

# I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, THE LIFE

## SMALL GROUP NOTES - 18/03/18

*Olly Knight (Canterbury)*

*Ben Travis (Whitstable)*

### SCRIPTURE

John 14: 1-14

### SCRIPTURE CONTEXT

John 13-16 lets us into the intimate moments between Jesus and his disciples the night before his death. This is a precious time between Jesus and his disciples. They may not know exactly what is around the corner but there must have been a sense that something significant is approaching. There is a gravity to Jesus' words that is troubling to them. He has spoken about one of them betraying him, told them that where he is going they cannot come and told Peter he will deny him. The mood at the start of Ch 14 is clearly pretty sombre. So Jesus sets out to encourage the disciples.

He begins by telling them that there are many rooms in his Father's house and that he is going to prepare a place for them. He encourages them that they know the way. But Thomas is confused. He doesn't know where Jesus is going or the way to get there. Jesus' reply of 'I am the way, and the truth and the life' is one of his most famous pronouncements in scripture. And whilst that statement is packed full of significance, what he goes on to say is arguably even more amazing. He tells Thomas and the other disciples that he is the way to the Father and that if they had known him they would know the Father. Philip asks Jesus to show them the Father. Jesus is seemingly flabbergasted. Who do you think you've seen all this time? 'I am in the Father and the Father is in me' (v10).

### DID YOU KNOW?

Chapters 13-17 in John make up Jesus's farewell discourse with his disciples and takes place in the upper room around the Passover meal.

### QUESTIONS FOR STUDY AND DISCUSSION

1. The disciples' hearts are troubled. What troubles your heart at the moment and what does Jesus say to the disciples and us to encourage us?
2. Read Jesus' words in verse 2-4. What is Jesus communicating through this imagery?
3. Why would Jesus' proclamation to be 'the way, the truth and the life' be controversial in his day? Why is it in ours?
4. What impact does Jesus' resurrection have on his claim in verse 6?

### DIGGING DEEPER

Our anxiety often springs from ultimately not fully believing God. That is why Jesus says 'Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God' (v1). Think about the things you struggle with (e.g. anxiety) and what unbelief about God is at the root of that.

## **RESOURCES FOR FURTHER STUDY / DEVOTION**

*Who is this man?* John Ortberg

*The Jesus I never knew*, Philip Yancey