

“I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life”
by Rev. John C. Tittle

Scripture Reading: John 14: 4-7 NRSV

⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

Discussion Questions:

1. When was a time you got really lost? How did you get back?
2. What are your impressions of this passage?
3. When you read Jesus’ I Am words here, what feelings do you have when you hear him say, “I am the way, the truth, and the life.”
4. Which of the three nouns speak most to you: way, truth, or life?
5. Jesus is not speaking of a literal path or road here. What do you think the way is? Where does his way take us? How can we internalize Jesus’ way?
6. What do you think it means that Jesus is the truth? How do we come to know the truth?
7. What do you think it means that Jesus is the life? In three of the seven I Am statements, Jesus includes the word “life.” Why is life so important and central to Jesus?
8. Jesus also says to know him, is to know the Father. What does that say about Jesus?
9. No one comes to the Father except through me. How should we view those who do not have faith in Jesus?

I’ve included below a denominational statement entitled *Hope in the Lord Jesus* from the Office of Theology and Worship (PCUSA). Do you think it gets at the spirit of Jesus’ words that he is the way, the truth, and the life? Why or why not?

Jesus Christ is the only Savior and Lord, and all people everywhere are called to place their faith, hope, and love in him. No one is saved by virtue of inherent goodness or admirable living, for “by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God” (Eph. 2:8). ... Yet we do not presume to limit the sovereign freedom of “God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and come to the knowledge of truth” (1 Tim. 2:4). Thus, we neither restrict the grace of God to those who profess explicit faith in Christ nor assume that all people are saved regardless of faith. Grace, love, and communion belong to God, and are not ours to determine.