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## WISDOM: THE WAY, TRUTH, AND LIFE

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Lesson Scripture: Proverbs 3:17; 8:32-36; John 14:1-14

Focus Scripture: John 14:1-14

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*Key Verse: Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6 (NRSV)*

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### JOHN 14:1-14 (NRSV)

1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.

2 In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?

3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.

4 And you know the way to the place where I am going."

5 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?"

6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

7 If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

8 Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied."

9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works.

11 Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves.

12 Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am

### JOHN 14:1-14 (KJV)

1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

4 And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.

5 Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?

6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

7 If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.

8 Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us.

9 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?

10 Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.

11 Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake.

12 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do

going to the Father.

13 I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

14 If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

14 If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

**KEY TERMS**

- **Heart** – “The feeling, mood, center of our being.”
- **Troubled** – Stirred up inside.
- **Believe** – Have confidence in.
- **Place** – A spot where one can settle, abide, dwell.
- **Way** – Path, journey.
- Truth – Fact, reality.
- **Name** – The character or essence of.

The disciples had just learned that Jesus was leaving (John 13). They were confused and probably anxious or upset.

and then commenced with the reason for the meeting. (S)he announces that it is time for her/him to go. The pastor’s work is complete and (s)he is moving to a new assignment. The pastor, to whom church members had been devoted and followed for years, is leaving, and you cannot join the pastor. You have no information about the pastor’s departure – reason, replacement pastor, or the location of the pastor’s new assignment. Just that the time has come for

the pastor to move on. What feelings are likely to arise within the congregation?

**INTRODUCTION**

**“It’s Time for Me to Go“**

It’s Monday evening and an impromptu church conference has been called. No one knows what to expect. No information was given. All that is known is the pastor is sitting in the front of the room waiting for everyone to get seated. (S)he begins with a song of praise, prayer, and scripture

**TELLING THE BIBLE STORY**

**“Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled”**

This is what’s happening in our text. The disciples had just learned that Jesus was leaving (John 13). They were confused and probably anxious or upset.

Jesus saw the pain on their faces and immediately tried to ease their minds by finally letting them know where he was going. Jesus said he was going with his father and would make room for them, and when the time was right, Jesus would return, and they would know the way to Jesus.

To the disciples, this was not satisfactory. They began asking more questions. “How are we supposed to know the way? We still don’t know where you’re going. How are we going to get where you are if we don’t even know where you are?!” Again, Jesus tried to ease their minds, this time telling them he is the way, truth, and the life. That meant nothing to them, as they still did not understand what Jesus was saying.

### **SANKOFA**

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was an extremely influential man. Wherever he went, he drew crowds of people, some in opposition to him and what he stood for, but most in support. Dr. King was normally

a man of composure and one ready to work. But, on the night of his speech in Memphis, Tennessee, something was different. Dr. King was in his hotel feeling very ill. He knew something was amiss and did not want to leave. His friends and supporters convinced Dr. King not to cancel the speech, and to show up, for the people were waiting to see and hear him. So, he did.



**Dr. King spoke like  
a leader who knew his  
transition was coming.**

There was gravity in his tone. He spoke as if he knew transcendence was on the way. He spoke as if he knew the time had come for him to leave. Dr. King spoke like a leader who knew his transition was coming. People did not understand what Dr. King was saying. They were too engulfed in his cry for

unity and economic resistance. They were so enthralled by the cadence and tone of his voice, that they missed his announcement that his life had come to its end. And, when he was assassinated the next day, they were left in awe, in shock, and in a state of confusion. Like Jesus, Dr. King had shown them the

way. He exposed the truth to them, and told them of the realities of the time and times to come. And, he showed them the life. He saw what was ahead, and was preparing them for it. For what was Dr. King preparing the people? What was the way, truth, and life he laid out?

**CASE STUDY**

What would it look like for us as a people to recognize that Christians have varying life goals but the path to get there is the same? The path takes time, commitment, and work to move closer to one’s goals. As we get on the path of fulfillment of our goals, we should ultimately depend on God’s lead to guide us to the destiny of our goals. The Spanish drama film, *The Way*, is an excellent adaptation of how one man’s journey to moral and spiritual significance turns into a journey of grief, love, recovery, and inspiration for four perfect strangers. It tells the tale of four strangers, each on a path to re-establish their own lives, ultimately discovering life along the same path. Though their destinations in



Christians’ life goals should include a journey via the way, the truth, and the life.

life were different – a father grieving for his son, a woman fleeing from abuse, a man fighting for his marriage, and a boy seeking his voice, there was only one way they knew how to get there, the Camino de Santiago (the Way of St. James). Christians’ life goals should include a journey via *the way, the truth, and the life*.

**LIFE APPLICATION**

Jesus said, *I AM...*

*The Way...*

*The Truth..*

*The Life...*

*What did you observe about me over the past few years we were together?*

Using Lesson 5 (Matthew 11:7-19), Lesson 6 (Ecclesiastes 3:1, 7b; Luke 2:39-52), and Lesson 7 (Mark

6:1-6), list the examples of Jesus being *the way, the truth, and the life*. Write the book, chapter, and verse.

<p>The Way</p>
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The Truth

The Life

Jesus trying to get the disciples?

- 2. How do you prepare for transitions in your life?
- 3. How do the words in the scripture speak to God’s will for people today to be globally minded?

**QUESTIONS**

- 1. Figuratively speaking, to where was

**CLOSING DEVOTION**

As you go throughout your week, consider all the ways Jesus has shown up as the way, truth, and life. Write them down and recite them each morning as a reminder.

**HOME DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

July 20-July 26

<b>Monday</b>	Proverbs 3:13-18 (Wisdom, Source of Abundant Life)
<b>Tuesday</b>	John 5:19-24 (Jesus Does What the Father Does)
<b>Wednesday</b>	John 13:31-35 (Love as I Loved You)
<b>Thursday</b>	John 14:15-17 (Spirit of Truth Dwells in You)
<b>Friday</b>	John 14:18-24 (Love Binds Believers to God)
<b>Saturday</b>	John 14:25-31 (Spirit of Wisdom Promised to All)
<b>Sunday</b>	John 14:1-14 (Jesus, the Way to the Father)