

Family Group Midweek Lessons

July 31, 2013



July 31

I AM: The way, truth, and life

This Family Group Bible-Talk is intended to supplement the July 28th sermon at the MSPCOC. Although having attended or listened to that lesson is helpful, it is not required to take part in the following discussion.

Opening Activity:

- Split into groups of 2-3 and take about five minutes to brainstorm and answer the following question:*
 - *How many titles, names, and descriptive phrases can you think of for Jesus?*
 - *Have each group add up the number of items they came up with and see who got the most. Ask the winning group to share their list and then ask the other groups to share a few that they might have had that weren't on the winning group's list*
- *We can come up with many descriptive terms for Jesus and it is important to dwell on how incredible and amazing he is, but it is even more important to spend time contemplating the terms that he applied to himself. Today we will continue our series of looking at the seven "I am" statements that Jesus made in the book of John. We will look at the last three today.*

The Life and Resurrection

Read: John 11:21-27

Group Questions:

- According to verse 21, why was Martha upset with Jesus?
- Why were Jesus' words in verse 23 not comforting to Martha?
- Verse 24 reflects the common Jewish belief that one day God's Messiah would come and usher in the age to come when God's presence would return, the pagan nations, sin and evil would all be dealt with once-and-for-all, and all righteous people would be resurrected
- Given the common belief at the time that the resurrection would take place for all in the age to come, what was so revolutionary about Jesus' words in verses 25-26?

- Why is it so important to understand that Jesus is the only gate into the resurrection and the only gate into the life of the age to come?

The Way, Truth, and Life

Read: John 14:1-6

Group Questions:

- *Jesus was comforting his disciples before his death. In verses 1-3 he apparently uses imagery from a Jewish betrothal and wedding when a young man would go to his father's property and begin to prepare a room for he and his bride so that when the work was done he could come back, marry her, and take her to live with him as part of the father's family. His point was that at the cross, Jesus was going to prepare a place for all disciples in God's family and he was going to prepare entrance for them into the age to come so that they could go where he was going, the Father's presence and the resurrection.*
- Why would Jesus say that he is the way?
- Why would Jesus say that he is the truth?
- Why would Jesus say that he is the life?
- The life of Christ is indeed the path into the age to come, why is it so important to strive to consistently embrace and live that life now (1 Tim. 6:12)?

The True Vine

Read: John 15:1, 5, 9-13, 17

Group Questions:

- *In the Old Testament, Israel was God's vine (Isa. 5, etc.) and the constant question was were they bearing the fruit of keeping the Covenant with God.*
- What does Jesus mean, then, when he says that he is the "true" vine?
- According to John 15:9-13 what must we do to remain in Christ and allow him to keep the Covenant with the Father for us?
- Why do you think it is true that loving others sacrificially completes the commands of obeying Christ?

Final Thought:

- Find at least one new person this week that you can start a conversation with and discuss these terms that Jesus applied to himself. Ask what their thoughts are about them (the way, the truth, and the life might prove particularly interesting). See if they are interested in studying the Bible and learning more about Jesus and following him.



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