

SCRIPTURES FOR 1/15/06 LIFEGROUP LESSON

John 1:14

The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:17-18

For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made Him known.

John 14:6

⁶Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 8:31-32

³¹To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³²Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.

<p>NOTE TO LEADER: There is a lot of material here. Familiarize yourself with it so you know which stuff you are most comfortable with and what you will cut if you get short on time. Try to keep the lesson/discussion 20-30 minutes in length. Good luck and let me know if you have any questions. - Ed</p>

NOTE TO LEADERS: All items in *italics* are for your information and not designed to be read aloud.

INTRODUCTION:

Assign someone to read John 1:14 and someone to read John 1:17-18.

So, in other words, John says that Jesus WAS something else, but He became like us so we could see the truth and the grace of God in a way we could relate to and understand. Also, whatever you thought you knew about God apart from Jesus must now be re-evaluated in light of Jesus' life and ministry. That's what John says, but why do we care? Do we just need to know this so we can be in the "GOD CLUB"? Did Jesus just come into our lives to teach us the super secret handshake? If not, then why should we care and what should we do about it? (*This is a rhetorical question, don't wait for an answer.*) *Have someone read John 14:6.*

Jesus is the perfect BALANCE OF TRUTH

What do you think Jesus meant by "I am the way" and how do you think we should respond?

What should be our response to the claim, "I am the truth"?

Why do you think Jesus says, "I am the life," and how should that claim impact OUR life?

Jesus is the perfect balance. Think of our lives as a scale; on one side is our sin on the other side is our righteousness. The sin side is always full and the righteousness side is always empty. Nothing we can do ever adds anything to the righteousness side until we hear these claims Jesus makes in John 14:6. When we respond to those claims, Jesus steps in and balances out any sin we have, not because we deserve it, not because we earned it, but because He is the embodiment of truth and grace.

Jesus is the perfect EXAMPLE OF TRUTH

Jesus said, "I am the Bread of Life," "I am the Light of the World," "I am the Gate for the sheep", "I am the Good Shepherd," "I am the resurrection and the life," "I am the way, the truth, and the life," and "I am the true vine."

Which of these descriptions really connect with you and why?

Do you think these descriptions are just symbolic or do they translate into things you can actually bank on? If so, can you think of an example from your life or a friend's where God moved in that way?

Since Jesus is "the way," do you think we can follow His example and be the same kind of blessing to others?

Jesus is the perfect MOTIVATION FOR TRUTH

Read John 8:31-32.

Essentially, Jesus promises that if we follow Him, we will be freed from our sin. Have you ever felt enslaved by sin?

Would anyone like to share a time when they felt supernaturally freed from sin? Do not feel obligated to answer, but if you feel led to share, please do.

Have you ever considered doing something but decided not to because you asked yourself, "What would Jesus do?"

We need to be careful to ask that question only after considering what the scripture says Jesus DID do. If we don't, it is possible to use W.W.J.D. to justify actions that Jesus' example never justified. But His example is fully adequate for us to live by without making Him subject to our interpretation.

Can you think of an example, either recently or from history, where people used their own subjective interpretation to justify something totally un-Christian?

CLOSING

Because Jesus is the TRUTH, we can fully rely on His acts of balance, His examples of righteous behavior, and His promise of freedom to direct our paths and THAT is why we should care who He is.

Next week, we will discuss why we need to proclaim the truth.