

HIS NAME IS WONDERFUL

STUDY TEN

The Way, the Truth, the Life

John 14:1–6

There is nothing like the fear of being lost—of not knowing the way home. You need something to relieve that fear. You need Jesus Christ. He is the way, the truth, the life. If you have Him, you're never lost. Isn't that a wonderful thought? It's a wonderful relief to troubled hearts.

—Pastor Charles R. Swindoll

NAVIGATING life often feels like wandering through a forest at night. Unknown dangers crouch in the darkness, waiting to attack you when you least suspect. Obstacles hide along your path, causing you to trip and fall. Even when you manage to avoid these threats, you occasionally take a few wrong turns that leave you more lost, more afraid, and more troubled than ever.

Whether you're trekking through the woods or living in this world, you need a map and compass to provide direction to a destination and a light to illuminate the path. Better still, you need a *guide*, a faithful companion who helps you avoid the snares of this world and leads you safely home.

Thankfully, God has provided such a guide in Jesus, the One who leads wandering souls to God and to eternal life. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life who alone can put lost and troubled hearts at ease.



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INSIGHT FOR LIVING
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Committed to Excellence in Communicating Biblical Truth and Its Application

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John 14:1–6



PREPARE YOUR HEART

While Jesus is *the* way to true life, God has given humanity Scripture as the primary way to get to know Him better. As you approach God in prayer today, use the words of *Psalm 119:105* to ask Him to guide you in your study.

*Your word is a lamp to guide my feet
and a light for my path.*



TURN TO THE SCRIPTURES

Though God revealed His name as *Yahweh* to Israel, His people have held Him in such reverence that they historically have chosen to worship Him using an alternative name: *Jehovah*. This name is often used today to highlight His various attributes.

Jehovah-Shalom means, “The LORD is peace” (*Judges 6:24*). *Jehovah-Rapha* means, “The LORD who heals” (*Exodus 15:26*). *Jehovah-Jireh* means, “The LORD will provide” (*Genesis 22:14*).

God does indeed provide for the physical needs of His people, but He also meets their deepest spiritual need—the need for Jesus to guide them to salvation. And in *John 14:1–6*, Jesus explained to His disciples how God the Father provides new, everlasting life.



Observation: Beginning the Journey

As you read *John 14:1–6*, carefully pay attention to Jesus’ words. Observation is the first step in the journey of arriving at a sound understanding of Scripture. For now, just focus on what the passage says.¹

What exhortation did Jesus offer His disciples at the beginning of this conversation (14:1)?



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Jesus had just warned His dearest friends of His coming demise (see *John 13:33*). So why would they *not* be troubled? They had given up everything to follow this modest carpenter-turned-teacher, and now He was going to die and leave them behind. Yet the disciples didn't realize that Jesus' departure was *good* news for them.

According to *14:2–3*, why did Jesus need to leave them?

Jesus' words reflect a rare glimpse of heaven. Though many envision spending eternity in vast mansions, Jesus depicts a more modest reality. These spaces He prepares are better seen as dwelling places near the temple. By using this image, Jesus affirmed that His believers will live eternally in the very presence of God. What a glorious reality awaits those who follow Jesus!

According to *14:5*, what question did Thomas ask in response to Jesus' alarming words?



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Thomas may have been thinking Jesus would give him a list of religious duties that he could do to earn his way to heaven. Jesus' answer must have surprised Thomas along with the rest of the disciples. How did Jesus answer the question in *John 14:6*? What did He say was the true destination?

“I am the life.” Life is the principle of spiritual vitality. It originates with God. It flows through Christ. And it lifts us out of our sin and places us on a plane of relationship.
—Pastor Chuck Swindoll



Interpretation: Following the Path

In just a few sentences, Jesus packed volumes of theological truth. Interpretation moves from asking what Jesus *said* to considering what His words *mean* for all peoples in all times.

This passage contains one of Jesus' seven “I am” statements in John's gospel. Upon hearing these two little words, Jesus' Jewish listeners' ears would have perked up. By saying, “I am,” Jesus did much more than speak in vivid metaphors. He identified Himself as God incarnate. This is because God's name is derived from a Hebrew expression meaning, “I AM” (*Exodus 3:14–15*).

