

JESUS = THE WAY TO LIFE

JOHN 14:1-6 | ERIC SIMPSON | November 28, 2021

John 14:1-6

1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. 3 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. 4 You know the way to the place where I am going."

5 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" 6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

"In our awed admiration [of technology] we hardly notice that there is little skill or wisdom or concern given to the way we actually live. A technologized world knows how to make things, knows how to get places, but is not conspicuous for living well." – Eugene Peterson

John 6 – I am the bread of life

John 11 – I am the resurrection and the life

John 8 – I am the light of the world

John 14 – I am the way and the truth and the life

John 10:9 – I am the door

John 15 – I am the true vine

John 10:11 – I am the good shepherd

Jesus way + Jesus truth = Jesus life

Jesus is our way to God and Jesus is God's way to us.

Hebrews 1:3

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.

exact representation = charaktér (Greek) = engraving, molding, like a stamp that conveys
the reality behind the image

Valley of Vision (Puritan prayer)

Lord, high and holy, meek and lowly...

Let me learn by paradox

that the way down is the way up,

that to be low is to be high,

that the broken heart is the healed heart,

that the repenting soul is the victorious soul,

that to have nothing is to possess all,

that to bear the cross is to wear the crown,

that to give is to receive,

that the valley is the place of vision...

Lord, let me find thy light in my darkness,

thy life in my death,

thy joy in my sorrow,

thy grace in my sin,

thy riches in my poverty,

thy glory in my valley.

Amen.

ADVENT

History

Advent is to Christmas what Lent is to Easter. It's a period of preparation, anticipation, and expectation. It has a bi-directional element to it—we look back at Jesus' entry into humanity (incarnation) and we look ahead to his promised return. Looking back reminds us that God is faithful to deliver on His promises. Looking ahead reminds us that "current" is not eternal. The word "advent" comes from the Latin word *adventus* and means "arrival" or "coming." It spans the four-week period preceding December 25 and has four themes: HOPE, JOY, PEACE, LOVE.

Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath symbolizes the beginning of the church year. It is a circular evergreen wreath with five candles, four around the wreath and one in the center. The wreath's circle reminds us of God Himself, He is eternal, He has no beginning or end. The green speaks of the hope that we have in God, the hope of renewal, of healing, of redemption, of eternal life.

The four outer candles represent the waiting period—the four hundred years between the prophet Malachi and the birth of Christ (each outer candle represents 100 years).

The candlelight reminds us that Jesus is the Light of the World who comes into the darkness of our lives to bring newness, life. It also reminds us that we are called to be a light to the world as we reflect God's grace to others. The progressive candle lighting symbolizes our waiting experience. As the candles are lit over the four-week period, the darkness of fear and hopelessness recedes and the shadows of sin fall away as more and more light enters the world.

The center candle—the Christ Candle—is traditionally lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. The central location of this candle reminds us that the incarnation is the heart of the season—the promise of long ago has been realized.

JOY (Nov. 28-Dec 4)

Reading: John 14:1-6

Candle: lighting of first advent candle, purple, called prophecy candle, represents royalty

HOPE (Dec 5-11)

Reading: John 1:1-5

Candle: lighting of second advent candle, purple, called the Bethlehem candle, represents royalty born in a manger

PEACE (Dec 12-18)

Reading: John 8:3-11

Candle: lighting of the third advent candle, purple, called angels candle, represents the birth announcement of a King

LOVE (Dec 19-24)

Reading: Matthew 1:18-23

Candle: lighting of the fourth advent candle, pink, called shepherds candle, represents God's love & faithfulness

Christmas Eve/Christmas Day:

Reading: John 14:27, 16:33

Candle: lighting the center white candle (Christ candle)

Can order "Advent Wreath" (\$20-30) and "Advent Candles" (\$8) on Amazon.

The 11-12" diameter ones work nice for the center of the dinner table.

Goal: one meal/week where you gather the family, light candles, read Scripture...etc.