DIVING DEEPER

Exclusivity

Jesus is the only way, but Jesus is open to everyone.

the line IN THE SAND

START HERE

A lot of people have drawn a line in the sand with Christianity: hypocrisy, suffering, science, sexuality, hell, whether the Bible can be trusted. Maybe a Christian hurt you. Whatever your line is, you're welcome here with it.

This week we looked at the biggest one: that Christianity is exclusive, that Jesus is the only way to God. Before deciding if that's offensive, let's hear what Jesus actually said.

READ JOHN 14:1-6

Jesus said this the night before His crucifixion, comforting friends who'd just heard He'd be betrayed and gone soon: “Don't let your hearts be troubled.” When Thomas asked how they could know the way, Jesus didn't shame him. He answered directly: “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.” (John 14:6, NLT)

Reflect

What comes up when you hear Jesus say He's the only way? Where is your own line in the sand?

THE WAY

Jesus is the way because sin separated us from God, and we can't build our own bridge back. Religion says climb higher, work harder, earn it. The gospel says God came down: Jesus entered our brokenness, carried our sin, and opened the road home.

Reflect

Where are you tempted to rely on your own effort instead of God's grace? What would trusting Jesus look like instead?

THE TRUTH

Jesus is the truth because He doesn't just tell us about God. He shows us. “Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.” Touching lepers, welcoming children, forgiving enemies, laying down His life: that's what truth looks like.

Reflect

Is there something you've believed about God that doesn't match what you see in Jesus?

THE LIFE

Jesus is the life because death couldn't hold Him. Buried Friday, empty tomb Sunday. If He'd stayed dead, His claim would collapse. Because He rose, His invitation to eternal life is unlike any other.

Reflect

Where do you need the hope and new life of Jesus right now?

EVERYONE INVITED

“We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.”
(Romans 3:22-24)

No superiority, no favoritism. Grace doesn't make us better. It means we were rescued.

Reflect
Where might confidence in Jesus have slipped into feeling superior to people who believe differently?

PERSONAL PRAYER

Jesus, thank You for making a way I couldn't make myself. Forgive me for the times I've felt superior instead of grateful. Give me humility to remember I was rescued, and courage to hold what I believe without pushing people away. Help me carry Your grace into every conversation this week. Amen.

YOUR NEXT STEP

Jesus is the only way, but Jesus is open to everyone.

Here's what that looks like this week:

EXPLORE: Not sure what you believe? Open a Gospel (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) and pray something honest: **“Jesus, if You're the way, show me.”**

LISTEN: Talk to someone who believes differently. Don't correct, listen. Ask “What makes that important to you?” First Peter 3:15: explain your hope “with gentleness and respect.”

SHARE: Think of one person who needs hope. You don't need every answer. Three phrases can carry a conversation: “Tell me more.” “That's a fair question.” “Here's why I trust Jesus.”