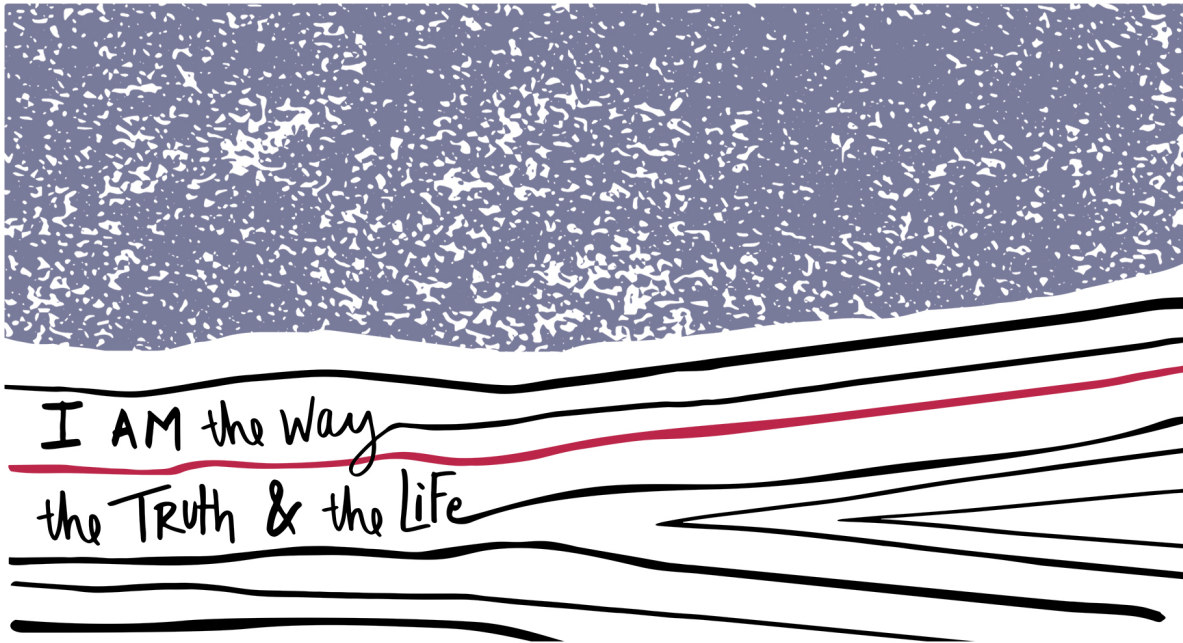




Groups



Thanks for checking out our sermon-based Study Guides! If you've never used our Study Guides before, you'll find some basic instructions beginning at the bottom of the last page.

NEW this year: These study guides will be written by thoughtful and experienced Life Group Leaders. As always, use these guides as a head-start in your own preparation as the needs and culture is different from each group. And of course, please continue to give us feedback.

LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

for the Monologue Sermon given on April 2, 2023

by Pastor Bryan Wilkerson

"Enough: I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life"

Question: Who was Jesus?

Bottom Line: Because Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, we can live a new kind of life where He is more than enough.

We are in week 6 of our series exploring the I AM statements of Jesus. Seven times in the gospel of John, Jesus very intentionally declares himself; assigning a NAME to his identity and mission. The premise of our series is that the better we understand who Jesus is, and why he came, and what his life was all about, the better we understand who we are, why we're here, and what our lives are all about.

For Monologue Sunday, Pastor Bryan follows Philip the disciple, from the time he met Jesus as a fisherman all the way through until he finds himself back in Galilee after the resurrection. The through line will be his struggle at never having "enough" e.g. feeding of 5000. Jesus' declaration that He is the way, the truth, and the life means that He is enough – all that we need, and more.

Let's begin in prayer before we begin reading and discussing our text.

Main Scripture Reading: John 14 (various texts)

Group Discussion Questions

Q – The monologue begins with Philip sharing about his upbringing in a fisherman's household where he grew up with the mentality, "work hard to have enough to get by."

- What are some mentalities or paradigms you grew up believing?
- How did Jesus challenge/change/redeem those paradigms?

Q – Choose one of the two texts to read and reflect on:

- * John 2:1-12 about the Wedding at Cana.
- * John 6:1-14 about the Feeding of the 5000.

- Similar to how Phillip witnessed and experienced a distribution of food that never ran out, have you ever experienced a miracle of provision in real time?
- Or have you heard of stories of miraculous provision taking place in current times?
- What were your reactions?
- What is God speaking to you about Himself through these miracles?

Q – In what areas of your life do you struggle to believe that Jesus is "enough?" How does the resurrection of Christ and His declaration of being the Way, the Truth, and the Life provide comfort and reassurance? Feel free to share prayer requests during this time too.

Q – As you reflect on the series, is there a particular "I AM" statement that resonates with you the most?

- I AM the Good Shepherd
- I AM the True Vine
- I AM the Light of the World
- I AM the Gate
- I AM the Bread of the Life

Q – Read John 14:1-14. Jesus asked Philip, “Do you still not know who I am, Philip?” Could Jesus be asking you the same question? Take a moment of silence to confess to the Lord who He is. Then as a group, free to pray the following words from Philip’s monologue:

“You are the one who found me.
You are the shepherd who put himself between the sheep
and the wolf that night in the garden.
You are the vine that made us all grow.
You are the light in the darkest places of my life;
you are the bread that never runs out.
You are the way to the Father;
you are true; and being with you is life itself.
Jesus, you are enough.”

Homework Until Next Time:

Ask the members of your LG to complete the Discipleship Planning Tool and the GPS Assessment Tool before your next meeting. Here is some fresh language:

We’re all on a journey; where is yours taking you?

The beauty of the way of Jesus is that it’s not just good for us, it’s good for the world around us. But that kind of beautiful life doesn’t come from just hearing the words of Jesus; it comes from putting them into practice. Three kinds of practice, actually:

- The with-God life of our personal habits and routines;
- The with-others life of our genuine and life-changing relationships; and
- The for-the-world life that makes an impact beyond our immediate homes and families, into our communities and beyond.

Growing as disciples of Jesus will make a Kingdom difference in our world and a transformative difference in our lives as believers and as a group. And these resources are helpful in identifying the next steps for our journeys.

Support for the Leader (These Teaching Points are provided to help the group leader make connections from the message to their group with both insights from the Biblical text and also opportunities in the life of our church).

How to Use These Study Guides:

- Consider sending out the Scripture passage to your group members ahead of time.
- Begin each meeting with a short time of checking in with one another.

- You may want to begin the discussion by reading the Scripture passage together out loud, or by summarizing the passage if everyone has read it ahead of time.
- Don't feel like you need to discuss every question included in the Study Guide. Pick one or two to start with, and see how the conversation flows.
- If your group meets over Zoom:
 - You may need to do more overt facilitating over Zoom than you would in person. Feel free to call on people to invite them to share.
 - Try to be sensitive to attention spans over Zoom—keep the meetings shorter than they would be in person.
- Be sure to set aside time for sharing prayer requests and praying together.

Group Leader Support: Please reach out to your Campus Pastor or your Coach if you have any questions about leading your group or concerns about your group dynamic. If you have questions about or feedback on the Study Guides, please reach out to Pastor Tim or Grace Lee from the Group Life team.