

John 14 Study Guide

JESUS IS THE WAY

John 14:1-31

Key Verse: 14:6

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

As this chapter opens, Jesus' disciples are troubled. Why? It was because Jesus was leaving them. They felt like orphans, their future was uncertain, and they had no direction. At the same time, their false hope, which was in an earthly messianic kingdom, was exposed. They were confused, anxious, insecure, fearful and empty. These are the problems of all human beings who lack faith and trust in Jesus. In this passage Jesus gives us clear answers to all these problems, saying, "I am the way and the truth and the life."

First, Believe in Jesus the Way (1-14).

Jesus knew his disciples' spiritual condition and comforted them. In verse 1, Jesus planted faith and trust in God, and in Jesus himself. The root of their anxiety was a lack of trust in God. Jesus wanted them to believe in God and in him in any situation. In verse 2, Jesus' words, "My Father's house has many rooms" implies that God cherishes each of them and has prepared a special place for each of them to dwell with him forever. This can be a true hope regardless of the problems they faced in the world. Worldly hopes are perishing, spoiling and fading away; they cannot give true security. Jesus was going to the Father's house to prepare a place for them. Jesus promised to come back and take them to be with him forever (3).

When Jesus said, “You know the way,” Thomas raised the question, “We don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” (4-5) In verse 6, Jesus answers, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” Jesus teaches us that our ultimate destination is the Father. These days, like Jesus’ disciples, many people wonder where they are going and how to get there. They are confused by many humanistic and relativistic ideas. Jesus declares that he is the only way to the Father because he came from God and went back to God. Jesus is the only Mediator between God and us through his death and resurrection.

What is the truth? That is the question of many people today. The truth is not simply a set of theoretical or philosophical ideas and principles; the truth is Jesus himself. Jesus is God. Knowing the truth is knowing God. Jesus is the life—the source and giver of eternal life.

Jesus claimed that the disciples had seen the Father because they had seen him (7). Then Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us” (8). Many people think that believing without seeing seems to be foolish, unreasonable and unscientific, like believing in fairy tales. They expect that some great miracles will happen to them in a dramatic, dynamic way. Even though Philip had been with Jesus for a long time, he did not recognize God the Father in Jesus. Like Philip, many people want to see God with their eyes without believing in Jesus as God. Jesus planted faith in Philip by saying, “Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father” (9). Then Jesus explained the basis for believing that Jesus and the Father are one. The first evidence is the words that Jesus had spoken (10). The second evidence is the works that Jesus had done (11). Jesus’ purpose in performing miraculous signs was to plant faith in his disciples that he is the Son of God (20:30-31). Then Jesus promised that whoever believes in him will do even greater things than Jesus did (12). These greater works can be done only by prayer in Jesus’ name (13-14).

Second, The Holy Spirit dwells in those who love and obey Jesus (15-31).

As Jesus had been with his disciples, he promised that the Holy Spirit would be with them and in them (15-18). The Holy Spirit dwells in those who love and obey Jesus (15-16,21,23). However, the world could not accept the Holy Spirit (17b). Jesus called the Holy Spirit “another advocate” (16, the presence of Christ). When the Holy Spirit dwells within them they would know that Jesus is in the Father, they are in Jesus, and Jesus is in them (19-20). The Holy Spirit would bind them all together in love as they obeyed Jesus’ commands (21). The one who loves Jesus will be loved by the Father and Jesus.

Judas (not Judas Iscariot) asked, “Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?” (22) Judas’ question suggests that he wanted Jesus to show himself to the world and become successful and famous. Here “the world” refers to the realm under the devil’s reign (30). This world is hostile toward God and Jesus. In his wisdom, God reveals himself only to those who love and obey him. The Father loves anyone who loves Jesus and obeys his teaching (23).

Jesus realized that his disciples did not fully understand his teaching. So he promised that the Father would send the Holy Spirit in Jesus’ name to teach them all things, and to remind them of everything Jesus had taught them (25-26). Jesus gave his peace to his troubled disciples (27). Before he died on the cross, Jesus planted faith in them that all he did was done out of love for God, and was exactly what God the Father had commanded him to do. Jesus’ death on the cross was not a failure but ultimate victory over Satan (28-31). Jesus is the way and the truth and the life.