



THE WAY Sermon Study Guide

Week 2: Jesus is the Way — Truth

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Most of us would profess a love of truth. We want to know what is right and real. We want honesty, clarity and transparency—until it confronts us and challenges our comfortable versions of reality.

This week, we explore what happens when we “bump into” the truth of Jesus and face a choice: to walk away unchanged, or to let His truth unsettle assumptions, name what's hidden, and set us free.

Read John 14:6 & Jeremiah 17:9

The Greek word for truth is *alētheia* meaning “unconcealed”. Jesus is the embodiment of this kind of truth—the pure, unveiled reality of God's heart. We, on the other hand, have “salesman's hearts” which are experts at selling us ideas that prioritise and protect our own comfort and self-image.

Scripture warns that “the heart is deceitful above all things,” and history shows how even sincere believers have rationalised injustice and twisted God's truth to fit their preferences.¹ We can't assume we're immune. In fact, we almost certainly have cultural assumptions and moral leanings that future generations will shake their heads at. It is easy to believe we are right when we are blind to our own biases.

Jesus desires to expose our blind spots and lovingly realign us to His truth. This is what true discipleship looks like. It's not about defending our own version of truth, but surrendering to Jesus—the way, the truth and the life—and letting Him reshape us from the inside out.

¹ Further reading on the topic of justifying our beliefs:
zondervanacademic.com/blog/the-curse-of-ham-and-biblical-justifications-for-slavery



1. Where do you notice your “salesman’s heart” trying to justify something in your life?
2. Why is it so difficult to see our own blind spots and how can we invite Jesus to help us stay open to His truth rather than resisting it?

Read Matthew 16:13-23

Peter was passionate, fiery and politically charged. As a Zealot, he longed for revolution and desperately wanted freedom from Rome. He believed the Messiah would bring this freedom through power and force, and he believed Jesus was the Messiah they had been waiting for.

So, when Jesus explained what the Messiah would actually do—suffer, die and rise again—Peter’s response was shock and denial. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you.” Peter was bumping into truth and it was uncomfortable. It didn’t fit his expectations or align with his assumptions.

The truth of Jesus will love us *and* undo us. It challenges our blind spots and calls us to a kingdom that is upside down from the world’s ways. Peter wrestled with this truth, and over time, it reshaped him deeply. We too are invited to let Jesus confront us, and allow His truth—not our version of it—to set us free.

1. Where have you tried to fit Jesus into your own preferences or agenda? Ask God to show you one way you can let the truth of Jesus challenge and reshape your perspective this week.

Read John 8:1-11

Jesus is teaching in the temple courtyard when a group of religious leaders drag in a woman caught in adultery. They shame her publicly, using the law of Moses as ammunition. But Jesus refuses to become a pawn in their trap. When He finally speaks, His words slice through the scene with surgical precision: “Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone.”

For the Pharisees, this moment is a collision with truth. They believed they were protecting holiness, but Jesus exposed their motives and their misuse of Scripture as a weapon. Knowing Scripture is vital, but it must be paired with the Spirit’s guidance and a posture of love. Truth and love cannot be separated in Jesus. He holds them together perfectly as He invites the woman into restoration and hope: “Neither do I condemn you. Go now and leave your life of sin.”



Truth is not a tool for exclusion or judgment. Instead, we are invited to let truth draw us and others into deeper relationship with our Saviour.

1. Is there someone in your life you are tempted to judge or exclude in the name of “truth”? How can you approach them with both honesty and compassion, following Jesus’ example?

Read Matthew 19:16-22

Our final story is about the rich young ruler—moral, successful, and spiritually earnest. He approaches Jesus wanting assurance of eternal life. He has followed the commandments, done the right things, lived respectably. But Jesus sees the deeper issue.

Like a divine pharmacist mixing a personalised prescription, He identifies this young man’s blockage—his attachment to wealth—and delivers a tailored treatment: “Sell your possessions, give to the poor, and come follow me.”

It’s not a universal instruction for all people, but a specific treatment for a specific heart condition. The man walks away sad, unable to release his grip on the comfort and security of wealth.

We all have different blockages. Whether it’s comfort, ideology, career, reputation, or something else that takes God’s place in our lives. Following Jesus will require us to lay down our crowns and count the cost. But Jesus doesn’t confront us to deprive us. He confronts to transform and free us so we can have life to the full.

1. What might Jesus identify as your “blockage”? Is there a comfort, ideology or habit that you hold too tightly?
2. Why do you think surrender can feel scary, even when we trust God?
3. What is one step you could take this week to loosen your grip on something that’s holding you back spiritually?

Optional Closing Reflection

Take time to consider this question and discuss together:

Which of the three biblical stories challenged you the most? Why?

You may also like to join Sally in reading the Gospels over the next few weeks (Mark is a great starting point). As you read, look at how Jesus confronted blind spots,



disrupted comfort zones and restored freedom. Don't just study Jesus. Bump into Him. Let His truth shape you. Then bring your reflections to share with the group the next time you meet.

Suggested Closing Prayer

Jesus, show us the truth about You and about ourselves. Give us courage to listen, humility to receive, and faith to follow wherever You lead. Amen.