

DISCUSSION GUIDE

The Aftermath: The 7 'I Am' Statements of Jesus

March 26, 2023

The AFTERMATH: Jesus says, "I AM..."

...the Way the Truth and the Life

For the next several weeks our sermon series will focus on the "I Am" statements Jesus makes in the book of John. This Discussion Guide is designed to help you **think more deeply** about the sermon and **engage with others** through thoughtful conversation, biblical exploration and **allow God to work** in your life as you apply what you discover.

➤ CONVERSATION STARTERS

How have you seen God at work this week?

➤ EXPLORATION

Over the last few weeks we have focused on who Jesus says he is; the Light of the World, The Good Shepherd, The Gate for the Sheep, The Resurrection and the Life. This week the revelation that Jesus makes to his disciples comes after he tells them that he won't be with them much longer. This must have been confusing and upsetting for them since he had not yet done all the things they expected from the "Messiah."

John 14:1-5 (From your bible, read aloud)

Let not your heart be troubled: The disciples had reason to be troubled. Jesus had just told them that one of them was a traitor, that all of them would deny Him, and that He would leave them that night. All of this would legitimately trouble the disciples, yet Jesus told them, let not your heart be troubled.

How do you react when carefully made plans change unexpectedly?

Jesus never promised a life without trouble, but He promised that we could have an untroubled heart even in troubled times.

Thomas responds with honesty and vulnerability when he admits that they don't know what Jesus is talking about.

"...we notice how they [the disciples] speak to him [Jesus] with a natural, easy familiarity; and he talks to them in full sympathy with their weakness, teaching them little by little as they are able to learn. They ask just such questions as a boy might ask of his father. Often they show their ignorance, but never do they seem timid in his presence, or ashamed to let him see how shallow and hard of understanding they are."

~Charles Spurgeon

Do you ever find it hard to be completely honest with Jesus? If so, why?

Are there things that you would tell your best friend that you wouldn't feel comfortable saying to Jesus? If so, why?

John 14:5-7 (From your bible, read aloud)

Jesus didn't say that He would simply show us a way, He said that He **IS** the way. He didn't promise to teach us a truth, He said that he **IS** the truth. Jesus didn't offer us the secrets to life, He said that He **IS** the life. These are radical statements.

This is one of the most controversial claims Jesus ever made. Many people don't mind saying that Jesus is **one** legitimate way to God, but other religions say there are

other ways to God. For many, believing that Jesus is the **only way** is a difficult part of Christianity.

What would you say to someone who believes there are many ways to God?

In a final plea to his young friends, Jesus wants to make clear that there aren't several roads to God, salvation and peace.

Have you ever found yourself looking for answers in the wrong places? And after arriving at that destination you are more hopeless than when you started? This is the aimless plight of humanity that Jesus is rescuing us from.

"Lord... you have made us for yourself and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you."

~Saint Augustine

John 14:8-14 (From your bible, read aloud)

The essence of the Christian faith is to know God personally through the son, Jesus. This is our life's purpose and yet we can get sidetracked by simply doing "Christian" things and miss the point. In John 17:3 we see this plainly stated.

"Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent." John 17:3

This is eternal life. The definition of life is to know God. Jesus gives us access to God and shows us who God is. He is offering himself as the way to know God.

Why do you think this is so difficult for people to accept?

Following Jesus is challenging. There isn't a simple straight line or a clear roadmap to follow. There are unexpected bends and twists along the way. It's important to remember that a bend in the road isn't the end of the road, unless you don't make the turn. Jesus offers to guide us each step of the way.

John 6:66-68 (From your bible, read aloud)

What is a difficult or challenging circumstance you have faced while following Jesus?

How did your relationship with Jesus help you navigate that situation?

We are living in dark and difficult times. There are so many voices trying to tell us how to live the "good life" with promises of ease and comfort. But Jesus is telling us with stunning clarity that he is the **ONLY** way to life! It is not an easy or comfortable life that God is offering, but it is a life filled with hope, peace, joy and love. So what do we need to do in order to receive this abundant life?

Matthew 13:45-46 (From your bible, read aloud)

What might need to change in your life in order for you to seek God with all your heart?

> TAKE AWAY

- Jesus is THE way
- Jesus is THE truth
- Jesus is THE life
- No one comes to the father except through faith in Jesus

These words seem simple, but require a close and intimate relationship with Jesus in order to live out.

Which of these do you need to keep in mind this week?

Pray together that you will experience a deeper connection to Jesus this week.

> SERVE OPPORTUNITY

EASTER at Hillside is a great time for you to bring your family and friends.

- Good Friday Service: 6:30PM
- Saturday Easter Service: 4:00PM
- Sunday Easter Service: 8:30AM, 10AM, 11:30AM

We want to make sure Hillside is a welcoming place for everyone. If you are willing to serve during one or more service, please [SIGN UP HERE](#) or go to Hillsidechurches.com/easter2023 for more information.