

Know God Deeply_Season 5_Episode 05_I Am the Way the Truth & the Life

[00:00:00] **Adam:** Welcome to Know God Deeply with Precept, where we discuss how to dig deeper into the Bible and discover God's truth for ourselves. Because when we know God more deeply through His Word, we live differently. Let's dig deep.

You are listening to the Know God Deeply podcast. It's Adam here. I am joined today by Corina, David, and Rachel. How is everyone today? I is good. All right. That's excellent grammar. I love it.

[00:00:40] **Corina:** Man of many talents.

[00:00:42] **Adam:** Yep. I like the concise language there. You got right to the point. So I'll get right to the point as well.

We are going to be in John chapter 14 today, and the concept of knowing the way features prominently in today's passage. So it's got me [00:01:00] considering this idea of navigation just in our everyday lives. Would you consider yourself as having, like, a good sense of direction?

[00:01:09] **Corina:** I feel personally attacked by this question.

Wow. No. I could get- So, no ... I g- I do get lost in people's homes, like going to the bathroom if I've never been there, I sometimes cannot find my way back. Yeah, I have a terrible sense of direction.

[00:01:24] **Adam:** Wow.

[00:01:24] **Corina:** It's debilitating.

[00:01:27] **David:** You must go to some nice big houses.

[00:01:28] **Corina:** Well, sometimes, yes.

[00:01:30] **David:** You wouldn't get lost in my house.

[00:01:34] **Adam:** Well, I mean, it's, it's better than getting lost in the bathroom itself. I, I had my, my grandma had a, a pretty large bathroom in the house they had in retirement, and someone had visited and went in there and came back out, and it's like, "You could square dance in that bathroom." I was like, "Why? Why is that the first thing you thought of?"

Why not? Square dancing. Why

[00:01:52] **David:** not?

[00:01:53] **Adam:** That's funny.

[00:01:54] **Corina:** I love that.

[00:01:55] **Adam:** Yeah. What about, like, using maps in your vehicle? Do you do it even when you know where you're going? Do [00:02:00] you turn on the maps for navigation? Yeah.

[00:02:02] **David:** Unfortunately, I'm addicted to them. I, I don't, I just wait for her to tell me where to go. Honestly, yeah.

[00:02:08] **Corina:** Yeah.

[00:02:08] **Adam:** Do you use navigation, David, when you're doing your cross-country motorcycle? I

[00:02:11] **David:** do. That's the only way I could do it. Yeah.

[00:02:13] **Adam:** Yeah.

[00:02:13] **David:** Yeah. Yeah.

[00:02:14] **Adam:** Yeah, they are definitely helpful. Rachel, yeah, what do you think?

[00:02:17] **Rachel:** I like using an actual map. Do y'all ever still do that? Like when you're in a city No.

[00:02:25] **David:** Do they make

[00:02:25] **Rachel:** those still?

No. Not for driving, but when I'm in a city, I like to use an actual map. I don't know. I still-

[00:02:30] **Adam:** That's

[00:02:30] **Rachel:** cool ... like to do that.

[00:02:31] **David:** Very cool. Yeah. That's how, that's how you get pick-pocketed, for sure. Are

[00:02:36] **Adam:** there map thieves out there, Justin? Walk around with a big...

[00:02:38] **David:** No. Oh.

[00:02:38] **Adam:** Walk around with

[00:02:39] **David:** a

[00:02:39] **Adam:** big map- I got you ... you're

[00:02:40] **David:** gonna get pick-pocketed.

[00:02:41] **Adam:** I thought you were saying they're gonna steal her map. I was like... yeah, that brings back a lot of memories of family road trips as a kid. W- Mom pulling out the huge Rand McNally from under- Oh, yeah ... the seat- Yeah ... and like, "Okay, here's where we're headed."

[00:02:53] **Corina:** So. My mom did MapQuest back when that was a thing.

Okay. Yeah. Yeah.

[00:02:57] **Adam:** Printed it off- ... and had the pages. Yeah. Yeah, [00:03:00] that's the classic. All right, so, we're gonna talk about the way, because we are in John 14. We're actually gonna start in toward the end of John chapter 13, beginning in verse 36. Carina's gonna be reading for us today. So Carina, take it away.

[00:03:18] **Corina:** John 13:36. "Simon Peter said to him," that is Jesus, "Lord, where are you going? Jesus answered him, 'Where I am going, you cannot follow me now, but you will follow afterward.' Peter said to him, 'Lord, why

can I not follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.' Jesus answered, 'Will you lay down your life for me?'

Truly, truly, I say to you, the rooster will not crow till you have denied me three times.'" Chapter 14. "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a [00:04:00] place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am, you may be also.

And you know the way to where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would've known my Father also. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.'

Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you so long and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you, I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works.

Believe me, that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.'"'

[00:04:59] **Adam:** So [00:05:00] what prompted this I am statement from Jesus that we read in this passage?

