



THE WAY Sermon Study Guide

Week 1: Jesus is the Way — The path to the Father and the model for our lives

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The early church called themselves “followers of the Way.” It wasn’t about ascribing to a certain set of beliefs or religious affiliation—it was about living a new kind of life shaped by the presence, love and power of Jesus Christ. And that invitation continues for every one of us today.

In this new series, we’ll explore what it truly means to follow the way of Jesus as we live with Him, walk in His truth and follow His pattern of life.

Read John 14:1-6 & Psalm 86:11

Jesus is in the upper room celebrating the Passover meal with His disciples. He’s washed their feet, spoken of betrayal, and talked about leaving. The disciples feel unsettled. Yet into their confusion, Jesus speaks comfort and clarity: *“Do not let your hearts be troubled... I am the way.”*

This group of young Jewish men had grown up memorising Scripture like Psalm 86:11 and navigating life through the lens of the law. For them, *the way* was the path of righteousness: a life shaped by obedience to God, faithfulness to the covenant, and commitment to the law. That was their frame for understanding what it meant to live close to God, and how to remain in right relationship with Him.

But Jesus is inviting them into something deeper and far more personal. Not a law. Not a ritual. Not a system. A relationship. The way to the Father isn’t a rulebook—it is a person—Jesus Himself.



1. Why do you think Jesus' words "I am the way" would have been so confronting for the disciples? What do these words stir in you?
2. Jesus invites us into a relationship, not just rituals or checklists. Are there any discipleship habits or routines that have become more about "ticking the box" than about *walking with* Jesus and connecting with Him?

Read Matthew 7:13-14

In ancient Jewish cities, the large main gates were bustling places full of traders, locals, travellers, noise, crowds, and activity. They were obvious, convenient and always open.

The narrow gates, on the other hand, were small side entrances—used for servants, late-night arrivals, or quiet access to private courtyards and homes. They weren't obvious. You had to *know* they existed, and choose them deliberately.

Jesus' audience would have immediately pictured both types of gates. They would have remembered the busy, noisy marketplace entrances—and the quiet, tucked-away courtyard doors you used only when invited. And Jesus uses these images to make a clear point: there is only one way that leads to life and it's narrow.

Wide gates are easy. Easy to enter. Easy to follow. But they lead us away from God and the full life He desires.

The narrow way may require more effort. It may involve intention, discipline and surrender. But it leads to life—deep, abundant, lasting life.

Each day, we are invited to surrender our plans and preferences, trusting that Jesus' way is better, even when it's costly or countercultural. It often means letting go of control, comfort and our own definitions of success, but it is also the place where we discover the joy and freedom of walking closely with God.

1. What "wide roads" do you see most clearly in our culture? And what does the narrow way look like in ordinary, everyday life?
2. Is there an area of life where you've drifted onto the wide road without realising it?

Read Psalm 32:8-9

Following Jesus is less like having a detailed Melways and more like trusting a GPS to guide us step by step. We often want to see the whole journey laid out before us



so we can plan, interpret and execute every turn, but God rarely gives us the full picture. Instead, He invites us to trust Him with each next step, believing that He knows the way even when we don't.

When we're walking the narrow way, we don't need full clarity. We need simply to trust that the one who sees it all is faithful to lead us exactly where we need to go.

1. Where in your life do you feel uncertain about the next step? How can you practice trusting God's guidance today, even if you can't see the whole path?
2. Can you recall a time when you felt God gently "rerouting" you? What did you learn from that experience?

Closing Activity (Optional)

Choosing to follow the way of Jesus isn't a one-time decision, but a decision made over and over again—every morning, every moment, every crossroads.

Each day we choose: Will I take the wide road today—comfortable, crowded, convenient? Or will I take the narrow way—intentional, surrendered and shaped by Jesus?

Drifting toward the wide road often happens quietly: through complacency, distraction or pride. Yet Jesus never stops inviting us back. His call is steady: "Walk with me. Follow my way. Choose life."

Take a moment to pause and reflect honestly with the Lord:

- Am I walking in your way, Jesus?
- Have I drifted into comfort or distraction?
- What is the next faithful step you are inviting me to take?

Suggested Closing Prayer

Lord, lead us. Guide us. Show us the way. Give us the courage to choose it. And make us a light for others as we walk it. Amen.