

# I AM THE WAY THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE

## Purpose

For all members of the faith community to explore together what Jesus meant when he said, "I am the way, the truth and the life".

## Key Scripture

"I am the way, the truth, and the life!" Jesus answered. "Without me, no one can go to the Father. <sup>7</sup> If you had known me, you would have known the Father. But from now on, you do know him, and you have seen him." John 14:6-7 (CEV)

## Consider & Prepare

Read John 14.

Take some time to think about what it means for you to know that through Jesus we know the true way to life. What difference does this make in the way that you live your life?

If you would like to explore this topic further see the "I Am" LIFE guide series.

<http://toolkit.salvos.org.au/toolkit/resource/life-i-am-statements/452/>

## You will need

- **For the Guessing Game – The Way**
  - ❖ Create a display wall
  - ❖ Write or stick the word 'LIFE' onto your display wall
  - ❖ Enlarge and print or draw the words and shapes in Appendix A
- **For Treasure Hunt – The Truth**
  - ❖ Choose a position in your space that will be the starting point and another that will be the destination for this activity
  - ❖ Write the word 'God' on a card and stick it at your destination point where it cannot be easily seen, for example, under a chair, behind the cross, etc.
  - ❖ Write the word 'God' on a second card and place it in an envelope.
  - ❖ Choose a set of points along the way from the starting point to the destination and place a clue card at each point.



- ❖ On each card write a true or false statement.
- ❖ If the answer is TRUE then [follow this direction]
- ❖ If the answer is FALSE then [follow this direction]
- ❖ For example,
- ❖ Following the TRUE directions should lead

**There are 63 books in the Bible.**

TRUE: Walk to the nearest window.

FALSE: Take 7 large steps to the left.

- the volunteer to the next point and ultimately to the correct destination
- ❖ Following any FALSE direction should lead the volunteer to a dead end.
- For Opportunity for Reflection – A Full Life
- ❖ Print enough copies of the gift box from Appendix B for each person
- ❖ Pencils or markers
- ❖ Scissors

## Outline/ Key Components

Introduction	The Way to God
Guessing Game	The Way
Link 1	Challenge Question
Treasure Hunt	The Truth
Teaching	The Life
Link 2	
Opportunity for Reflection	A Full Life
Conclusion	

## Introduction

### The Way to God

Does anyone here know the way to the bathroom?

Could you show me the way?

Does anyone know the way to [choose a local landmark]?

Could you give me directions to get there?

Do you know the way to [choose another state]?

Could you show me on a map?

Does anyone know the way to God?

In John 14:6 Jesus said “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life! Without me, no one can go to the Father.

Today we are going to take some time to explore what Jesus meant when he said that he is the Way, the Truth and the Life and how we can follow him to get to God.

### Guessing Game The Way

*Set up a large box, screen, sheet of cardboard, piece of wood etc. and place the words behind it so that no one can see them.*

*Ask volunteers to come up and explain what is behind the screen without seeing it (of course they will have to guess).*

I need three volunteers to come up and help me.

You can't look behind the screen but I want each of you to tell me what is behind this screen.

*Allow your volunteers to make their best guesses about what is behind the screen.*

God is full of mystery. There is always something new for us to learn and understand about him. We know that God has always been in the world. He created it and he is part of it. The world cannot exist without him.

God is with us and we are with him. But because we cannot see him or touch him or hear him with our eyes and hands and ears, it is hard for us to know to him. Some of the choices that we and other people have made also make it hard for us to connect with God.

It is almost like a screen is in the way that stops us from knowing God, a bit like this screen stops us from seeing what is on the other side.

Jesus came to make a way for us to understand God better and to be able to connect with him now and forever. It's like he took the screen away and allowed us to really begin to see God.

*Take the barrier away.*

Now we can see what was hidden from us.

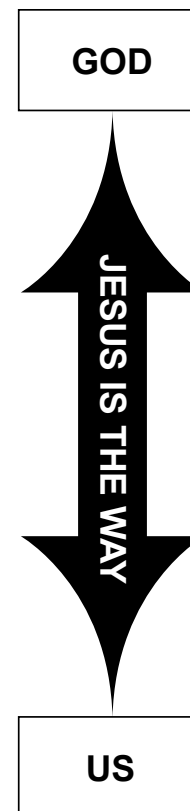
*Ask one of the volunteers to read out the words...  
“Jesus is the way, the truth and the life”*

Jesus is the way for us to see and understand God and his plan AND Jesus is the plan! Jesus is the way.

*Create a display wall.*

*Begin with the word ‘LIFE’.*

*Add the following words to your display wall.*



### Link 1

### Challenge question

Maybe you have known for a long time that Jesus is the way to God.

If so, then think about what changed in your life when you discovered this truth.

If you have recently learnt that Jesus is the Way to God, then think about what might change in your life.

Share your answer with someone who is near to you.

### **Treasure Hunt      The Truth**

Jesus shows us the truth about who God is and how we can connect with him.

*Choose a volunteer. Send them to the starting point of your 'Treasure Hunt'. Give them the envelope and ask them to carry it with them as they move through the activity.*

*Once the volunteer has reached the destination and found the 'God' card explain...*

Following the TRUE directions has led you to the destination, which is 'God'.