[00:05:05] **David:** I mean, on the surface, it's, it's a simple, "Hey, where you go you said you're going somewhere, where you going?" But I wonder if there's a little bit more to it because of Jesus.

It, the situation that's going on and Jesus is towards the... You know, he's on his way now to Jerusalem. This is gonna be the... Or he's in Jerusalem. This is the, this is the deal. Like, his, he's fi- his final message. There's almost like a call to commitment, and Peter's like, "I'm in. Listen, I'm in. I'll, I'll die for you."

And that, Jesus takes that and works it into this, "I am the way." So I think it's really cool. It's, I can't wait to talk about it.

[00:05:41] **Rachel:** I love Thomas in this story. Yeah. I feel like, 'cause I can just relate to him so much- Yeah ... in this moment, being like, "What? We, no, we don't know where you're going."

The way, right. We don't,

[00:05:51] **Adam:** huh? Actually.

[00:05:52] **Rachel:** Yeah. Yeah,

[00:05:53] **Adam:** that's great.

[00:05:54] **David:** And I relate to Peter of sticking his foot in his mouth all the time, so I'm totally with Peter, like, "I'll do [00:06:00] it. I'll go all the way." Yeah.

Yeah.

[00:06:02] **Corina:** Yeah, it's almost like Jesus has been, since chapter 13, the beginning, he's been preparing them for his departure, and he's getting a little bit more blunt about that departure in this section, saying, you know, "I'm, I'm gonna go away."

And yeah, it's funny to, to say, you know, "You know the way where I'm going," when the- Yeah ... the disciples aren't sure where he's going.

[00:06:24] **Adam:** Yeah. Yeah, and I like that, Rachel, you called out Thomas' reaction there, 'cause when we think about his reaction after Christ's resurrection, he's the one that wanted the evidence, the proof.

"Let me see the, the scars. You know, let, show it." And here he is also doing the same kind of thing of, "Actually, yeah, we don't know the way. Give me, give me some more information here." So that's good.

[00:06:45] **Corina:** Yeah. All right,

[00:06:45] **Adam:** so- He wants a

[00:06:46] **Corina:** map.

[00:06:47] **Adam:** Yeah, give me the map. Let me see. So what does this I am statement teach us about Jesus and the Father?

[00:06:54] **Rachel:** I was struck by Jesus's, Like, how there's, this is a three-parter. I think this is the [00:07:00] only I am statement that is a three-parter like that.

[00:07:03] **David:** Hmm.

[00:07:03] **Rachel:** Or like is kind of a list. Yeah.

So we have, like, the way, the truth, and the life, and, like, each one, I think, reveals something so cool about Jesus and his connection with God.

So, like, obviously we have the way, right? So this is a path for us to find communion and connection to God. We have the truth which I, oh, gosh, I wanna say it's like, is it Jeremiah 10:10 or something like that, where, that calls God the God of truth. And then later in John 15, he's gonna give us the, the spirit of truth, right?

And so truth seems to be pretty intrinsic to God's identity. And then the life, if we go back to John 1, if we go back to Genesis 1, you know, he is a creator of all life, and he gives us the breath of life. And so it's kinda cool h- to take one individually and meditate on how it reflects not only Christ, but also- God and the Father- ... in that.

Mm. So it was, it was fun kind of meditating on that.

[00:07:56] **David:** Yeah. I marked Father in this text. And so, [00:08:00] you know, looking at this question, the very first thing I see about him and is in verse six after he says, "I'm the way, the truth, and the life," and he says bluntly, "No one comes to the Father except through me."

And so a real basic connection to the Father has to include Has to involve, has to be with Jesus.

And what a, what a profound statement. I mean, you would think he's either the Son of God or he has gone crazy. I mean, this is a really crazy, bold statement. You don't get to the Father.

Doesn't matter if you're a Pharisee, doesn't matter if you're the tribe of Benjamin, you know, doesn't matter if you're Judah, it- nope. If you're a Levite, nope. Only through me do you get to the Father.

[00:08:50] **Corina:** Hmm.

[00:08:51] **David:** Wow, what a, what a, a awesome statement, but a very, very clear definition of, of the [00:09:00] connection between the Son and the Father here in this text.

[00:09:03] **Corina:** Yeah. When I got married we honeymooned in, it's called Bryson City. It's, like, just outside of Asheville. Oh, yeah. Yeah. And so I'd never been to the mountains, you know, born and raised in Miami, and we stayed kind of up on a, I don't know if you'd call it a hill, a mountain, but there was an incline, and we were driving this just tiny little, like, Corolla, and I literally just, very first few days of marriage, had to put my life in my husband's hands as we would just go up this hill because it was only enough room for that Corolla.

Like, there, there was a car coming down. Hmm. I was like, "What do we do if there's a car coming down?" And he was like, "Well, we'll, you know, we'll back up or they'll back up." And I was like, "That's, that's scary." ... I know lots of things about marriage are scary, but that was scary. And yeah, it just makes me think of that.

