

SERMON STUDY GUIDE

STUMPED

FAITH QUESTIONS YOU STRUGGLE TO ANSWER

WEEK 1: AUG 20-25

Lord, sometimes we encounter conversations and questions that feel really big and almost too difficult to answer. We pray that as we explore these big questions together over the next several weeks, that you would give us the gift of curiosity and openness. Help us hear each other and pay attention to how you are at work in this group and in our lives. Be present with us now, Amen.

TITLE: IS CHRISTIANITY THE ONLY WAY

SCRIPTURE: John 14:1-7

14 "Don't be troubled. Trust in God. Trust also in me. 2 My Father's house has room to spare. If that weren't the case, would I have told you that I'm going to prepare a place for you? 3 When I go to prepare a place for you, I will return and take you to be with me so that where I am you will be too. 4 You know the way to the place I'm going." 5 Thomas asked, "Lord, we don't know where you are going. How can we know the way?"

6 Jesus answered, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you have really known me, you will also know the Father. From now on you know him and have seen him."

GETTING STARTED

- Welcome each other.
- Inquire as to anyone who is missing. Is follow-up needed?
- What feelings and people do you associate with "home"?

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SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Over the next six weeks, we are going to be exploring faith questions that we might be asked by family, friends, or even that we are asking ourselves. As we begin, share a faith question that you have either recently been asked or you find yourself asking.
- This week's question is "Is Christianity the Only Way?" and sometimes the question beneath this question is "how do we know we have it right?" Why do you think we place such high importance on getting our faith right?
- Re-read the Scripture for this week. It's important to remember that Jesus' words here were spoken to his inner circle of disciples, not a large group or collection of people from different faiths. What impact does that context have on the meaning of what Jesus is saying here?
- In this week's message, we talked about three distinct ways to view how God relates to humanity: Exclusivism (only Christians go to heaven), Universalism (everyone goes to heaven, no matter what faith they profess), and Christian Inclusivism (Salvation comes through Christ, and God is free to appropriate that work to whoever God chooses). Spend some time discussing these three views. How have you seen these views expressed in the world? Is there one that resonates with you more?
- Despite all the mystery that surrounds this week's question, one thing is clear- who Jesus is to you and how you live that out matters. What does it mean to you to make Jesus' Way YOUR way? How are you using your life to help others know the love and grace that you have experienced?

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY- "I LOVE MY CITY"

Is your small group looking for a way to GIVE BACK this fall? I Love My City is just for you! St. Lukers from the North campus, Midtown and online communities will work together on September 23 and 24 to serve in our communities and make a difference. We have projects on-site and at various locations around our city. We'll be serving inside and outdoors. We'll bundle diapers, help at local food pantries, beautify our neighborhoods and schools and much more. Whether you are 3 or 93, we need your small group to join alongside hundreds of St. Lukers for this Day of Service to our communities.

Check out the service project ideas, order a Tshirt, and roll up your sleeves. This day is going to make an IMPACT! Visit stlukesumc.com/ilovemycity.

PRAYER REQUESTS