Read John 14:1-7**
  - Although Jesus is “leaving” what hope does he give his disciples?

### REFLECT

- In 13:36-38 Peter has a lot of passion but later fails to put that passion into action and walks away from Jesus (John 18). Andy Stanley explains that it is **“direction not intention that determines our destination”**. How can good intentions alone fail us in our faith? How can we turn intentions into direction?
- In 14:1 Jesus instills comfort and courage with the words **“do not let your hearts be troubled”**. When have you experienced comfort from Jesus when facing difficult trials? Where do you need to experience those words in your life today?
- Jesus makes the central “I Am” statement of John’s gospel in 14:6 saying, **“I am the way, the truth and the life, no one comes to the father except through me.”** Jesus is the way because he is the true representation of God that leads to true life with God. This statement reveals that instead of a literal pathway or place, Jesus has been describing a PERSON. There is a mutuality between 14:6 and 6:44,65. The way to the Father is through the Son but the way to the Son is by being drawn by the Father.
  - How do we guard against treating the way as a “program” (religious activity) instead of a person; Jesus Christ?
  - How has the Father drawn you to his Son? When was the love of Christ made clear to you? How did you respond?

### APPLY/PRAY

- Jesus shows great care by comforting his followers before his death. What area of your life do you need to experience the comforting words and presence of Jesus today? Share this and pray for each other.
- Peter had a lot a passion but failed to put that into action. Where do you need to turn your good intentions into a direction of following the way; Jesus? Share this and make this a point of prayer and encouragement for each other over the next several weeks.
- Heaven is more than a destination. Jesus went to the cross to be **the way** for people to dwell with God. Read Rev 21:1-5. How does this image of the presence of God with his people encourage you? How do you need to encounter the presence of God today?

