

# BRMC Small Group Study: John 14:1-31

## Leaders Guide

Please note that the suggestions below are not model answers but to help guide your study. Feel free to adapt the questions for your group.

### Leader's Notes:

#### Context:

In the previous study, we covered John 13 where Jesus washed his disciples' feet and explained that he would soon be betrayed. He also predicted Peter's denial in the future. Remember that these chapters are occurring during the evening of the Last Supper. Jesus was sharing his last words with his disciples before he was to be taken away.

#### Introduction:

In this study, we will focus on John 14:6, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life". We will study how John 14 tells us what is (1) the way, (2) the truth, and (3) the life. The study will tackle these 3 aspects separately to help us understand Jesus' statement.

#### Lesson Objectives:

- To understand how Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.

## Overview

1. Choose 3 people to provide a dramatic reading of the passage from Jesus', Thomas', and Philip's perspective (John 14:1-14).

- *Tease out what you think the disciples were feeling when they asked Jesus their questions.*
- *What concerns did the disciples have in their conversation with Jesus?*
- *Thomas did not know the place that Jesus was going, so he also thought that he did not know the way to the place.*
- *Philip wanted Jesus to show them the Father.*

2. In Jesus' words, who is the Holy Spirit and what does he do? (John 14:15-31)

- *Helper/ Counsellor/ Advocate (John 14:16, 26)*
- *Spirit of Truth (John 14:17)*
- *Sent in the Father's name (John 14:26)*
- *Teaches one all things, and reminds one of everything Jesus has said to them (John 14:26)*
- *The Spirit gives peace to the believers (John 14:27)?*

## Way

3. Observation: What is "the way" that Jesus is referring to?

- *Belief in him (John 14:10-11)*
- *Obedience to his commandments and word (John 14:21, 23-24)*
- *Directed by the Holy Spirit (John 14:26)*

4. Interpretation: What did the Jews understand the way to be and how did Jesus change that?

- *In the Jewish culture, to be a disciple of the Rabbi one has chosen means to follow him and his principles. That would encompass trust in the Rabbi and obedience to follow in the Rabbi's ways. To be a disciple of Jesus also means to follow Jesus closely, which would ultimately lead to the*

*revelation of God. (Link to John 1:38 - highlight how disciples used to follow Rabbis to their homes to emulate their lives)*

- *But what was unusual about being a disciple of Jesus is acknowledging and accepting that Jesus is the only way. Jesus asserts his identity as the bridge between God and the Jews, the one that brings redemption to mankind.*

5. Application: What are some alternate ways that we have tried instead of following after Jesus, the only way?

- *For example, some of us may have turned to fortune telling in the past.*

## **Truth**

6. Observation: What are some truths Jesus mentioned about the following persons?

- A. God the Father
- B. God the Son
- C. God the Holy Spirit
- D. Satan

- *A) There is only one way to the father, and that is through Jesus. (John 14:6)*
- *B) Jesus has the authority of the father (John 14:10-11)*
- *C) Jesus will not leave us as he will send the holy spirit to be our counsellor/ advocate/ helper (John 14:16, 26)*
- *D) Satan has no hold over Jesus (John 14:30-31)*

7. Interpretation: From your study of John so far, why does John emphasise the theme of truth throughout the gospel?

- *Refer to John 1:14, John 4:23, and John 8:32.*
- *Background info: John wrote the Gospel as a polemic against false versions of the gospel which may have seeped into the early church. John was also concerned for second-generation (and subsequent) believers who were not eyewitnesses to Jesus' earthly ministry.*
- *The role of the Holy Spirit then, is critical for this community. There is a great need for new believers to be guided by the Spirit of Truth (John 14:17) and for the community to know the truth of who Jesus is.*

8. Application: What are some truths about Jesus that you personally struggle with?

- *E.g. some of us struggle with understanding the resurrection and Jesus' miracles.*

## **Life**

9. Observation: What kind of life does Jesus enable us to live?

- *Jesus prepares a place for us in his Father's house (John 14:2-3).*
- *Jesus grants us a kind of peace which is more than just the world's idea of peace (John 14:27)*
- *Those who believe in Jesus will be able to do the works he did and even greater works than what Jesus did in his earthly ministry (John 14:12).*

10. Interpretation & Application: What does it mean for us to do greater works (John 14:12)?

- *Members will likely ask what does 'greater works' mean. Greater works refers to the disciples' privilege to preach about the finished work of Christ. In contrast, Jesus' ministry was before he died and was merely a foreshadowing of what was to come. The disciples could preach about Jesus as a fact - a greater privilege than merely foreshadowing Jesus' work.*

- *We could also interpret doing greater works to mean that we will also be able to perform the miracles of Jesus.*