When I think about what Jesus is saying, I think of th- this is a one-lane road, essentially. Only, only one way in and out, and there's no shortcut, there's no back way to get to that cabin where we were saying, "You've gotta take this road." [00:10:00] And that is what I think Jesus says, like you said, so bluntly, so unequivocally in chapter, or in verse 6.

He says, "No one comes to the Father except through me. There is only one way to get to me or to the Father, and it's, it's me." So, yeah, I just, I j- just think of, of that one lane.

[00:10:18] **David:** And, and in verse 7, it's, he, he... The ne- the next thing he says about the Father is if he, if you wanna know the Father, you need to know me.

And so y- yet again, a whole nother, not just about or to, but now they're, now we're talking about a relationship, we're talking about a connection.

So Jesus, there, there is no us and the Father without Jesus.

[00:10:37] **Corina:** Well, and there's something very game changing about that statement, David.

It's like- Up to this point, you, we know that no one can see God and live. And, you know, John obviously opens his gospel with this, these amazing statements that if, if you see Jesus, he's revealed the Father, right? The only begotten Son has revealed the Father. And so this is [00:11:00] another, another way of saying that from Jesus himself.

"If you see me, you see the Father. I, I am the representation of his glory, the perfect, his perfect radiance," Hebrews 1 would say. Like, the, our, your relationship with the Father is in- intertwined with your relationship with me, like you're saying.

[00:11:17] **Adam:** Yeah, and if you need a- another Bryson City story, Corina there's also a road to nowhere in Bryson City.

Oh, really? It was like a highw- a highway project that I guess lost its funding, and so it ends in a tunnel, and then on the other side of the tunnel, it's just woods. It's just a forest. And so- Glad we

[00:11:34] **Corina:** didn't go there. That would've been-

[00:11:35] **Adam:** Right ...

[00:11:35] **Corina:** scary.

[00:11:36] **Adam:** It would've been a bad omen for an early marriage as well, right?

Honestly. I'm like, right. Yes. So

[00:11:41] **Corina:** right.

[00:11:42] **Adam:** But-

[00:11:43] **David:** Dead end.

[00:11:43] **Adam:** But, but no, no dead ends here. We have Jesus proclaiming, "I am the way." So there is there is hope in him, and he is teaching his disciples that "I am the way to the Father," like we've been talking about. And, and [00:12:00] David, you mentioned it in verse seven.

He's like, "If you, if you'd know me you would know my Father also." And then we have in verse eight Philip asking, "Lord, show us the Father. That's, that'd be enough for us." Mm. And you kind of sense a little bit of the frustration here with Jesus. Like, "If you've been with me this long and you don't see him?

You should see him." Yeah. Right, right here. Yeah. Right. It's like... And and so yeah, that, that connection with the Father is, I don't know where I was going with that last thought

[00:12:24] **Corina:** Well, I think you're right that it, you bring up something important that Jesus is saying, "Not only am I the way to the Father," in verse six, but then in verse seven He essentially says, "I'm also where you're going.

I, I, I'm with the Father. Me and Him-" "... are one," as He said in John 10. So He's not just- ... the way, the path, but He's also the destination, and it turns out the place- Hmm. Hmm ... they're going is not a place so much as it is a person to cling to, a person to throw yourself on, a person to align yourself with, and a person to follow.

So I, I think that's right on.

[00:12:56] **Rachel:** And it's so like Jesus to do that, 'cause in the last I Am, [00:13:00] I am the resurrection, He takes an event and says, "This is not just an event, it's a person." And now He does this kind of again, where this is not just a path. You know, I- it is me. It's a person. It's, yeah, it's cool how He- Yeah

He does that. He kind of takes things and makes them unexpected.

[00:13:15] **David:** I read in, in a commentary it s- Jesus isn't promoting or providing a recipe, but instead He's providing a relationship.

You know, or and I was thinking through that. Of He's not, He's not actually giving an instruction, He's giving an invitation.

I mean, there's, it's almost like a this is the way, you know? It's not like you need to follow this to get to the Father. He's just saying me.

[00:13:42] **Corina:** I love that. That's, yeah Me.

[00:13:44] **David:** Follow me. Yeah. And I'll take you to the Father.

[00:13:47] **Adam:** Mm. Yeah.

[00:13:48] **David:** And the truth, and the life. Yeah.

[00:13:50] **Adam:** Yeah, that's I like that phrase. A, a, not a recipe, but a relationship.

'Cause we can make our pursuit of God this [00:14:00] formulaic thing and, and it seems in Christianity there's often this ideal or goal of heaven in the, the- Mm ... I'm gonna h- have this formula, I'm gonna follow the formula, and it's gonna get me to

[00:14:15] **Rachel:** heaven. Mm.

[00:14:15] **Adam:** And so let's talk about that a little bit, of this having this goal or destination of heaven.

