

# JESUS IS THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE

YEAR: TRANSFORM / FOCUS: LIVING FOR JESUS / SERIES: GOD IS I AM

## BIG TRUTH: JESUS IS THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE

Psalm 32:8; 119:30; 1 John 4:6; John 10:10; 20:31

## BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 14:6

“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’”

## BIG IDEAS

- Jesus is the only way to a relationship with the Father.
- Jesus is the truth that makes the Father known.
- Life with Jesus is life with the Father.

## BIBLE PASSAGE: JOHN 14:1-11

## TRANSFORM: LIVING FOR JESUS

In High School, the Transform Year is an exploration of what it looks like to have transformed influence as we seek to live for a Kingdom that is greater than our own. First, we recognize that we will never be transformed if we are not Living for Jesus. To do this, we must first know who Jesus is by looking at who He says He is (John 8:58), and then look at what the Bible says about how in Him, we live by faith (James 1:6). Next, we recognize that to have transformed influence means that we must live as disciples in pursuit of Christ and His Kingdom over ourselves and our own kingdoms.

## SERIES AIMS



### Every student should know...

- The 8 different “I AM” statements that Jesus uses in the gospel of John.
- We will always be dissatisfied when we search for joy and life apart from Jesus.
- The value and worth of our lives is found in Jesus alone



### Every student should feel...

- Awe that God would make a way for our relationship with Him through Jesus.
- Convicted of the lies that they are tempted to believe about Jesus.
- Responsible to use their influence for Jesus alone.



### Every student should strive to...

- Read the entire gospel of John.
- Memorize the Bible verse each week.
- Practice sharing the truth about who Jesus is using the ‘I Am’ statements from Scripture



### Every student should want to...

- Grow in their understanding of who Jesus is.
- Abide in Christ deeper than they ever have before.
- Be known for how they point people to Jesus with their lives

## GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week’s Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.



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# JESUS IS THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE

**BIBLE VERSE: JOHN 14:6**

*“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’”*

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**God alone determines how we can have eternal life.**

*“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’”*

- When we create something, we have power and authority over it because it originates with us. If we do not create it, we do not hold the power and authority over it. God is the Creator of all things. Because everything begins with Him, He alone has the power and authority to set boundaries and determine how a person has access to Him.
- He alone decides how we can have our sin forgiven and how we can have eternal life with Him. When Jesus came to the earth and began His earthly ministry, He taught people the way that God had established. He showed people the way back to God established by God and made possible by God.

**Jesus is the one way to eternal life with God.**

*“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’”*

- During Jesus’ earthly ministry, He pointed them to God’s redemption plan by revealing to them His deity. In this passage in John 14 as they question how they can know God, He reveals to them that they already know God if they know Him. By showing them this, He is showing them that He is the only way to know God because He is God in the flesh.
- There is no other way to life with God. We can try to access God the Father in some other way, but we will be living a lie or following a false god. In order to truly follow God, we must go through Jesus because Jesus is the only way.

**Jesus followers know the way to eternal life with God.**

*“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’”*

- Because Jesus is the only way to eternal life with God, those who are truly followers of Him know this. When a person has true saving faith, they understand that Jesus is God in the flesh. They know that Jesus is the way they have their sins forgiven.
- There is no doubt in their hearts of how to know God. They understand that if they know Jesus, they know God. They also trust that knowing Jesus means they have eternal life with Him. Their eternity is secure in Him.

# JESUS IS THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE

## BIG IDEA #1: JESUS IS THE ONLY WAY TO A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FATHER.<sup>1</sup>

### [ THIS ]

As Jesus prepared His disciples for His crucifixion and return to heaven, He taught them about how to know Him and that by knowing Him they knew God. Through His "I AM" statements He revealed His deity to His listeners and pointed them to the way to redemption. In John 14:1-11, He revealed that He alone is the way to have a relationship with God the Father. Jesus' disciples didn't quite understand the full scope of who Jesus was as they followed Him. They had learned that the Messiah was coming and trusted that God was going to send Him. When He stood before them, they struggled to understand that He was God in the flesh standing before them. The Trinitarian nature of God is a challenging thing for all of us to comprehend, but to know God, we must know the Son. By knowing the Son, we know the Father. We cannot know one without knowing the other.

