# Leader’s Guide

**Living Faithfully**
**Enough**
**John 14:5-14**
**Pastor Ben Pippen**
**November 8, 2026**

## Conversation Goal

To help group members explore what Jesus means when He declares Himself the way, the truth, and the life; honestly consider where they struggle to trust Him without knowing what comes next; and identify how drawing near to Jesus can lead to practical, sometimes costly, obedience and love for others.

## Synopsis

In John 14, Jesus continues comforting His disciples as they face an uncertain future. Thomas wants to know where Jesus is going and how to get there. Philip wants Jesus to show them the Father. Both are looking for something more concrete - directions, answers, or visible reassurance.

But Jesus offers something greater than the information they're seeking: He offers Himself.

Jesus declares, "I am the way and the truth and the life." He isn't merely giving His disciples directions to the Father; He is the way to the Father. Knowing Jesus means knowing the Father, and following Him means trusting His presence even when the path ahead is unclear.

Pastor Ben illustrates this through his family's difficult adoption experience, when following what he believed God was asking of him meant accepting uncertainty, financial cost, and emotional vulnerability. He also shares the story of Dirk Willems, whose commitment to following Jesus led him to rescue an enemy at the cost of his own freedom and ultimately his life.

Both stories illustrate a central challenge of discipleship: It's one thing to believe that Jesus is enough. It's another to live as though He is enough when following Him costs us something.

And as we draw near to Jesus, His presence doesn't simply give us personal comfort. It transforms the way we live and love, enabling us to reach toward others with the same grace He has extended to us.

## Discussion Questions

1. Thomas wanted directions, and Philip wanted visible reassurance. How do their questions reflect the things we often want from Jesus when we're facing uncertainty?

*Teaching Point*

Thomas and Philip aren't necessarily demonstrating a lack of faith. They're trying to understand something that doesn't make sense to them. Thomas wants to know the way forward. Philip wants something tangible that will reassure him.

We often approach Jesus with similar desires. We want clarity about the future, answers to our questions, confirmation that we're making the right decisions, or assurance that things will work out as we hope.

Those desires aren't inherently wrong. But sometimes our desire for answers becomes so strong that we struggle to recognize what Jesus is already offering us: His presence and relationship.

Jesus doesn't dismiss the disciples' questions. Instead, He redirects their attention from what they don't know to the One they do know.

*Follow-Up Prompts*

- Which disciple do you relate to more - Thomas wanting a roadmap or Philip wanting something tangible?
- Why is uncertainty so uncomfortable for us?
- What kinds of answers or reassurances do we most often want from God?
- When can our desire for clarity become a desire for control?
- How can we bring our questions honestly to Jesus without making answers a condition of trusting Him?
- Is there a situation in your life where you're waiting for clarity before taking another step?

*Additional Scripture*

- Psalm 25:4–5  Asking God to teach us His ways.
- Proverbs 3:5–6  Trusting God rather than our own understanding.
- James 1:5  Asking God for wisdom.
- Psalm 119:105 God's Word as a lamp for our feet.

2. Ben said that Jesus doesn't give Thomas a map. He offers him a relationship. What does it mean to trust Jesus Himself rather than depending on knowing where He's leading us?

*Teaching Point*

Jesus doesn't say, "I'll show you the way." He says, "I am the way." He doesn't simply provide truth about God. He is the truth, the One who reveals the Father.

And He doesn't merely promise a better life somewhere down the road. He is the life we are invited to experience through relationship with Him. This means our confidence isn't ultimately grounded in understanding everything that happens around us. It's grounded in knowing Jesus.

That can be difficult to live out. We often want to know what will happen next so we can prepare, protect ourselves, or maintain some sense of control. Trust isn't the absence of questions. It's choosing to remain with Jesus even when our questions remain unanswered.

Trusting Jesus doesn't mean abandoning discernment or accepting every human decision as God's will. It means continuing to seek His wisdom and follow His character while we navigate circumstances we don't fully understand.

*Follow-Up Prompts*

- What's the difference between knowing that Jesus is trustworthy and actually trusting Him?
- Why do we sometimes find information more comforting than relationship?
- How does knowing Jesus' character help us when we don't understand His direction?
- What does trusting Jesus look like when circumstances don't improve?
- Can you remember a time when you didn't receive the answers you wanted but experienced God's presence?
- What might it look like to release the need to know every detail of a particular situation?

*Additional Scripture*

- Psalm 23:1–4  The Shepherd's presence in the valley.
- Isaiah 26:3–4  Peace for those who trust God.
- Hebrews 11:8  Abraham obeyed without knowing where he was going.

3. Ben acknowledged that saying "Jesus is enough" can become an easy Sunday school answer. What helps us move from simply believing that statement intellectually to experiencing Jesus as enough in everyday life?