How do Jesus' words here seem to reframe the goal of our faith?

[00:14:26] **Rachel:** Gosh, it really kind of flips it on its head a little bit. Well, at least for me, like, I grew up in a church context, so it was very much you say these things and you get essentially your ticket to heaven. I think, you know, as a group we've talked about that phrase.

You know? Like, say the right things, you have your ticket for heaven that you can cash in when you die. It is kind of very formulaic, like you said, Adam. And to be honest with you, growing up, like, I grew up in church, I grew up a Christian, but that actually was not that exciting to me. Like, I was- Yeah ... like, "Okay, well, yeah, I believe," you know?

But it wasn't all that, like, stirring in my soul. But [00:15:00] then when I started to re- like, really dive into this I Am statement, it really kind of really opened up my heart to, like, the true depth of that and- To see, like, it's not just a ticket to heaven, it's not just a formula to cash in when you die. Like, this is...

We, we have eternal life now, you know? We are, we have communion with the Father now. And I'm reminded so much of John 17 later in this book when Jesus

prays before he faces the cross. And one of my favorite verses in the Bible is in that prayer where he says, "And this is eternal life, that they know you, God and Jesus Christ."

Like, he defines eternal life. Yeah. And for years and years and years, I remember thinking, "Well, eternal life happens when I die. It's what goes on in heaven."

[00:15:46] **Corina:** Yeah.

[00:15:46] **Rachel:** No, eternal life is simply knowing Jesus and God. And it's just such a beautiful... That is what excites me. That's what stirs- Yeah

my soul. Yeah. Like, oh, okay. Like, that's eternal life. I have this now with me, in me, in this [00:16:00] very moment. So yeah, he kind of definitely reframes that goal. Not that heaven isn't in our future, but it, it just brings it to the here and the now and the present when we're facing struggles, when we're facing questions.

We s- we have heaven with us now. Yeah. And that is exciting to me.

[00:16:18] **David:** Yeah. Mm. Yeah. And, and so the goal is not to wait.

[00:16:21] **Rachel:** Right, yeah.

[00:16:22] **David:** You know? Mm. It's to live right now. Yeah.

[00:16:25] **Corina:** Yeah. I think the opposite can be true, too, Rachel. I, I so relate to you saying, like, "I don't know, there wasn't anything all that compelling about it growing up in a Christian household and hearing, like, this was the the end goal or where, where, how we'd spend eternity."

And I can remember my siblings and I talking and saying, like, "Man, I just hope I can get married first," you know? I hope- Yeah. ... hope, hope I can you know, play basketball in college first. Like, hope I can... that was not me. But my In case anyone was wondering. But yeah, you, you get the opposite is true in this, in this as well, is okay, it's, it's [00:17:00] not compelling hopefully that heaven is this fun place or a place with no sickness or a place where my grandma is or...

It, it shouldn't be that we desire to go to heaven just for those things either, right? So it's, it's if you don't enjoy God now and you don't enjoy this present reality like you're talking about of life with God, you will not like heaven.

[00:17:25] **Rachel:** Right.

[00:17:25] **Corina:** That's what Jesus also says. Like you- ... I'm going to prepare a place for you that where I am, you may be also.

The end goal is togetherness, and it's gonna be a, a greater togetherness, a deeper togetherness, but you're right, it starts now. And if that doesn't excite me right now, it's not going to for a million, trillion years, you know? So there's a, there's a reality check in it as well.

[00:17:49] **Rachel:** Yeah.

Well, and it makes our faith useful now. You know what I mean? Like, our faith isn't just for when we die. Like, our faith has use and that we can embody it now and live it now. So it's not, [00:18:00] we don't have to have this, like, kind of... We don't have to push it to the back burner, you know, for when we die.

Like, it's, it's useful now and it, it brings life now. Yeah. Yeah.

[00:18:11] **Adam:** Yeah, yeah. If we're not excited about spending time with the eternal God, yeah, then we're not gonna be excited about eternal life. As Corina, as you said, that's so yeah, looking ahead and having that hope to be with him is, is the exciting part, not just the, the length of time.

[00:18:31] **David:** Yeah, and, and holding an intention, whatever he's doing is gonna be amazing right? He says, "I go I go to prepare a place for you. I'm gonna come again and take you to myself so that where I am you may may be also." So there's something, I think if we look at Revelation 21, it's gonna be a new heavens and a new Earth that's, that he's bringing, you know, here.

So it's not like us going there, but he's bringing it here. And I once heard, I don't know if it's a joke or not, but I once heard he [00:19:00] created everything in six days, but he's been working on this rooms for- ... for 2,000 years. It's gonna be great. How awesome is it gonna be? I know that's, that's tongue in cheek, but we do know that it is better.

We, we get that out of Hebrews over and over again. They're longing for a better country. So eternal life starts now, but it's only gonna get better. You

know, it's only... And, and I think that that's a, a progression towards it. So I think it's, Yeah ... it's good to hold those things in tension and not lean too hard on one side or the other, you know?

