

Sermon Discussion Guide- Week of April 29, 2018

“Following The Way” Pastor Temple 8:15, 9:30 Pastor Hook 10:55

Getting Started- Life Updates, Prayer Requests & Opening Question (15-20 min)

- Is there anything that came up this past week in regard to the witness or application points from the previous meeting that you would like to share? (I Am the True Vine- The View From the Vineyard, John 15:1-8)
- Are there any joys or concerns that you would like to share with the group for the closing prayer time or for group members to hold in prayer during the week? (please note them below for later)

- Jesus claimed to be “the way, the truth and the life.” Which of these three words seem the most meaningful to you at this time in your life and why?

Review the Sermon (15 min)

Please read aloud the sermon scripture below, John 15:1-8. As you go through the discussion questions, it is ok to skip questions in order to manage the time for discussions in each section.

“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? ³And 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.”

⁵Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus 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.” ⁸Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.”

⁹Jesus 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.

- If you had to give a one-minute summary of the sermon message this week, what would you say?

- Jesus command to not worry, or not let our hearts be troubled in verse 1 is followed by His words about heaven and preparing a room (not a mansion) for His followers. How may His later words support His followers in obeying his earlier command?
- Jesus claimed full identification with God the Father (vs 6-11), and to be the only means of others coming to God the Father (verse 6) and even to be the embodiment of truth itself (verse 6). How do such unique claims leave little room for the belief that Jesus was simply a good human teacher and moral example to follow?
- Pastor Temple said this about Jesus and truth - "He also said that He is the truth, that is the reality of the way things actually are, not just an illusion. You see here is the thing about truth, you can avoid it, you can distort it, you can outright deny it, but in the end what is true is true and you can't change it. The truth however, can change you." How does having a loose relationship with the truth limit our potential knowledge and growth?
- What do you believe Jesus meant when he said he was the life? The giver or source of life before death? Life after death? Both? How do the two relate with and connect with each other?

Another Related Scripture (10 min)

- Would a volunteer please read aloud the following verses at the beginning of the gospel of John- John 1:1-5 and verses 9- 14. In light of these verses which associate Jesus with the Word and the Son, what is the relationship between Jesus and all of life in creation?
- Many times we perceive people to either be full of grace or be truthful, but not both. How can Jesus be both to us (verse 14)?
- Would a volunteer please read aloud, John 1:15-18. Where do you see the ideas from today's sermon scriptures also present in these verses in chapter 1?
- How was Jesus in the unique position to accomplish what the law through Moses was unable to do (verses 17-18)?

Personalizing and Applying The Message (15 min)

- What were points of encouragement or challenge for you personally in the sermon?
- In light of today's scripture, what do you think it means to really be living the good life?
- What challenges are you facing this week that might be troubling your heart?
- How does having the assurance of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, allow you to face them with courage and not fear or unnecessary worry?
- What points of stress are being compounded by trying to control that which is out of your control?
- What might it look like this week to allow Jesus to be your source of life and strength and peace?

Witness & Closing Prayer (5-10 min)

- Jesus said that if we ask anything in His name (or in accordance with his will) he will do it and that greater things are yet to be done (verses 12-14). What great prayers or great works might you attempt in Christ this week?
- The group leader or another volunteer who took notes on the prayer requests shared earlier in the meeting, may now lead the group in closing prayer.