

# THE NAME: ENCOUNTERING THE GLORY OF GOD

*John 14:1-14*

Read the Scripture passage above and then work through the introduction below to help guide your personal study.

This weekend's sermon is week 5 in the series called "The Name" where Pastor J.D. takes a close look at God's character as revealed in Exodus 32-34. This weekend's message is the final sermon in the series and it focuses on God's statement "I am who I am" (Exodus 3:14). The Gospel writer, John, picks up on this aspect of God's character when describing Jesus' deity in John 6-15. Here are some of the "I am" statements about Jesus from John's Gospel:

- I am the Bread of Life (John 6:35)
- I am the Light of the World (John 8:12)
- Before Abraham was, I am (John 8:58)
- I am the Good Shepherd (John 10:14)
- I am the Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25)
- **I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6)**
- I am the True Vine (John 15:1)

These statements depict a God and Savior who is sufficient, capable, giving, inexhaustible, powerful, and the source of existence and protection. Jesus' words to us force us to make him the center of everything we do and say. They also comfort us and encourage us when we feel inadequate, especially in doing what he has called us to do.

John 14's statement beckons disciples to put their trust in him (vs. 1) and leave worry behind (vs. 1 and 27). True disciples will carry out God's commands with the promise that God's presence will always be with us. Jesus here promises love, peace, and rejoicing as he describes the intimate relationship that we can have with God. Where the Exodus "I Am" statement taught us about the immeasurable size and power of God, Jesus' "I Am" statement teaches us about the intimacy that this big God wants to have with us.

Work through these questions before you come to small group and be ready to interact with the Scriptures and questions below.

## **Sermon Response Questions**

1. This weekend, Pastor J.D. spoke to us about God's name, "I Am". This is different than the past several weeks talking about characteristics of God. What from the sermon has helped you to believe and follow God more?

- Remember the sermon's points:
  - I AM shows us how we encounter God.
  - I AM gives us the ground rule for knowing God.
  - I AM transforms our identities.

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### **Bible Study Questions: Read John 14:1-14**

3. In verse 6, Jesus calls himself “the way, the truth, and the life.” What does this statement mean? Why does he group these three words together to describe himself?

- *The Truth* – Jesus embodies the supreme revelation of God. The Word made flesh.
- *The Life* – Jesus has “life in himself” and is “the resurrection and the life.”
- *The Way* – Because Jesus is the truth and the life he can be the way for others to come to God.
- Jesus is the answer to Thomas’ question about how they may get to the Father’s house.

4. How does Jesus describe his own relationship with God the Father?

- V. 8-11 show that Jesus is not just an envoy of the Father, but one with him.
- God reveals himself in Jesus most in the glorification of Jesus – his death/resurrection.
- The consequence of this event is the gift of the Spirit – which finally enables Jesus’ disciples to grasp the truth of who he is.

5. What does it mean that Jesus’ disciples will do “greater works” than Jesus?

- Doesn’t just mean more in number or scope.
- Doesn’t just mean more spectacular.
- The clue is that these works will be done “because I am going to the Father.”
- The works the disciples will perform will be more clear in pointing to Jesus than his own works before the cross and resurrection.

### **Small Group Discussion Questions**

6. Jesus is the same way, truth, and life today as he was to the disciples. Describe ways you have come to know the Father through Jesus in your life.

- Taking steps of faith and obedience make salvation in Jesus alone more and more clear.

7. Based on today’s study, how would you respond to someone who believes Jesus is a great teacher, but not truly God?

8. While at small group, break up into groups of 2-3. John 14 starts with the phrase “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.” Talk about where you find troubles in your life that directly link to parts of your life where you don’t believe in God? Or, what troubles have found comfort in belief in God?

### **Prayer Guide**

In your groups of 2-3, pray with one another to:

- Be thankful that there is a way of salvation – in Jesus. (v. 6)
- Be hungry to know God more. (v. 8)
- Be encouraged that faith in Jesus means the Father hears our prayers. (v. 13-14)