Yeah. But to- Yeah ... to, to let the Word speak for itself.

[00:19:34] **Adam:** Yeah. Yeah, and we're living in those eternal heavenly realities even now, and I'm, I'm reminded of, of what Paul says in Ephesians- Ephesians, yeah ... chapter two. Yeah. You know, that we, we are raised up with him and seated with him in the heavenly places.

All right, so let's talk practicality now. What might change in your life if the goal of your faith was rooted in this connection with the Father, [00:20:00] both for eternity in heaven and in the here and now?

[00:20:03] **Rachel:** Well, David, you mentioned that relationship. Like, it's not a recipe, it's a relationship, and that's kinda I think what has in, at least in my own walk, how this has kind of changed my walk with Jesus, is it's less about knowing the right things and more about knowing the Savior.

And I was in Logos digging into some word studies. David, I know you love, you love a word study. But that word know in verse, where is it, seven, "If you had known me- Yeah ... you would have known my Father." And that word know, I- David, you might need to correct me. It's like ginosko in Greek. And it's not a head knowledge.

It's an experiential knowledge, a relational knowledge. It's often used for, like, married couples. You know? And so it's, it's not just about knowing the right things about Jesus, it's about knowing him. And I think, you know, as somebody who went through Bible college and grew up in church, I definitely have made that [00:21:00] mistake in my life of mistaking head knowledge and facts about the Bible and Jesus for a relationship.

Yeah. And I look back and I'm like, "No wonder my faith felt so dry and empty," like I was making that mistake. And so just in my own life, you know, approaching the Bible with less about, okay, well, how much information can I glean? And more about how can I experience Jesus in these few minutes I'm in scripture.

So it really changes my approach to prayer, my approach to, especially scripture. And yeah, just making, making sure I'm not mistake, making that mistake again in my life and, and focusing more on the relational aspect of it.

[00:21:36] **Corina:** Yeah, I mean, I think life with God is the goal. That's what we're talking about.

This is eternal life, and you have it now, knowing God and knowing Jesus. And so when I look at what, what does life with God look like, it ... When I've experienced it a- and I know that I've experienced it, it's very adventurous, and it's all about his kingdom. So [00:22:00] there, there are great works to do when you are walking with God.

And so when I think about, okay, what would my life look like if I was experiencing eternal life now, it would be knowing the Father and knowing the Son, but the next place Jesus goes is, "You're going to do the works that I'm doing." And, and what are the works he's doing? He's, he's about the Father's kingdom.

And so I think about, like, the invitations we have each day to participate with God in the work that he's doing in my family, in my church, in my community, and so, yeah. And, and that requires relationship. You never escape the, the pinnacle, which is we are made for relationship. He says, "You're gonna get to do these works.

You're gonna need prayer. You're gonna need to rely on the only resource you have to do this kind of work, and that's me." And so it's this beautiful cycle where we just come back to God and come back to God and come back to God through Jesus, even while being very active in the world, doing things that, that please him and that glorify him

[00:22:58] **David:** Yeah, I think [00:23:00] practical ways that, that kind of hit me is if my end game is not just getting to heaven, then my activities here on Earth are more than just getting people saved, more than just getting people across that finish line.

And so I go back to, you know, Jesus' final words before He, you know, before He left to go to the Father, and He said, "Make disciples." And one of the key ingredients is teaching them to obey all that I have commanded. And then I think about Paul, and sometimes he'll reference the gospel as obeying the gospel.

Not just believing the gospel, but obeying the gospel. So there's a real practical sense of we've got a mission to be engaged in, and it, and obedience is part of that, but it's not obedience for salvation, it's obedience because of salvation, which I think you, you tapped into it, Corina. It is about His kingdom.

It is about, you know... I think like when He... Remember when He told Jeremiah what Jeremiah said to the [00:24:00] exiles, "Hey, you, you need to bless the city you're in. You need to build houses, you need to plant vineyards. You need to be a blessing." And that, that is such a clear theme all the way through, even from the covenant of Abraham in Genesis 12, "I want you to be a blessing to the nations."

Not just so that we're just doing the right thing, but because God's glory is, is gonna be manifested and God's glory is gonna be honored when we do that. As image-bearers, as we walk through this world, and we obey His Son, we bring Him glory. So it's, that's... There's a whole lot more that comes to mind practically than, "You know what?"

I don't need to care about the Earth 'cause it's all gonna burn up anyway, and I'm gonna go to this distant place called Heaven and sit on a cloud and play a harp." You know.

[00:24:46] **Corina:** Darn.

[00:24:47] **David:** That,

[00:24:47] **Corina:** that is it. I really wanted to learn the harp.

[00:24:49] **David:** I'm sure there'll be harp classes. David'll pro- David himself will probably lead.

