



## Jesus said "I AM the Way, the Truth and the Life"

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**Sunday 6th April 2014**

**BIBLE READING:** John 14: 1 - 31

**INTRODUCTION:** Working backwards through John!

### **EMPATHISE WITH THE DISCIPLES!**

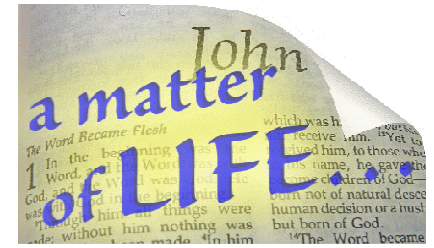
#### **Four Shocks from Jesus** *(from last week)*

1. I have come to serve (in the most menial way), so must you.
2. One of you will betray me
3. I am leaving you soon and you can't come with me.
4. Peter, you will deny even knowing me.

#### **Four Encouragements from Jesus**

1. I am going to prepare a place for you.
2. You can ask whatever you want in my name, and I will do it.
3. My Father will send you the Holy Spirit as a Counsellor who will teach you and remind you of my words.
4. I am leaving you with a gift - peace of mind and heart.

**I AM**  
What's Jesus really saying?



**THE WAY**  
Where to?

**THE TRUTH**  
Truth is so elusive? Can we really trust Jesus?

**THE LIFE**  
What kind of life is this?

## SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

### In a family, small group or community

These notes are to help you as a family, community or small group unpack the Sunday teaching. It's a bit unrealistic for a small group to do everything - **so feel free to be selective!**

## PERSONAL EXPERIENCES

Think of any occasions when you have had something really exciting and important to tell (or ask) someone, or some people (family, friends, colleagues..) How did you do it? What did you do to make it memorable or more effective?

Thinking about telling people important things... what about news that is difficult to tell? Can you share any experiences when you have had to do this - what has worked well, what have you learnt, what would you want to improve on; or do you think it doesn't really matter- you just tell it as it is and hang the consequences?!

## DISCUSSION TOPICS

1. People often say things like, "all religions lead to God". What do you think, and what would you say, in the light of Jesus' words, "I AM the way, the truth and the life, no-one comes to the Father except through me."
2. What are some of the ways that have convinced you that Jesus is the Truth? Be as specific as possible.
3. "Life is a Journey". If so then how is Jesus "The Way"?
4. What do you think are the "greater works" that Jesus' disciples (us too) are going to do, according to Jesus in John 14. 12? Are we missing something and if so what? If you think so, try and find your answers from the words of Jesus in John 14 rather than from speculation and things you've heard people/preachers say!

5. What is "peace of mind and heart"? Think about your experiences of both peace and a lack of peace. Have you received this gift of peace and if so, how?

## PRAYER

- Pray for opportunities to share your story.
- Pray for your friends, family and colleagues to come to know that Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Pray by name.
- Pray for our church to experience more of the "greater works" that Jesus referred to.
- Pray for one another to experience God's peace

## YOUR TESTIMONY

If you get involved in a debate about faith, e.g. whether all religions lead to God, who Jesus was, whether there is a God or not... we can easily get caught up in trying to prove our point and argue the facts. Good questions deserve thoughtful answers but arguing can become counter-productive. It's often better to share your story. Nobody can argue with your personal experience.

You will share it better if you've thought about it carefully in advance and know it well. You'll want to avoid religious language (saved, repent, sin etc). It's helpful to structure it around "Before, How, Since". If, like me, you became a Christian at a very young age, that may not work for you! You may be able to share times when you went away from God and how Jesus has made a difference since you started trusting Him again, or how He helped you in some very difficult life experience.

So, try preparing your testimony. There is some really helpful advice here:

<http://christianity.about.com/od/testimonies/a/howtotestimony.htm>