*Teaching Point*

There's a difference between knowing the right things about Jesus and cultivating a relationship with Him. Jesus tells Philip that anyone who has seen Him has seen the Father. Jesus reveals God's character, heart, and purposes.

As we come to know Jesus through Scripture, prayer, worship, obedience, and life with other believers, we become increasingly familiar with who He is. And the more deeply we know Him, the more we can learn to trust Him.

Ben began the sermon with the image of sea otters holding hands to keep from drifting apart. It's a simple picture of Jesus' invitation to remain close to Him rather than trying to navigate life alone. We don't draw near to Jesus merely to receive answers or achieve a particular outcome. We draw near because knowing Him is itself the greatest gift.

*Follow-Up Prompts*

- What is the difference between knowing facts about someone and actually knowing them?
- How can our spiritual practices become about accomplishing something rather than spending time with Jesus?
- What helps you become more aware of Jesus' presence throughout an ordinary day?
- What tends to pull your attention away from Him?
- How has your understanding of Jesus changed as you've spent time following Him?
- What might need to change in your daily rhythms to create more room for relationship with Him?

*Additional Scripture*

- John 15:4–5  Remain in Jesus.
- Philippians 3:7–10  The surpassing worth of knowing Christ.
- Psalm 27:4, 8  Seeking God's presence.
- Luke 10:38–42  Mary choosing to be with Jesus.

4. Ben shared how following what he believed God was asking of him during his family's adoption journey required sacrifice and uncertainty. How do we respond when obedience to Jesus involves a cost we didn't anticipate?

*Teaching Point*

It's relatively easy to say that Jesus is enough when following Him aligns with our preferences and expectations. But what happens when obedience requires us to surrender comfort, financial security, reputation, convenience, or control?

Ben's adoption story illustrates the tension between trusting God and knowing the outcome. He believed he was being called to love a child without knowing whether she would remain in his family or how much the journey would cost.

Following Jesus doesn't guarantee that our circumstances will be easy or that every decision will lead to the outcome we desire. The measure of faithfulness isn't whether things turn out as we hoped. It's whether we continue to follow Jesus with the information, wisdom, and opportunities we have.

That doesn't mean every difficult choice is necessarily God's will or that we should disregard wise counsel and discernment. But it does mean that obedience sometimes asks us to move forward without complete certainty.

*Follow-Up Prompts*

- Why can costly obedience be more difficult than obedience that fits comfortably into our lives?
- How do we distinguish between a genuine invitation from God and pressure we may be placing on ourselves?

- What role should Scripture, prayer, wisdom, and Christian community play in discerning difficult decisions?
- What fears surface when following Jesus might cost us something?
- Have you experienced a time when obedience required sacrifice but also deepened your relationship with God?
- Is there something you believe Jesus may be asking you to do that you've been hesitant to pursue?

*Additional Scripture*

- Luke 9:23–25  Take up your cross and follow Jesus.
- Romans 12:1–2  Offer ourselves to God and be transformed.
- Hebrews 12:1–3  Persevere while fixing our eyes on Jesus.
- James 1:22–25  Put God's Word into practice.

5. Ben ended with the story of Dirk Willems, who risked his life to rescue the guard pursuing him. What does his decision reveal about the kind of love Jesus calls us to practice, and how might that challenge the way we respond to difficult people or relationships?

*Teaching Point*

Dirk Willems had an opportunity to escape persecution. But when the guard pursuing him fell through the ice, Dirk turned back to save him, knowing it would likely cost him his freedom. His actions reflected a commitment to following Jesus that went beyond personal safety or self-interest.

We may never face a situation as dramatic as Dirk's, but we regularly face smaller decisions about whether to respond according to our own instincts or according to the example of Jesus.

- When someone hurts us, do we retaliate or seek a response shaped by love?
- When someone disagrees with us, do we dismiss them or treat them with dignity?
- When someone needs help, are we willing to be inconvenienced?

The closer we draw to Jesus, the more His character should shape the way we treat the people around us. Loving like Jesus doesn't mean overlooking wrongdoing or abandoning healthy boundaries. It means allowing His truth, compassion, humility, and courage to guide our response.

*Follow-Up Prompts*

- What makes Dirk's decision so countercultural?
- How does our natural instinct for self-protection sometimes compete with Jesus' call to love?
- What does it look like to love someone without necessarily agreeing with them?
- How can we demonstrate compassion while still maintaining truth and appropriate boundaries?

- Who in your life is particularly difficult to love right now?
- What might reaching toward that person look like in a healthy and Christlike way?
- How might our willingness to love one another affect the witness of our church?

*Additional Scripture*

- Matthew 5:43–48  Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.
- Romans 12:17–21  Overcome evil with good.
- John 13:34–35  Love one another as Jesus has loved us.
- 1 John 3:16–18  Love expressed through actions.
- Galatians 5:13–14  Serve one another humbly in love.