

## Who Is Jesus? Leader Guide Session 4: A Way or The Way?

Truth is narrow, but the gospel is wide. The way to salvation through Jesus may be narrow, but the invitation of Jesus is wide. Whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. The gospel is available to *anyone* today.

### Watch

Play the video for session four. As you watch, use the following outline to record any key points that stand out to you.

### Notes

We should feel free to question God and ask who Jesus is, because he clearly wants us to know.

When Jesus said that he is *the way* to the Father, his motivation was to be helpful to the disciples. In the same way, our goal in telling other that Jesus is *the way* should be to help them.

There are three assumptions that people make to claim that Jesus is just *a way* to God rather than *the way* to him.

**Assumption 1:** There is no such thing as absolute truth. There are a thousand ways to God, and Jesus is just one of them.

**Assumption 2:** All ways to God are similar in nature. Each of the religions in the world today – Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Christianity, Judaism – will lead you to the same place.

**Assumption 3:** Everyone can come to their own conclusions. We can just decide for ourselves the best way to get to God.

Jesus uses the word *except*, which implies exclusivity. In our modern culture, exclusivity does not play well – but Jesus' statement is neither irrational, close-minded, or arrogant.

Instead of looking at the problem with Jesus' claim, we need to look at the uniqueness of what he is offering to us.

He is God in human flesh.

He is making a final payment for your wrong.

He is giving you grace.

He is giving you a personal relationship with God.

He is giving you the power of the resurrection.

He is giving you the holy spirit.

He is giving you the very best now.

Salvation may be narrow but Jesus' invitation is wide. There is only one way, but anyone and everyone can come. Whoever calls on the name of Jesus will be saved.

## Discussion Questions

Take a few minutes within your group to discuss what you just watched and explore these concepts in Scripture.

1. Why does Jesus begin his explanation to the disciples that he is the way to the Father by saying, "Do not let your hearts be troubled" (John 14:1)? Has your heart ever been troubled by trying to figure out whether Jesus is the only way to know God?
2. How does Jesus show he was trying to be *helpful* to both Thomas and Philip rather than trying to *prove a point* and be right?
3. How do you typically respond when someone says, "All religions lead to God," or "All belief systems are based in love and help us become better people"?
4. What are some ways to be compassionate and understanding when people say there are many ways to God, but still point them to the truth?
5. Why do you think Jesus' *exclusive* claim that he is the only way to know God and be with him in heaven is viewed so negatively by people today?
6. In what ways is Jesus's claim to be the only way to God *inclusive*? Why do you think people fail to recognize this point?