

## Hard Questions One Way?

**Can Jesus really be the only way to God (Mark 4:14-20)?** Recent studies reveal that up to 70% of those who claim to be Christians don't believe Jesus is the only way to God. But Jesus makes it clear, "*I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me* (John 14:6)." That truth is reiterated by Peter (and the early church) when he emphasizes *that there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved*. This truth raises questions and doubts for many, and it is often challenged and rejected. Thankfully, there are answers to these questions and doubts, and all are invited to choose Jesus and experience the life and joy of following Him.

### GETTING STARTED

*Deconstruction* – the process of questioning, doubting, and ultimately rejecting an idea – has become a popular word these days, especially among those who challenge the core tenets of our Christian faith. How have you seen or experienced *deconstruction*, either personally or among your friends, family, or coworkers?

### GO DEEPER

1. According to Matthew 28:16–17, some of the first eleven disciples (even after seeing Him resurrected) had their doubts. Why do you think Matthew included this detail in his gospel account, and why is it significant for us today? Do you think it is okay to have doubts about our Christian faith (e.g. about God, Jesus, heaven and hell, etc.), and what should we do – or not do – with our doubts and questions?
2. From Mark 4:14-20 (Parable of the Sower), what kinds of things cause the truth of Scripture to not take root or to be choked out?
3. Both John 14:6 and Acts 4:12 iterate the point that no one comes to the Father – is eternally saved – except through relationship with Jesus. Why is that exclusivity of Christianity and the rejection of other paths or faiths so challenging for many? How should we as followers of Jesus respond?

### MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. What doubts or questions do you have about Jesus and the Christian faith? How easy or difficult is it for you to affirm that Jesus is the only way to be saved and have access to our Heavenly Father?
2. Pastor David, in his message, mentions four key reasons people give to deconstruct and reject Christianity and the exclusivity of Jesus (e.g. it is arrogant, that sincerity is all that matters, it causes people to feel morally superior to others, and it is divisive). How do you as a follower of Jesus stand firm and remain on guard against these arguments (1 Corinthians 16:13)?
3. How do you relate and interact with people of a different faith or who have deconstructed and rejected Christianity? How should we engage these kinds of people in our lives?

### PRACTICE IT NOW

Take time as a group to read **John 14:6** and **Acts 4:12** aloud together. Then ask the Holy Spirit to show you more of the truth – for deeper revelation – of Jesus as the only way to our Heavenly Father. Pray over each other and the places where you struggle to fully believe this truth. Pray also for friends or family members who don't fully believe that Jesus is the only way, that the eyes of their hearts would be opened.