



THE SABBATH CIRCLES HOME SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Unit Theme: What is God asking of us in this moment?

Lesson connected to Sunday, November 10, 2019

Today's Scripture: John 14:1-7

Key Verse: "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way and the truth and the life.'"

Contexts of the Scripture:

- The Gospel of John is not one of what is known as the Synoptic Gospels which are Matthew, Mark and Luke. They tend to be summaries or synopses of Jesus life. John, on the other hand, contains materials they do not contain and, conversely, does not include materials they contain.
- John is the latest of the Gospels and was most likely written in the last decade of the first century.
- It is the most theological and philosophical of the Gospels and rather than a lot of stories about Jesus, it contains long, rambling monologues Jesus supposedly offered to crowds outlining his beliefs about God.
- The Gospel of John must always be read with a keen awareness that it is very anti-Jewish and at times goes to great lengths to vilify the Jewish community in the death of Jesus, something which has given the foundation to much long simmering anti-Semitism in the Western world.

Questions to go deeper:

- Who is Jesus speaking to in this text?
- Read the chapter leading up to this text so you can put it in context. Why do you think Jesus is saying what he is to the disciples at this point?
- A hallmark of John's Gospel is that people often misunderstand what Jesus is trying to teach them. What is being misunderstood here?
- What do you think Jesus means when he says, "I am the way, the truth and the life?"
- Why do you think this text was chosen as the one for Stewardship Sunday?

Activity possibilities:

- **Family activities:**
 - Where would this fall on the bible timeline? Hint: After the Resurrection!
 - What things does your family do that would show you to be followers of Jesus? What might you do?
 - How does this text influence how you think about your pledge to the church for the coming year?
 - Make something special for the Stewardship Brunch!!
 - Check out this article in Wikipedia to find out more about the Gospel of John: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gospel_of_John

- **Younger children activities:**

- Here is a link to a page which has lots of posters incorporating the bible verse for this lesson. Check it out and then design your own poster! Bring it in to show Rev. Ruth!
https://www.google.com/search?hl=en&tbm=isch&source=hp&biw=1095&bih=638&ei=mpLFXeXSMIOe5gLi6riABA&q=i+am+the+way+the+truth+and+the+life&oq=I+am+the+way&gs_l=img.1.0.0l10.1471.3285..5464..0.0..0.172.1321.5j7.....0....1..gws-wiz-img.....0i131. lrFw2Nva9k

- **Older children and youth activities:**

- Imagine that you were one of the disciples in the room with Jesus when he spoke to them in the words of today's text from John. What would that have been like? What questions would you have asked him?
- What are the ways in which you follow Jesus? Make a list or create a graphic novella showing a week in your life as a follower of Jesus in the "way."
- Spend some time thinking about the shows you usually watch on television or the video games you play. Do any of them reflect what it would be like to live life following Jesus as the way, the truth and the life? In what ways? If you could create your own television show or video game called "The Way", what would it look like, sound like???

Going Deeper:

- If you have not already done so, consider signing up to help with the Bazaar or to volunteer for the Thanksgiving Meal workday at the PNC! Details available in church.

Remember, Rev. Ruth is always happy to answer your questions and help you find more information on anything in the Bible that interests you! Catch up with her through the church or come to the Savoy Bookstore and Café any Thursday afternoon between 2-4pm.