What is the connection between Jesus' divine identity and His role as the way, the truth, and the life? In other words, what does Jesus accomplish that only God can do?



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The respective Greek words for “way,” “truth,” and “life” are *hodos*, *aletheia*, and *zoe*. Using your Bible study tools, look up each of these terms. Check out the free dictionary on Bill Mounce’s [website](#) to find the meaning of Greek words. Another good resource is [Constable’s Notes](#) at [netbible.org](#).

In the space below, summarize what you learned about each of these terms. How does understanding these three ideas together help you understand the fuller meaning of Jesus’ words?

Many people struggle with Jesus being the *only* way to God. Some see this as exclusive—even intolerant, preferring to believe that many “paths” lead to the same “destination” of salvation. But the issue isn’t about *what* religion to follow. It’s about *whom* to trust. The truth this passage teaches is in fact exclusive because there is only one Jesus. Those who do not trust in Him will be excluded from the blessings of new and everlasting life.

How would you respond to someone who sees the exclusivity of Christianity strictly as *bad* news? How would you use this passage to show that Jesus’ words are *good* news? Remember, Jesus began this discussion saying, “Don’t let your hearts be troubled” ([John 14:1](#))!

Education isn’t the secret to finding “the truth.” Rather, it is faith in the Lord Jesus Christ—the way, the truth, the life. “The search ends with Me.” Jesus is at one and the same time the incarnation of fidelity, the revelation of reality. He is the pattern of goodness and perfection. Stop searching when you come to Him. You’ve found “the truth.”

—Pastor Chuck Swindoll



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Correlation: Finding Wisdom for the Way

The book of Proverbs overflows with wisdom that is valuable for anyone. And when Christians engage with Proverbs, they see how wisdom is exemplified in the person of Christ. As you read each of the following proverbs, consider how they contribute to your understanding of Jesus as the way, the truth, and the life.

What does *Proverbs 14:12* teach about the way? What does this proverb reveal about Jesus?

What does *Proverbs 23:23* teach about the truth? What does this proverb reveal about Jesus?

What does *12:28* teach about the life? (This proverb teaches about the way too!) What does this proverb reveal about Jesus?



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Proverbs offers two paths: the path of the foolish and the path of the wise. The fool hears Jesus say, “I am the way, the truth, and the life,” and scoffs. The wise person, however, listens to these words and abandons everything to follow Jesus down the road of new life, of everlasting life, of true life.

Application: Reaching the Destination

Many spend decades journeying down dead-end paths in search of life, yet Jesus is the only way anyone can obtain true life. Based on this truth, Pastor Chuck has three profound and practical applications:

1. Because Jesus is the way, He relieves my fear of being lost.
2. Because Jesus is the truth, He removes my need to continue the search.
3. Because Jesus is the life, He reinforces my hope for a home in heaven.

Have you ever veered away from Jesus and wandered down a path that falsely promised feelings like satisfaction, belonging, happiness, or purpose? What was the ultimate destination of that path? How did Jesus find you and set you back in the right direction?

What lies do the nonbelievers in your cultural context believe? In what way is the truth Jesus offers superior to these lies?



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How does knowing that Jesus promised His believers an eternal dwelling place with Him encourage you right now? What is the benefit of viewing your temporary circumstances through this eternal lens?

Jesus Christ came to humanity working like an expedition guide, leading His people on a journey from earth to heaven. Though the road appears dark and dangerous, Jesus is with you to guide your steps, to pick you up when you fall, and to welcome you into the Father's presence with open arms when you finally reach your destination.



A FINAL PRAYER

Father, thank You for Your Son, who found me when I was lost and showed me the way to You. Thank You for guiding me from the path of falsehood and for securing for me an eternal home with You even though I deserve death. Remind me of these things so I might glorify You every step of my journey. I pray these things in Jesus' true name. Amen.

ENDNOTE

1. To learn about Pastor Chuck Swindoll's *Searching the Scriptures* method of Bible study, go to the web page, "[How to Study the Bible for Yourself](#)."