### [ THEREFORE ]

**Read John 14:6. How does a relationship with Jesus also give us a relationship with the Father? Why does it matter that they cannot be separated?**

Because God is one God in three persons, Jesus and God the Father are one. To know God the Father is to know God the Son. This means that we cannot separate them. We cannot know God the Father without knowing God the Son and we do not know God the Son without also knowing God the Father.

### [ THIS ]

The disciples wanted to know how they could know God as if God were someone separate from Jesus. They wanted to know how to have a relationship with God and spoke of it as if it were something different than having a relationship with Jesus. He continued to show them that they already knew God because they knew Him. They would have learned about God and even learned a respect and awe of Him. It was perplexing for them to think of Jesus as God. For some of them it seemed like blasphemy and it angered them that Jesus would call Himself God. As His disciples pressed Him on the issue of how to really know God and have a relationship with Him, Jesus revealed that He is God in the flesh. He is the only way to have that relationship because He is God. The God they had learned about, the God of the Old Testament, had come down to them and was standing before them preparing to go to the cross for them. If we want to know God, then we must know Jesus because He is the only way to have a relationship with God.

### [ THEREFORE ]

**What are some of the misconceptions we have about who God is and who Jesus is?**

We often separate God and Jesus into two distinct and separate people. They are one and the same. John 10:30 and 5:18-29 help us see that God the Father and God the Son are two of the persons of the three person God. We often think of God as one and Jesus as someone different. We see God as the angry judge and Jesus as the one who preaches love and acceptance.

**What about your life reveals you have a relationship with the Father?**

To know the Father we must have repented of our sin and professed a faith and trust in Jesus as our Savior. We live in obedience to Him when we have done this.

1. John 14:7: If we are to know God the Father then we must know God the Son. We cannot know one without knowing the other.

# JESUS IS THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE

## **BIG IDEA #2: JESUS IS THE TRUTH THAT MAKES THE FATHER KNOWN.<sup>2</sup>**

### **[ THIS ]**

Discovering truth is something that humans have long endeavored to do. Instead of believing God's truth, we look for truth elsewhere, or we choose to believe that there is no real truth instead of trusting in God's Word. His statement reveals His deity and shows the world that He is God. This is true because all things come from God who is the beginning of everything. Since Jesus is the truth, then He is God because truth comes from God. Prior to His coming to the world, God revealed Himself through creation and the Law. When Jesus came, Jesus came as God in the flesh. He is the way that God chose to reveal Himself to the world in tangible form. When the disciples looked at Jesus, they were looking at God in the flesh! They trusted Jesus, they were trusting God. Jesus taught His followers this truth as He taught them more and more about Himself. He prepared them for His departure and even more so for the ultimate revealing of God's redemption plan on the cross.

### **[ THEREFORE ]**

**Read John 1:17. What truth about God does Jesus' arrival on earth reveal?**

In this verse we see that when Jesus came, God revealed His grace and truth to the world. Prior to Jesus' arrival on earth, God had revealed His law and man's need for salvation. When Jesus came, God revealed through Him the grace and mercy that He was extending to all who believe.

### **[ THIS ]**

Because Jesus is the way to know God the Father, as we know Him, we know the Father. The disciples were confused by Jesus' statements in John 14. They had spent a lot of time with Him, yet they still didn't grasp that He is God in flesh. They thought of Him as separate from God. When Jesus came to the earth, it was God's way of revealing His truth to the world. It is the way He has chosen to reveal Himself in the flesh to mankind and the only way He has chosen to do so. Even when we can accept that Jesus is fully God, we may still think of God the Father as something separate, but Jesus is God and is how we know God. This means that by knowing Him, we know God the Father. We will not arrive in heaven and go past Jesus to some new place and see God the Father. Jesus is the way God makes Himself known to us. By knowing Jesus, we receive the Spirit and through the Spirit, we grow in our understanding of God's Word. We have access to the Father and grow in our knowledge and truth.

