



THE WAY Sermon Study Guide

Week 3: Jesus is the Way — Life

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There is more to living than being alive. This statement is simple but true. We know there is more to living than a beating heart and breathing lungs, but what does “more” actually look like?

This week we explore Jesus' invitation to have “life to the full” and consider what it means to move from thief thinking to an attitude of abundance, where God's grace and generosity are the foundation, and our humble obedience is the call.

Read John 10:7-11

Jesus sets Himself in contrast with “the thief”—the one who steals, kills and destroys. He is speaking not just about evil forces, but directly to the religious leaders who were trapping people in moral scorekeeping and comparison. They believed this was the way to be blessed. But Jesus says they aren't leading people toward abundance. They're stealing it.

“Thief thinking” is a worldview built on the assumption of lack. It tells us there's not enough of God's goodness to go around. It pushes us to judge, strive, perform, or compare. Thief thinking says:

- *I need to climb over others to secure my place.*
- *I need to judge or diminish you so I can feel okay about myself.*
- *I must earn what God gives.*
- *I get what I deserve — nothing more, nothing less.*

Too often, we absorb thief thinking long before we realise it—from our workplaces, families, culture, or even church habits. It might look tidy. It might sound sensible. It



can even appear righteous. But Jesus calls it what it is: a thief of joy, grace and freedom. And He offers an entirely different way to abundance.

1. Having “life to the full” is not about possessions, achievements or even moral rule-keeping. Why do you think it’s so easy to fall into the trap of measuring life by these things?
2. Thief thinking is a mindset of scarcity and comparison that can be subtle and at times deeply rooted. Can you think of some examples of thief thinking in your life? How does this mindset affect our relationships with God and with others?

Read Matthew 20:1-16

In God’s kingdom, there is no scarcity of love, no hierarchy of value, no competition for blessing. Instead, there is large-hearted generosity, where the goodness of God flows freely and equally to all.

The parable of the workers in the vineyard helps us identify and dismantle thief thinking. The workers who laboured all day believed they deserved more because they had done more. But the landowner insists on generosity—that everyone receives beyond what they earned. This is a picture of God’s kingdom: grace spilling over, not merit stacked up. A kingdom where the first are last, the last are first, and every person stands before God as an equal co-heir of grace.

But while this sounds beautiful, it is deeply countercultural. Most of us have grown up in systems—families, workplaces, societies—shaped by comparison, competition, and scarcity. We have breathed in thief thinking our whole lives. And shifting out of it doesn’t happen by willpower. It takes the help of a Saviour.

1. The parable shows us that God’s generosity is not based on effort or seniority. Does this idea feel unfair to you? Why or why not? How might it change the way you view others in the church or community?
2. Have you ever experienced comparison robbing you of joy? Where might Jesus be asking you to celebrate others’ blessing rather than measure yours against theirs?

Read John 9

In this miracle, which immediately precedes Jesus’ teaching, the man born blind becomes a living example of how God invites people from a place of lack to abundance.



The disciples ask a question that many still wrestle with today: “Who sinned—this man or his parents—that he was born blind?” They’re trying to make sense of suffering, and their framework assumes suffering must be a punishment for sin. It’s thief thinking disguised as theology. Jesus rejects it instantly and offers the man healing that will reveal God’s work.

The pool of Siloam symbolises *living water*. Not delivered by human hands or efforts, but by the gracious provision of God. It is here that the blind man has his eyes opened for the first time. Abundance begins with God’s work, not ours.

But, the man only received his sight because he obeyed. He walked the path. He washed the mud. He trusted the instruction. Grace is God’s gift, but the opening of our eyes often comes as we take humble, surrendered steps. These two truths create a beautiful complementing contradiction: *It’s never all up to me. But I’m still invited to participate.*

1. What stood out to you about Jesus’ interaction with the blind man?
2. Which of these two truths do you find easier to lean toward — “It’s all God” or “It’s all up to me”? How does holding both together help us grow in healthy discipleship?
3. How have you experienced moments where obedience led to greater clarity or spiritual insight? And where do you sense Jesus inviting you into a step of humility or obedience at the moment?

Optional Closing Exercise

Moving from blindness to seeing is what it looks like to move from thief thinking to abundance. Jesus tells the religious leaders that although they claim to see, they are actually blind. Meanwhile, the man who knew he was blind becomes the one who truly sees.

You may like to close the study with the listening exercise from Lance’s sermon. Invite the group to sit quietly for a few moments and imagine Jesus standing before each of you, smiling with compassion. He mixes mud in His hands and gently places it on your face. Then, with complete tenderness, He wipes it away with a towel.

As you picture this, ask Him: **‘Jesus, what do You want me to see?’**

Wait, listen, and pay attention to whatever He brings to mind. Encourage people to journal or share what they sensed.



Suggested Closing Prayer

Gracious God, Thank you for the way you open our eyes and invite us into a life of abundance. Where we have been caught in comparison, fear or striving, would you gently lead us into freedom. Teach us to recognise your voice, to trust your goodness, and to walk in humble obedience each day. Lord Jesus, help us to see as you see, love as you love, and follow wherever you lead. Fill us with your Spirit as we go, and let your grace shape everything we do. Amen.