Oh, yeah. But you know what I'm saying? It, it, it, when you think of it as not just going to Heaven as the end game, [00:25:00] that changes everything. Yeah ... practically speaking. ... And so how do I handle, you know, how am I, how am I living as a light- Mm ... so that God is glorified? You know, as Jesus- And-

would say in the sermon

[00:25:11] **Adam:** Yeah, I love how you indicated that this obedience is not for our salvation, not to gain salvation, but it is an outflow of our salvation, our relationship. And it reminds me a lot of what Paul said in, in Titus when he's talking about the grace of God. He said that it, it appeared to, to...

And it brought salvation, but it also trains us- ... to deny ungodliness and to live godly lives. So you're, And I love this picture that, that Paul presents here in, in Titus of, okay, here's, here's the practical, here's how to live your life in the here and now.

But also while we're waiting for the blessed hope of Jesus's return- of his appearing. And so you have that tension that we've been talking about that, okay, what, what do I put my hands to? What do I set my mind on [00:26:00] in the here and now, while all the while having that perspective of, yes, we do have hope. We're, we're longing for glory but we're experiencing those kingdom realities right now as well.

[00:26:11] **Rachel:** And that protects us so much from treating people like projects. I feel like, you know, Christianity can get a bad rep because oftentimes that is what we tend to do. We tend to just treat people like projects and get them- ... to say a prayer and, you know, like, as long as we are ticking up those numbers of, you know, whatever- Right

salvations or whatever, like, but oh my gosh. And people can, people can sniff that out. Like, people know, like, "Oh, you're just treating me like one of your converts, like one of your projects." But if we think about Jesus's commands, most of them involve love and service, right? And when he says, "I am the way.

Yes, I'm the way to the Father," but also, like, walk like I walked, and it is in love and it is in service to people, not treating them like- ... projects to, to get their ticket to heaven.

[00:26:54] **Adam:** Yeah.

[00:26:54] **David:** Yeah.

[00:26:55] **Adam:** All right. So how does Jesus's identity as the way, the truth, and the life [00:27:00] shape your understanding of what it means to follow

[00:27:03] **David:** him?

I've, I've never done this, but I've heard about these vacations that are like a full package. You know, everything is... Every- Your food, your drink, your, your housing, your your entertainment, your transportation. It's just like you just show up and it's all there. It's all provided. And I feel like that's what Jesus is inviting us to.

He's not asking us to scratch our way into the kingdom and into his presence and, you know, try to climb up this arduous wall. He's like, "No, it's follow me. Let me sh..." And it is all-encompassing. There is... You're lacking nothing. Jesus would say over and over again, "I've come that you may have life abundant, life full, maxed out."

I mean, that's, that's what he's offering us. So it's, it is an invitation i- in that sense of, of come follow me. I remember one time I was I tried caving for a while when I was a young man- And I went into my first [00:28:00] cave that had a creek in it. And so here I am, pitch dark, headlamps, chest deep in a river very small, and then we come up to where the river hits the wall, and it looks like a dead end.

And my friend, who was a, an experienced caver, turned and looked at me, said, "Follow me," and then held his breath and went underwater. And it seemed like forever. And then I hear him, "Come on." Like, he swam. And there was a sense of, you know, it was an adventure. I didn't know how it was gonna turn out you know, b- it, but it was absolutely exhilarating to do it.

And I think that's what Jesus is saying to, to us here is, "Listen we don't know where we're going," he asked. "We don't know the way, Philip," right? I mean, Thomas. "We don't know the way." Jesus says, "I'm not gonna tell you the way. I am the way." In other words, grab ahold and let's go. "I'll take you there," in other words.

I'm not providing for you the steps to get there. I'm not giving you directions. I'm saying, I'm your all-encompassing [00:29:00] tour guide. Come with... Just latch on. Just hold on and let's go for the, for the adventure. I think that's the imagery that comes to my mind when I think about how would this change if I really embrace this I am statement-

[00:29:11] **Corina:** Mm-hmm

uh,

[00:29:12] **David:** in my life. I would follow him.

[00:29:14] **Corina:** Yeah. That's not-

[00:29:15] **David:** That sounds like

[00:29:16] **Corina:** a blast. Sounds scary. I've never heard of caving. That was the first time I'm hearing of it.

[00:29:22] **David:** Spelunking. Spelunking.

[00:29:24] **Corina:** Oh. Yeah. Okay. Yeah, I mean, I think it, it... We've talked about so many things but I just keep thinking about Job.

Like, I, I, I look at the disciples in this passage, and they're not, they're not always... Their brain, I don't think, is always here, right? They- ... they're, right now they're saying, "Show us the Father," and, and- ... that's enough. And I think they've got the right idea here, the right desire, a desire that honors God, that Jesus is probably really pleased with and proud of.

And we know that other times they're, you know, I don't know, who's gonna be the greatest? Is it, you know- Right before this they were like- We'll see ... am I, where am I sitting? Exactly. But right here they've got this right idea, and it just [00:30:00] reminds me of Satan's conversation with God in Job 1, where the accusation and the question that Satan makes is, does Job fear God for nothing?

