



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The Way the Truth and the Life

John 14:6

1. One of the most pressing questions of our time centers around the nature of **TRUTH**. Is truth like beauty? Is it in the eye of the beholder or is there absolute truth? We all see how some truth claims really are subjective - such as claims about the best season of the year or who was the best president of the United States. But the question remains: Is there moral truth? Are there things that are always right or wrong? Believing that truth is just personal perception is called "relativism". Relativism, roughly put, is the view that truth and falsity, right and wrong are relative, not absolute. What is your reaction to this issue? Josh McDowell says, *"Truth is objective because God exists outside ourselves; it is universal because God is above all; it is constant because God is eternal. Absolute truth is absolute because it originates from the original."* How would you prove to someone else that there is such a thing as absolute truth? Be honest...are there areas of your life that you live as though there is not absolute truth?

2. Jesus claims that not only is there absolute truth, that HE is THE truth. **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."** Think carefully, what does Jesus mean when He says that He is the way, the truth and the life?

How should believing John 14:6 affect your life? How could the people in your life, including your community group, practically help you RIGHT NOW, live out John 14:6?

3. The Bible also claims that it contains absolute truth. **2 Timothy 3:16 "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness."** In the sermon I shared that as we interpret the Bible, we need to be mindful of the New Covenant and give priority to the teaching and testimony of Jesus. Mindful of that, what is the role of Scripture in your life? Do you believe it contains absolute truth? Are you consistent with the way you apply Scripture to your daily actions, thoughts, beliefs?

Have you ever believed it was true and still disobeyed? If so, how did you justify that? Where, right now, are you struggling to obey the teaching of scripture? Where, right now, are you confident you are obeying the teaching of scripture?

4. The second core value that we studied this week was **DISCIPLESHIP RELATIONSHIPS**. This value reminds us that spiritual growth and discipleship happen best in the context of an intentional relationship. A discipleship relationship is one focused intentionally on growing in Christ. At Spring Hills, we offer lots of opportunities for discipleship relationships. Some examples are our women's Bible study, community groups and even one-on-one mentoring. Knowing that Americans are prone towards individualism, do you agree that discipleship happens best in the context of a relationship?

2 Timothy 2:1-2 famously says, **"You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also."** The Chapter goes on to describe Paul's challenges to Timothy and how Paul models these areas of growth and obedience.

Share some of your experiences with discipleship relationships (either as a mentor or a mentoree). Ever had a really bad experience? Share about that please. Ever had a great experience? Share that story please. What made that relationship positive?

Are you in a discipleship relationship right now? If not, what would you be willing to do to begin one?

5. Discipleship relationships generally involve a more mature follower of Christ in a leadership/mentor role and a less mature Christian or Christians who are learning from and intimating the leader. Are you more comfortable as a leader or a follower? What has been your experience with leadership? What would keep you from committing to being a "spiritual guide" for another believer OR a "student" of mature believer?

If you don't feel "qualified", consider this challenging quote from Dr. Charles Swindoll, *"Fortunately, God made all varieties of people with a wide variety of interests and abilities. He has called people of every race and color who have been hurt by life in every manner imaginable. Even the scars of past abuse and injury can be the means of bringing healing to another. What wonderful opportunities to make disciples!"*

Knowing that God often pushes us into uncomfortable situations, would you consider leading a community group or some type of discipleship relationship in the future? Why or why not?