

# SEEING JESUS IN JOHN

## WEEK THIRTY: JESUS IS THE WAY TO THE FATHER

### READING

6 Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. 7 If you had really known me, you would know who my Father is. From now on, you do know him and have seen him!” 8 Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” 9 Jesus replied, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don’t know who I am? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father! So why are you asking me to show him to you? 10 Don’t you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I speak are not my own, but my Father who lives in me does his work through me. 11 Just believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Or at least believe because of the work you have seen me do. John 14 (NLT)

### TEACHING

This passage contains one of the most important claims Jesus made about himself. People go through life looking for the way, the truth and the life. Everyone wants to find the way into the good life, the way into happiness, the way into the inner circle. Jesus teaches us here that all our searching for “the way” is rooted in our desire to know and be with the Father – to have a relationship with God. And Jesus is the way to the Father. What does that mean?

- 1) It means there is no other way. It’s offensive to many people that Jesus would claim to be the only way to God and the only way to know real truth and experience real life. But Jesus makes this claim and backs it up with the beauty of his life, the miracle of his resurrection, and the impact he has had on countless people across many cultures and through many years.
- 2) It means we can’t make our own way. We would love to make our own way because then we wouldn’t owe anyone else. We could just pat ourselves on the back and receive all the glory. But you and I cannot make ourselves right before a holy God because we are sinful and broken by nature. Our only hope is for someone else to pay the price for our sin and give us his perfect goodness. That person is Jesus!
- 3) It means that what Jesus did is enough. We can trust in Jesus and we can be called children of God because of what Jesus accomplished with his life, death, burial and resurrection. The only way to be with God forever is to receive, rest in, and rejoice in Jesus’ work. It is enough!!

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## RESPONSE

### OPENING QUESTION(S):

- Have you ever got lost trying to find your way to somewhere? What happened?

### TODDLERS/PRE-K:

- Who claimed to be the way, the truth, and the life?
- Did Jesus do enough for us to have a relationship with God? Why or why not?

### CHILDREN:

- Jesus claimed to be three things – what were they?
- Why can't we make our own way to God?
- What does it mean that Jesus is the way to the Father?

### TEENAGERS:

- What are some ways people try to find their own way or define their own truth?
- Why can't we make our own way to God?
- Jesus' work is enough – what does that mean to you?

### ADULTS:

- How would you explain to someone else that Jesus' work is enough?
- What is one area of your life where you are still tempted to make your own way?

## PRAYER

*God, thank you so much for sending Jesus to be the way, the truth and the life. Help me to look to him as the only way to know you and to be with you. Keep me from chasing other ways and forgive me of trying to make my own way. Help me to see that in Jesus is perfect truth and that in Jesus is forever life. Thank you, Jesus! Give me the courage and kindness to share with others about Jesus being their only hope. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

## NEXT LEVEL (ADDITIONAL OPTIONAL TEACHING)

In this text, Jesus is frustrated with his disciples' inability to understand his relationship with the Father. The unity between Jesus and the Father is a beautiful glimpse of how the Trinity functions. God is three distinct persons, but still one. Jesus said – if you've seen me then you've seen the Father. Jesus said he only spoke the words that Father spoke. Jesus and the Father are so unified that they are "in" each other. This is the type of relationship Jesus invites us to. When we are united to Christ in faith, we enter into this amazing relationship with not just the Son, but also with the Father and with the Spirit. Take a moment and thank the Godhead for inviting you to join in on their perfect and loving relationships.