### **[ THEREFORE ]**

**Since Jesus reveals truth about God, how does your relationship with Jesus help you understand God's love?**

Knowing Jesus means we understand the sacrificial love of God the Father. 1 John 4:19 and Psalm 86:15 help us see that the Father is indeed patiently loving and sacrificially loving.

**What are some reasons we often struggle to accept Jesus as the way to know God? Why do we seek other ways to know God?**

Often we do not accept God's truth about Himself because we think we know better. We think we are wiser than we really are. Proverbs 14:12 and 3:7 warn us not to think we know better or that we are wiser than really are. This attitude leads us to folly and struggle, not toward a greater knowledge of God.

2. John 14:10: *Jesus and the Father are one. Whoever sees the Son is seeing the Father and whoever sees the Father is seeing the Son because they are one God.*

# JESUS IS THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE

## **BIG IDEA #3: LIFE WITH JESUS IS LIFE WITH THE FATHER.<sup>3</sup>**

### **[ THIS ]**

Jesus gives life. The way we have life with Him is by abiding in Him. When we have saving faith, we are connected to Him always. This life is life with the Father because Jesus connects us to the Father. If we're connected to the Jesus, we're connected to the Father. Jesus taught His followers this truth in John 14. They were searching for two separate relationships, but a relationship with Jesus is a relationship with the Father. A life with Jesus is life with the Father. The two cannot be separated. In the beginning, when God created, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit were all three present. Creation began through all three persons of the triune God. We cannot separate what God does not separate. He does not separate Himself; therefore, we do not get to separate Him. In John 14:6, Jesus says He is the way and that to know Him is to know the Father. This means that to have life in Him is to have life in the Father.

### **[ THEREFORE ]**

#### **What does it look like to have life with Jesus and the Father?**

Galatians 2:20 reminds us that when we have life in Jesus we no longer live for ourselves. This means we live for Christ. To have life in Christ means we have life in the Father. We live for Him and grow in our knowledge of Him. We seek to obey Him and please Him.

#### **What should your daily life look like in order to reveal that you really do have life with the Father?**

When we have life in the Father, we live lives that bear fruit of it. We live repentant lives as 1 John 1:9 and Matthew 3:8 teach us. We love one another and love the Father. We obey Him and bear the fruit of the Spirit.

### **[ THIS ]**

Life with Jesus means that we are abiding with God. Remaining connected with Jesus means we are connected to God because Jesus is God. As we grow in our knowledge and understanding of who Jesus is, we are growing in our knowledge and understanding of who God is. Though God is one God in three persons, the Father, Son, and Spirit, our relationship with Him is one relationship. We do not have three separate relationships. When we are led by the Spirit, we are led by God. When we trust Jesus for salvation, we are trusting God for salvation. When we rest in the Father for protection, we are resting in God for protection. When we read the Word of God, we are reading the one Word of God. This life we live for God is one life lived for Him. He is one God who reveals Himself in three persons and works in us to make us more and more like Him.

### **[ THEREFORE ]**

#### **How is life with God better than life without Him?**

Being without God is to live in darkness as Proverbs 4:19 and Psalm 82:5 show us. To live with God is to have an abundant life in Him. He is the giver of life and the provider of all things. He sustains, protects, guides, and saves.

#### **How can you pursue a greater knowledge of God this week?**

Jeremiah 9:23-24 teaches us that in order to grow in a knowledge of God, we must humble ourselves before Him. If we are to understand Him, we must empty ourselves first. Hebrews 4:12 teaches us that His Word is the way in which we grow. When we study it and seek to grow through it, we will understand Him more and more.

3. John 14:3: *Knowing Jesus means we know God the Father and will be with Him forever.*