And it's rhetorical to Satan. It, he's saying- Mm ... Job fears you because of everything he has and everything you've given him. He doesn't fear you for nothing. Watch what happens when we take it all away. And God says, "Okay, try him." And, you know, Job messes up, and he wants his suffering to end, but one thing that he is true to is he keeps saying, "God, I want you to show up."

Similar to the disciples' question, "Just show us the Father. Just show up. Y- I want you to defend yourself," which is not probably the right thing to do, but, "I want you to defend yourself. I want you to show up. I want you to be here, and I want you to prove that you're still with me, that you and I are good, and we are together, and we have been together."

And when I think about what does it mean that Jesus is the way and the truth and the life, it means Jesus and Jesus only. It means do, do we fear God for [00:31:00] nothing? Do we walk with Jesus to be with Jesus ultimately? Because that is, that's the whole point.

[00:31:07] **Rachel:** I think for me, and kind of like what you were saying, Corina, for, I've been thinking a lot about, like, embodied faith and, like, so, like, not compartmentalizing it and Jesus being the way, the truth, and the life.

All, it, it is really hard to compartmentalize that in our lives, you know? And yeah, kind of like what you were saying, David, like, we just kind of have to surrender and, and let Jesus do what He's gonna do in our lives, and we can trust Him, and then embodying our faith, not as something for the future but as something for now, and we can embody it with our minds and our hearts, yes, which I think is where we camp out a lot, but we can embody it with our, with our bodies, with our emotions, with our relationships.

Like, Jesus being the way, the truth, and the life trickles down into every little faucet of existence for us as humans. So I've been thinking a lot about that, about how this [00:32:00] I Am statement really gives me the tools I need to truly embody my faith each and every day as I just go about living. And that's also the whole point is what He's saying, you know? So. Yeah. Yeah.

[00:32:13] **Adam:** Okay, I love how you all have drawn attention to this comprehensive nature of this I Am statement, how it impacts every aspect of our lives. And so it's, it's time for our So What segment where we share a personal takeaway, and I'll, I'll kick us off on this in having that, that kind of all-encompassing nature of this statement in mind is that, okay, looking at, at each of these features of this statement, if I'm seeking direction on a decision in life, then what I really need to do is seek to know Him more deeply.

[00:32:50] **David:** Mm.

[00:32:51] **Adam:** To- Yeah ... that, that's how I'm going to have direction because He is the way. And if I, if I want to know what's true rather than getting caught up in s- [00:33:00] the conspiracy theories that fly around us in our culture today, I need to investigate Him. I need to dive deeper into who He is and what He says. And then if I'm desiring to simply you know, live a life that's more than existence, then, then I need to abide in Him.

He is my life. He is your life. And so that's my kind of personal takeaway of how do I approach this, which seems mind-boggling, this all-encompassing statement. Well, how- that's how I can make it practical and, and seek Him in it.

[00:33:40] **Rachel:** That's good.

[00:33:41] **Corina:** Yeah. I think for me, Adam, when I think about that, so what, what is your personal takeaway?

As succinct as possible, I would say that i- if I don't get Jesus, then I've missed it. You know, and I, I also was raised in a Christian household by parents who loved the Lord, and was [00:34:00] raised reading scripture, knowing the stories of scripture, and thank God, at 14, really desired a deeper relationship with God for myself, and had a realization and a, and just a vision of God in His throne room, how worthy He is of being praised and worshiped and followed.

But it took me several months, maybe even years, of walking with God, searching scripture, talking with God, to realize, man, everything keeps coming

back to Jesus. Like, and I finally realized a few years into that relationship with God, wait a minute, like, this gu- this is the linchpin. This is, this, this is it.

... And so I relate to the disciples, and I'm challenged by this passage of there are still lots of ways that I miss Jesus in the Christian life, even walking with God and seeking God and seeking to participate in God's kingdom. There's ways that we can miss Jesus in that. And so just remembering that, yeah, Jesus is it.

He is the whole package, like you said, David.

[00:34:59] **Rachel:** I think [00:35:00] my so what is if connection with the Father is the destination, then I'm already there. Hmm. Sure. Like, I don't have to worry about, am I gonna make it into heaven one day, you know? Like, I am already there. Hmm. And it's a challenge and an encouragement to live like that, you know, and to, to reflect that to others.

[00:35:20] **David:** Hmm. That's good. My, my life verse is comes out of Psalm 119. It's verse 32, and the psalmist says, "I run in the path for your commands." Run. I run in the path of your commands. Not mine, not my ideas, not the world's. I run in your path. And he says it's because you set my heart free. And I realize the connection to this passage.

Jesus says, "I'm the way. I'm the path. Let's run. Come on." And so I think my takeaway is run with Jesus. I hate running, by the way. But run with Jesus. Me too.

