

JESUS IS THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life.

No one comes to the Father except through me."

JOHN 14:6



ust a few days later it was time for the feast of the Passover. Tension was rising in the city and Jesus knew the time had come for him to die. He loved his disci-

ples very much, but soon he would have to leave them. It would be in his leaving, in his dying, that he would ultimately be with them forever.

Jesus asked his disciples to prepare for the Passover, which they gladly did. They'd been celebrating the Passover since they were children, and knew all the traditions well, but this year would be so much different.

When they were all at the table, Jesus said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God" (Luke 22:15–16).

Then he took the cup, and when he had given thanks he said, "Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes" (22:17–18).

Then Jesus took the bread, gave thanks, and broke it.

He said, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me" (22:19).

He did the same thing with the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you" (22:20).

You have to wonder what the disciples were thinking. What was this new covenant? Why was he talking about his body and his blood? And what kingdom was he talking about?

And then Jesus started talking about one of them betraying him. What was happening?

Judas left the room, and Jesus again started talking about leaving them. "Lord, where are you going?" Peter asked (John 13:36a).

Jesus answered, "Where I am going you cannot follow now, but you will follow later" (13:36b). Then Jesus predicted that Peter would deny him three times before the night was over.

The room was stirring with questions and confusion. Jesus loved his disciples so much! And they had such a short time left.

Jesus began to explain that yes, he was leaving, but he was preparing a place for them in his Father's house.

And he would take them to be with him. "You know the way to the place where I am going," he said (14:4).

Thomas spoke what everyone else was probably thinking. "Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" (14:5).

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (14:6).

Yes, Jesus was leaving them, but he wanted to be with them! In fact, he *had* to leave them so he could be with them forever in his Father's kingdom. Jesus had to become the Passover lamb. It was only through his body and his blood that they could ever join him in his forever kingdom. Yes, one day they would celebrate the Passover together again. Jesus, the Worthy Lamb, would drink the cup in celebration, surrounded by his disciples and people from every tribe and nation and kingdom (Revelation 5:9–10; 19:9). It would be the ultimate Passover feast.

Through his death on the cross, Jesus became the way to the Father. Jesus is the Way, he is the Truth, and he is the Life. Do you want to come to the Father? Do you want to be at that feast? Jesus is the Way.



REFLECT

- 1. What does the Old Testament Passover look back to? What does the New Testament Passover (the Lord's Supper) look back to? How are they related?
 - 2. How is Jesus the Way? How is he the Truth? How is he the Life?
 - 3. Jesus told the disciples that he is the Way, the Truth, and the Life during a time when they were very troubled. What is troubling you today, and how might this knowledge help you?
 - 4. As a family, research Jewish Passover celebrations. What are the four cups of the celebration, and what might this add to our understanding? What is the afikomen, and how might it point to Jesus?