

# I AM

## The Way, the Truth, the Life

## Participant Guide

### John 14

### Context

<sup>1</sup>‘Don’t let your hearts be troubled,’ Jesus continued. ‘Trust God – and trust me, too!’ <sup>2</sup>There is plenty of room to live in my father’s house. If that wasn’t the case, I’d have told you, wouldn’t I? I’m going to get a place ready for you! <sup>3</sup>And if I do go and get a place ready for you, I will come back and take you to be with me, so that you can be there, where I am. <sup>4</sup>And as to where I’m going – you know the way!’

<sup>5</sup>‘Actually, Master,’ said Thomas to him, ‘we don’t know where you’re going, so how can we know the way?’

<sup>6</sup>‘I am the way,’ replied Jesus, ‘and the truth and the life! Nobody comes to the father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you had known me, you would have known my father. From now on you do know him! You have seen him.’

<sup>8</sup>‘Just show us the father, then, Master,’ said Philip to Jesus, ‘and that’ll be good enough for us!’

<sup>9</sup>‘Have I been with you for such a long time, Philip,’ replied Jesus, ‘and still you don’t know me? Anyone who has seen me has seen the father! How can you say, “Show us the father”? <sup>10</sup>Don’t you believe that I am in the father, and the father is in me? The words I’m speaking to you, I’m not speaking on my own initiative. It’s the father, who lives within me, who is doing his own works. <sup>11</sup>You must trust me that I am in the father and the father is in me. If not, then trust because of all the things you’ve seen done.’

<sup>12</sup>‘I’m telling you the solemn truth,’ Jesus continued. ‘Anyone who trusts in me will also do the works that I’m doing. In fact, they will do greater works than these, because I’m going to the father! <sup>13</sup>And whatever you ask in my name, I will do it, so that the father may be glorified in the son. <sup>14</sup>If you ask anything in my name, I will do it.’

‘Master, where are you going?’ asks Peter. This is how this conversation starts. Jesus is having the last supper with his disciples on the night he is imprisoned. He’s been talking about betrayal and death for a while now, and the uncertainty regarding his plan has left the disciples worried about what would happen next. Jesus addresses their concerns talking about his Father’s house, which the disciples would probably have understood as the temple which represented God’s presence among his people, and the seat of his coming kingdom. But they did not understand the big picture just yet (how could they?), that’s way they wanted assurances from Jesus about when and how God would finally finish the job. Interestingly enough, Jesus tells them that they already know the way to where his going.

**1. Thomas is less concerned about the way, he really wants to know what the destination is. What’s Jesus’ answer? Can you relate to Thomas in the way he asks his question?**

**2. Jesus makes a claim of exclusivity: I am THE way! What can we learn about our reconciliation with God from this claim?**

**3. As followers of Jesus, how can we respond to this claim?**

**4. Some people have argued that Jesus’ claim of exclusivity is too harsh. How does it compare with the claim of other religions and worldviews?**

To follow Jesus implies that we enter into a way of life that is given character and shape and direction by the one who calls.

I want to develop discernments that say an unapologetic “no” to ways that violate the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Eugene H. Peterson