[00:35:56] **Rachel:** Can we briskly walk with Jesus? Pace

[00:35:59] **David:** with

[00:35:59] **Adam:** Jesus. [00:36:00]

[00:36:00] **David:** Sprint. I like sprints. Yeah. Yeah.

[00:36:03] **Adam:** Well, no matter the, the, the type of ambulation, running, sprinting, skipping doing it with Jesus is always better.

So listeners, we hope that you've been encouraged and that you are reminded that the... a connection with the Father is made possible through Jesus, and that is the goal of our faith. That's why are we even doing this if we're not following him and having that connection with the Father? So, stick with us.

We will be right back with our take it or leave it.

[00:36:35] **David:** Have you been enjoying our series on the I Am statements of Jesus and want to go deeper? The Christian life

[00:36:41] **Adam:** comes down to one thing: knowing Jesus more deeply every day. We all want that, to seek him, to know him, to love him. But how do you actually grow in that?

In our two-week I Am study, you'll walk through Jesus' own words in the Gospel of John and discover who he says he [00:37:00] is and what that means for you. See him more clearly. Draw closer to him. Find rest in his love.

[00:37:07] **David:** Get your copy of the I Am study today at shop.precept.org.

[00:37:13] **Adam:** All right, we are back. It's time for take it or leave it.

Rachel, what do you have?

[00:37:17] **Rachel:** Okay. I'm just now realizing how many of our take it or leave its revolve around food, but here we are. Take it or leave it, meal prepping. Do you meal prep your food for the week to come?

[00:37:28] **Corina:** I don't even cook anymore. Corina? Yeah. My husband cooks. we decided that that was just better for everybody.

So no, I'm leaving meal prepping. Yeah. Most I'll do is breakfasts, like if, if I do little bags of flax seeds and oats and things, like if it's a recipe like that, and I know I'll, I'll want it fast in the morning, I, I'll do that. But no Gonna leave it

[00:37:53] **Adam:** Do, do I think it's a valuable practice? Yes. Do I practice it?

No. I don't. So I don't know [00:38:00] where that leaves me on taking it or leave it. I, I will take it as a goal. An aspiration

[00:38:04] **Corina:** An ambition.

[00:38:05] **Adam:** Yeah, an aspiration. Yeah. There you go.

[00:38:07] **David:** Yeah. I, I'll meet you somewhere, somewhere close to it. ... I'll... I eat leftovers, so we'll make like a big meal. It's just my, my wife and I now in the house.

I'll make a big meal, and then we'll eat on it for about three days. Yeah. So, I just finished a chicken and rice I made Sunday, so, yeah, a couple days ago. So yeah. I, I, too, with Adam, I respect it. I don't necessarily lay it all out but but I do extend a meal. I guess you could call that planning.

[00:38:36] **Rachel:** We, yeah, we do the, the leftovers, but I don't, I don't like meal prepping, like, all my proteins and stuff, so I will prep all my, like, m- annoying work, so like chopping the onions, chopping the potatoes, or, like, forming the meatballs, and then I'll cook them the day of. So I do the prep, like boring, annoying stuff.

I'll prep that on Sunday, and then after work it's a little easier to, like, just hop in and throw everything together, so [00:39:00] kind of, I'm gonna take it- I'm, I'm

[00:39:00] **Corina:** always in awe of Rachel, but now more so. Wow. Meatballs. Prepped and ready to go. It's awesome.

[00:39:09] **Adam:** Yeah. H- have you seen... What's the, It shows you how much I cook, 'cause I can't think of the material it's made out of.

The, the rubbery type of... What's the, of the cooking utensils and- Silicone? It's not rubber. It's silicone. Yeah. Oh, the mats Yeah, I guess.

[00:39:22] **Rachel:** Silicone mats?

[00:39:23] **Adam:** Well, they have the things where you can freeze your individual parts of a meal-

[00:39:28] **Rachel:** Yes ...

[00:39:28] **Adam:** in blocks.

[00:39:29] **Rachel:** They're like Tetris things.

[00:39:30] **Adam:** Yeah. Yeah. And so you just take a block of your side, a block of your, you know, whatever, vegetable, meat, and you heat them up together, and then- Hmm

that's supposed to be beneficial in some way. I don't know. I

[00:39:42] **Rachel:** just- Apparently.

[00:39:43] **David:** Except for the cancer you're gonna get from the silicone.
Yeah,

[00:39:46] **Adam:** right,

[00:39:46] **David:** right.

[00:39:47] **Adam:** That was fun. Thanks, guys. Listeners, catch us next time on the Know God Deeply podcast, and as always, you can interact with us on our socials at precept.usa. [00:40:00]

[00:40:03] **Corina:** Thank you for listening to Know God Deeply from Precept, a nonprofit Bible study ministry. For over 50 years, Precept has equipped people just like you in nearly 190 countries to discover the truth of scripture for themselves. You can get to know God more deeply through Precept's inductive Bible study resources.

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