

## Weekly Sermon Discussion Guide

November 19, 2023

### *I AM...the Way, the Truth, and the Life*

#### I AM

#### John 14:1-7

#### EXPLORING THE SERMON

- \* What did you hear?
- \* What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- \* What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

#### KEY VERSES

*"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to the place where I am going."<sup>5</sup> Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?"<sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."*

When we prepare to host people, we tend to go through a series of steps - making lists, going to the store, and thinking about the specific needs of people. **What process do you go through when you are preparing to host? How do our preparations help convey to people that they matter? How does this type of preparation for others give us a glimpse of heaven, and describe eternity?**

In this sixth of seven **I AM** statements, Jesus affirms two things: He reminds us who He is and of His divinity, and that the way to the Father is only through Him. The church tends to twist this latter statement into a "who's in, who's out" version of who qualifies for heaven. But rather than a religious system telling us what we have to do, we instead have the grace of God which liberates us from the "stuff" of this world that we think gives us worth or makes us feel shameful or guilty. **How good are you at separating the things that give you worth from the righteousness of Jesus which covers it all? How can you be encouraged to share this with others?**

No religion or spirituality can protect us from the heartache of death when we lose someone we love. The comfort for us is to know they are in heaven, where Jesus has gone before us to prepare a place for each of us. When we are preparing to host, we are giving others a glimpse of eternity. **This week, whether you are hosting or not, how can you make those around you feel seen, welcomed, and worthy?**

*Dear Heavenly Father, may all our gatherings this week be sacred, joyful spaces where earthly woes melt away and time seems to stand still. Heighten our awareness in our preparations so those in our midst feel loved and welcomed. May our time together glorify You and be a glimpse of heaven for all!*