**JESUS IS . . . THE WAY MAKER**

**John 14:1-6**

* **Our greatest need is to have a strong relationship with Jesus because that: 1) enables us to have strong relationships with others, 2) gives us the ability to overcome troubles, 3) leads us to experience “abundant life” on earth, and 4) guarantees us that we will spend eternity in Heaven.**
* ***How can Jesus help us to experience God’s best in this life and the next life?***

***Jesus Gives Us The Way To:***

**OVERCOME HARDSHIPS IN THIS LIFE**

* Jesus - *“Don’t let your hearts be troubled.”* (John 14;1)

 ***We Overcome Our Troubles By Relying On:***

* **THE PRESENCE OF JESUS**
	+ Jesus - *“Believe in God; believe also in Me.”* (John 14:1)
	+ **We have Jesus’ presence in our lives after we surrender our lives to Him and become His follower (or Disciple).**
	+ Jesus - *“And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”* (Matthew 28:20)
	+ *“Haven’t I commanded you: be strong and courageous? Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”* (Joshua 1:9)
* **THE POWER OF JESUS**
	+ *“[Jesus] got up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, ‘Silence! Be still!’ The wind ceased, and there was a great calm.”* (Mark 4:39)
	+ **Jesus has the power to enable us to overcome any struggle or trouble we find ourselves in.**
	+ Paul - *“We don’t want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, of our affliction that took place in Asia. We were completely overwhelmed—beyond our strength—so that we even despaired of life itself. 9 Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death, so that we would not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead. 10 He has delivered us from such a terrible death, and he will deliver us. We have put our hope in him that he will deliver us again”* (2 Corinthians 1:8-10)
* ***What “troubles” do I need the Lord’s help with in my life?***

***Jesus Gives Us The Way To:***

**GO TO HEAVEN IN THE NEXT LIFE**

* Jesus - *“In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? 3 If I go away and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself, so that where I am you may be also.”* (John 14:2-3)
* **Jesus promised that He was going to prepare a place for His people in His Father’s home in Heaven.**

 ***The Bible Tells Us That Heaven Is A Place Where:***

* **OUR SURROUNDINGS WILL BE DELIGHTFUL**
	+ *“I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.”* (Revelation 21:2)
	+ *“He then carried me away in the Spirit[h] to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, 11 arrayed with God’s glory. Her radiance was like a precious jewel, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.”* (Revelation 21:10-11)
	+ **Heaven is the most beautiful place that the mind of God can conceive of, and the most wonderful place that the hand of God can create.**
	+ **In Heaven we will have “glorified bodies” that will enable us to explore and experience the beauty and wonder of Heaven (1 Corinthians 15:42-44).**
* **GOD’S PRESENCE WILL BE DYNAMIC**
	+ T*hen I heard a loud voice from the throne: Look, God’s dwelling is with humanity, and he will live with them. They will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and will be their God.”* (Revelation 21:3)
	+ **We Christians currently have God’s presence in our lives, but in Heaven we will experience His presence in a more powerful and profound way.**
* **OUR TROUBLES WILL DISAPPEAR**
	+ *“He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; grief, crying, and pain will be no more, because the previous things have passed away.”* (Revelation 21:4)
	+ **In this life the Lord will help us conquer our troubles, but in Heaven there will be no troubles to contend with.**
* **Jesus has promised Christians that He will take us immediately to Heaven either when we die or when He comes back for His people (1 Corinthians 15:51-53).**
* *“[Jesus] said* *to him, ‘Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.’”* (Luke 23:43)
* *“In fact, we are confident, and we would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.”* (2 Corinthians 5:8)
* *“’You know the way to where I am going.’ 5 ‘Lord,’ Thomas said, ‘we don’t know where you’re going. How can we know the way?’ 6 Jesus told him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’”* (John 14:4-6)
* **According to Jesus we cannot make it to Heaven by being religious or moral or better than others around us or by doing good works.**
* *“The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hands. 36 The one who believes in the Son has eternal life, but the one who rejects the Son will not see life; instead, the wrath of God remains on him.”* (John 3:35-36)
* *“There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to people by which we must be saved.”* (Acts 4:12)
* *“For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave himself as a ransom for all, a testimony at the proper time.”* (1 Timothy 2:5-6)
* **Jesus is the only One who can forgive our sins, free us from our strongholds, help us overcome our troubles, bring us godly fulfillment in this life, and guarantee us the future of Heaven.**
* ***What steps do I need to take to turn over my troubles, life and future to Jesus?***

**CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION**

**Ice Breaker:** There is a lot of bad advice out there. What’s the worst piece of advice you’ve ever been given?

**Start thinking:**

* What do we learn about God/Jesus from John 14:1-6?
* How would you describe heaven to someone who is not a Christian, or is a new believer?
* How can Jesus help us to experience God’s best in this life and the next?

**Start sharing. Discuss in depth to create openness.**

* What has been your typical default response to troubles in life? How has that changed as you grow in Christ?
* What does it mean that we have access to God’s power in our lives as Christians?
* Why is it so important to have a solid understanding of the doctrine of Heaven?
* How has Jesus proven Himself as a Way Maker in your life?
* What is your “Big Takeaway” from this message?

**Pray**

* Share prayer requests and pray for each other.
* Pray for our community to be open to the Gospel.
* Pray for our church, and leadership.
* Pray for our government leaders, and local leaders.
* Pray about anything else the Holy Spirit leads you to pray for.