

I AM THE WAY AND THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE: John 14: 1-14. Leader's sheet

Reminder of the 5 I AM sayings we have already looked at. How many can you remember?

The Bread of Life
The Light of the world
The gate
The good shepherd
The resurrection and the life

Today '*I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*'

Going to try to learn a bit about that verse together and then break up into two groups before we come back together.

Do you remember who wrote the Gospel the I AM sayings are recorded in?

- Today's I AM saying comes towards the end of John's book. It is the day before Jesus will die on the cross. It is near to the end of his time with the disciples when he will go back to his Father in Heaven and the disciples are concerned about that.

Have you ever been separated from your mum and dad and been worried about it? Do you remember your first day at pre-school? Why do you think little children cry when they are left off?

- When Jesus tells the disciples he is going away, they are a bit like the children at pre-school. They have learnt that life is found with Jesus – he is the Bread of Life, he is the Gate to fullness of life, he is Light. They don't want to be separated from him.
- Jesus tells them not to worry because they will come and join him in Heaven with his Father. They will have fullness of life forevermore just like he promised.
- But Thomas is still worried – just like the child visiting friend or relatives who will later bring him home, Thomas calls out: 'We don't know how to get there – we'll get lost!'
- Jesus says '*I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*'

Game. Follow the instructions to find the prize – blindfold a volunteer follow instructions. Two people at the front, one giving correct instructions the other one giving false ones. Will you follow the right voice and win a biscuit?

Variation. Have lots of voices. Can you pick out the right one from many?

Summing Up

Some people tell us that there are lots of way to find God, but that's not true. When you were given the wrong instructions and went the wrong way, you couldn't find your prize. When you had the true instructions and went the right way, you could find the prize. Jesus tells us that it's just like that. There is only one way to God and the way to God is through him. If we come to Jesus, we find God and he will bring us to his Father's home in Heaven.

Read John 14: 1 – 14 and count how many times Jesus mentions the Father in these verses.

- The answer to feeling troubled is to know that they have a Father who cares for them.
- That's the same for us. We might be troubled about all sorts of things, but the thing that will comfort us is to know that we have a heavenly Father and that He is with us now and that we will have eternal life in his home. This is the true life that we have been learning about through all the I AM sayings.
- Therefore: nothing is more important that to find out how to come to this Father.

I think the disciples understood this was important, but still didn't quite get it, so they want some more detail. Which disciples ask questions? What are their concerns?

- Thomas: We don't know where you are going and don't know the way.
- Philip: Show us the Father.

What is the answer to Thomas's concern? (Get them to repeat it a couple of times.)

If you had to answer Thomas's question in one word, what would it be? (Jesus)

- One way sign: Jesus is the way to the God the Father – the only way our sins can be dealt with so that we can come to God is through Jesus and his death on the cross. Thomas didn't need to worry. There was only one way to God and he knew it because he knew Jesus.
- Bible: Jesus is the truth of the God the Father – not just that he is true; he is The Truth; he is the reason the world exists and he is what all the Old Testament pointed forward to; nothing makes any sense without him.
- Fellowship: When two or three gather together in my name, I will be in the midst of them. Jesus will be with us now. He hears us/knows us when we are alone, but there is something very special about being with other Christians and praying, laughing, talking together, encouraging each other. (Matthew 18:20)
- Cross/empty tomb: Jesus is the life that God the Father gives – he has been with the Father from all eternity. He brings the life of the Father to us, and because he has risen from the dead, he is able to offer us eternal life with him.
- Just as we said earlier, there is only one way to know God. People like to think there are lots of ways, but God is so much greater than us, the only way we can to come to him is in the way he tells us to. That's through Jesus.

Philip's concern was, 'Show us the Father.' What do you think he meant? What was the answer?

- The answer is the same as to Thomas, isn't it? It's Jesus.
- Jesus speaks the Father's words and does the Father's works, so if they see and know Jesus, they see and know the Father. The reason Jesus came to earth was to introduce us to the Father. He wants to take you by the hand and introduce you to God (e.g. to meet the Queen, you'd need an introduction.) But this isn't a one-off, so that you can say you met someone famous. He wants to introduce you so that you can live in his Father's house forever.

Recap: why did the disciples not need to be troubled?

- They had a heavenly Father who loved them. Jesus would take them to him.
- The disciples didn't need to be troubled. But Jesus was going to be troubled the next day. He was going to die on the cross and carry all their sin. Because Jesus was going to be troubled, the disciples didn't need to be troubled and we don't need to be. Because of Jesus, we can know God and know the promise of being with him forever.

Where is Jesus today?

- With his Father in Heaven.

How do you get there too?

- Through Jesus.

John 14:1-14 Student sheet

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. ²My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴You know the way to the place where I am going.'

⁵ Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?'

⁶ Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.'

⁸ Philip said, 'Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.'

⁹ Jesus answered: 'Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? ¹⁰Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. ¹¹Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. ¹²Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.'

Count how many times Jesus mentions the Father in these verses. _____

The troubled disciples need to know that they have a Father who cares for them. We might be troubled about all sorts of things too. We can have the comfort of knowing that we have a heavenly Father and that we will have eternal life in his home. Nothing is more important than to find out how to come to the Father.

Why are the disciples troubled?

Which disciples challenge Jesus for more information? What are their concerns?

-
-

What is the answer to first question?

- Jesus is the _____ to the God the Father.
- Jesus is the _____ of the God the Father.
- Jesus is the _____ that God the Father gives.

How could you answer both of the disciples' questions in one word? _____

Fill in the blanks.

Recap: why did the disciples not need to be troubled?

Where is Jesus today?

How do you get there too?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, we believe that you and the Father are one. You are in heaven with the Father right now, preparing a place for your people. Thank you that you died on the cross to take away my sin and introduce me to the Father. Help me to follow the only way and the only truth so that I can enjoy life with you in heaven forever. Amen