



Sermon Discussion Questions  
03-31-2024 | Easter Message!

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Series: Fake News

Week 7: Truth Has a Name

1. ICE BREAKER: Talk about a time when you have been lost, or have had to have a guide in order to navigate unfamiliar terrain. How did you get to where you needed to go? Share about this experience.
2. Read our Scripture for this week, John 14:1-7:

<sup>1</sup>*"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me.*

<sup>2</sup>*My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. <sup>4</sup>You know the way to the place where I am going."*

<sup>5</sup>*Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"*

<sup>6</sup>*Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."*

Biblical scholars believe that this interaction between Jesus and the disciples occurred in the Upper Room. What sorts of emotions do you think would have been present at this moment? Can you identify with Thomas? If so, how? What stands out to you in particular as you read this passage?

3. This is the last message in our series *Fake News*. What have you learned throughout the course of this series? Has there been a particular message that has stood out to you? Why has God been teaching you?
4. Read John 14:6, "*Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."* Jesus says He is not just a way, a truth, and a life, but THE way, THE truth, THE life.

Why is this important to notice in this verse? Why do you think Jesus emphasizes by using the definite article of 'the' (also present in the original Greek) three times in a row? What would be the difference in the meaning of this verse if He hadn't done so?

5. First, Jesus says, "I am the way," which speaks to the idea of direction. Everyone is looking for direction in their lives. Our culture often tells us to 'follow our heart,' or 'do what seems right,' but in Proverbs 14:12 we read, "There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death."

Discuss how people are usually taught to seek direction or make decisions in their lives. What happens when we simply 'follow our hearts'? How does Jesus offer us direction? Share a time when God's direction has been important in your life.

6. Pastor Dale pointed out that in John 14:5, Thomas says to Jesus, "*Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?*" Even Thomas and the disciples, who had been learning from and ministering with Jesus for three years, still had questions.

Talk about a time when you've had questions for God. How do you deal with your questions? What do you do when you are unsure of something in your faith? Why are questions a good thing for our faith?

7. Next, Jesus says, "I am the truth," which speaks to the idea of knowledge. Hebrews 4:15 says, "*For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.*" Jesus knows what it is like to be a

human in every way, even to suffer, to be betrayed, to be in pain, to be tempted, and to be lonely.

How does knowing that Jesus has fully lived the human experience affect your relationship with Him? How would our faith be different if Jesus had never been tempted? Discuss the importance of the 'knowledge' of the human experience that Jesus has.

8. Finally, Jesus says, "I am the life." The Greek word for life here is not *bios*, which means our natural human life. Instead, it is *zoe*, which means God-life, divine life, eternal life. This speaks to the idea of flourishing.

How would you describe the difference between *bios* and *zoe* - these two types of life? What does flourishing look like in your mind? How does Jesus change your life even now, on this side of Heaven?

9. Read Paul's words from 1 Corinthians 15:19, "*If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.*"

Discuss Paul's statement. Why would he say this? Talk about how we have hope in Christ in both this life, and for eternal life. How is Christ providing hope to you in your life, right now?

10. PRACTICE: Read Hebrews 4:16, "*Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.*"

Because of what Jesus did for us on the cross, we can approach God with confidence, and ask Him for mercy, grace and help in our time of need.

Take time to pray together as a group. Ask God for what you need with confidence, knowing that you will receive it because of Jesus' sacrifice on your behalf.