



## Gospel Community Notes & Questions

**Title:** The Way

**Text:** John 13:36 – 14:6

**Theme:** The only way home to the Father is not through our performance for God, but through Jesus' performance for us.

**Teaching Notes:** Peter wants to follow Jesus wherever he goes. And he's confident he has what it takes to lay down his life for Jesus. (Spoiler alert: he doesn't.) Thomas speaks for all the disciples, admitting he doesn't know where Jesus is going or how to get there. Religion tries to answer this question and bridge this gap by telling you the way to God is through your performance. Jesus claims he *is* the way – and the *only* way back to the Father.

**Outline:**

### 1. A failed performance. (13:36-38)

- a. Peter lacked understanding.
- b. Peter was distressed.
- c. Peter reacted with self-confidence.

### 2. A fake path. (14:4-5)

- Religion says being a good person, an obeyer of the rules, is the way.
- Jesus says "I AM the Way."
- KEY: Religion says you're saved by a what you do and how you do it. The Gospel says you're saved by a who – by Jesus.

### 3. A faithful provider. (14:1-3, 6)

- a. Jesus is the Way, providing reconciliation.
- b. Jesus is the Truth, providing revelation.
- c. Jesus is the Life, providing regeneration.



**Questions to explore individually and with your group:**

1. Why did none of the disciples understand where Jesus was going? What are some of the potential things that blinded them to this reality? What do you miss from the Word of God for similar reasons?
2. Think of a time you didn't understand what God was doing (in general, in a difficult situation in your life, etc.) and you were stressed and anxious about it. How did you handle that situation? What do you instinctively rely on in situations like that?
3. In general, nearly all religions are trying to get you "home" to God/god/gods. How do they tend to portray the way/path to get there? (Maybe different ones of you could share from the perspective of a religion you're familiar with.)
4. In a false religion, describe the person who ultimately gets to heaven. What did he/she do, think, believe, or practice to get that reward?
5. How is the message of the Gospel different from #3 and #4?
6. If Jesus IS the Way, that means the path to God and heaven is a WHO, not a WHAT or a HOW. What difference does this make?
7. Jesus doesn't just arbitrate between competing truth claims; he IS the Truth. How should that shape the way you evaluate truth, and people's opinions about what is true, in everyday life?
8. Eternal, abundant life isn't the reward for your performance "down here." If Jesus IS the Life, what does that imply about how this new life is received?
9. Do you ever get so busy living the WHAT and the HOW of the Christian life that you lose the plot of the whole story? What is the plot? And how would keeping the plot in mind help you live more abundantly tomorrow?
10. What one actionable thing will you do this week in response to this Scripture?

**Prayer Prompts:**

1. Praise Jesus for being the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Thank him for being the provider of reconciliation, revelation, and regeneration.
2. Confess where you've created your own path based on your performance (like Peter) or have followed the legalistic path of human religion.
3. Ask God to continue to show you the plot of The Redemptive Story and to enable you to live amidst its arc of restored fellowship with God.