Following the FALSE directions only led to dead ends.

Jesus is the truth about the way to God. He shows us the right way to truly understand and connect with God and. He shows us the truth of God's love.

Think for a minute about what you know about God because of the teaching or example of Jesus. Share your answer with someone close to you.

*Now ask the volunteer to open the envelope that they have carried throughout the activity and read the word on the card.*

All the time that you were working your way towards finding God, you actually already had God with you. This is one of the wonderful mysteries of God. Even when we don't know him or we are looking for him, he is right here with us. Jesus helped us to understand this truth about God too.

Jesus said "I am the way, the truth and the life."

### **Teaching      The Life**

Have you ever really wanted something? Maybe it was a birthday present or Christmas present, maybe it was a job...

Tell the person next to you what it was that you really wanted.

Now, think about this... Were you able to receive that thing that you wanted without asking for it?

Jesus tells us that we can have life now and forever. This life is available to us. But Jesus tells us here that we can ask for life.

If you have not already asked Jesus for life then you can do it right now, you don't have to wait for anything. Jesus can give us life because he is the

WAY.

Think about the thing you really wanted. When you got it, did you use it? Sometimes we receive things that we really wanted but then we don't actually use them. Or, perhaps we use for them for a short amount of time then pack them away and forget about them.

Some of us might have already asked Jesus for life but we don't actually live life in a way that shows we have received that life.

Stand up if you would you prefer a half a piece of chocolate or hands up if you would prefer a full one?

Walk to the left side of the room if you would rather have a half a cup of your favourite drink or walk to the right side of the room if you would rather have a full cup?

Clap your hands if you would like a half of someone's attention or turn around if you think it would be better to have their full attention?

Hands on your head if you would enjoy half an hour to spend on your favourite activity or hands on shoulders if you would prefer a full hour?

Jesus tells us that he came to give us life in all its FULLNESS.

I came so that everyone would have life, and have it in its fullest. John 10:10

He came to give us life that we can be excited about! Life that we can enjoy! Life that is full of opportunities to use the gifts that God has given us! Life that is for now and life that is forever.

Stand up if you want life like that!

Jesus said "I am the way, the truth and the life." Another way to say this is...

Jesus is the true way to life.

### **Link 2**

Jesus is the truth about the way to God. He shows us the right way to truly understand and connect with God. He shows us the truth of God's love and he shows us the truth about life now and forever.

### **Opportunity for Reflection      A Full Life**

*Give everyone a copy of the gift template in Appendix B along with coloured pencils or markers.*

*Allow some time for reflection and drawing. You might like to play some background music during this time.*



On your gift write or draw pictures of

- ❖ The things you love to do
- ❖ Some activities or jobs that you would love to try
- ❖ People that you would like to spend more time with
- ❖ Things you would like to do to serve God
- ❖ Anything else that will help you to have the full life that Jesus has promised

*Invite everyone to cut out their gift and add it to the display wall.*

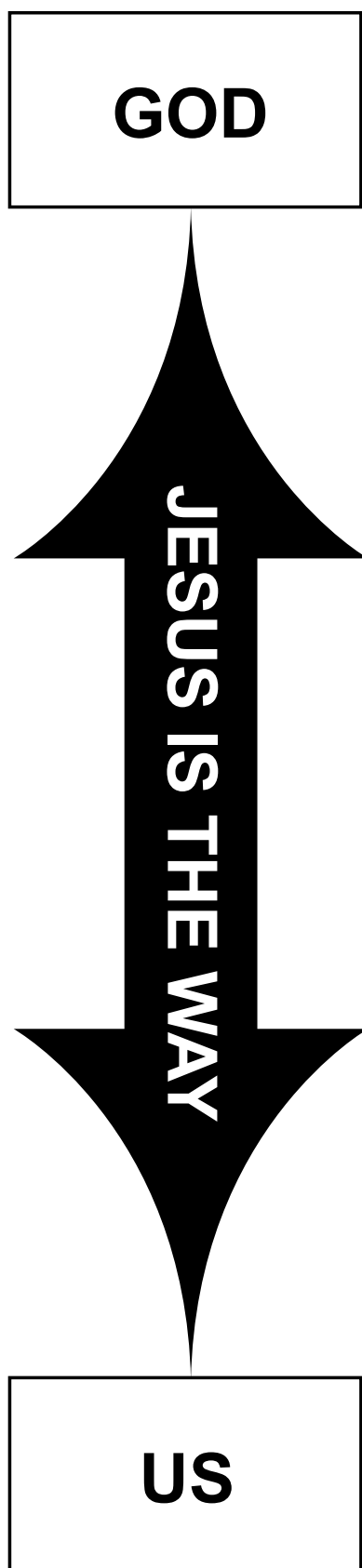
Jesus is the way to true life. This is life with God for now and forever.

### Conclusion

Jesus is the way to God. He is the way because he shows us the truth about who God is and how we can live with God right now. He is also the way because he has given us eternal life so that we can live with God forever.

Jesus is the true way to life. On your gift, write or draw pictures of

- The things you love to do
- Some activities or jobs that you would love to try
- People that you would like to spend more time with
- Things you would like to do to serve God
- Anything else that will help you to have the full life that Jesus has promised





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You might like to add some colour to your gift.