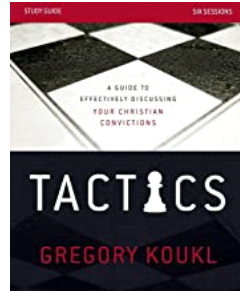


Small Group Beginning April 8

In a world increasingly indifferent to Christian truth, followers of Christ need to be equipped to communicate with those who do not speak their language or accept their source of authority.



In this Small Group we will learn from apologist and radio host Gregory Koukl who demonstrates how to get in the driver's seat in discussions about faith, keeping any conversation moving with thoughtful, artful tact:

- Initiate conversations effortlessly
- Present the truth clearly, cleverly, and persuasively
- Graciously and effectively expose faulty thinking
- Skillfully manage the details of dialogue
- Maintain an engaging, disarming style even under attack

Location, date, and time to be determined.

Sign up at the Welcome Table today.

See Karl Yorgey or Pastor Rick for more information.

Lifted Up Ministries is looking for people to share their gifts as mentors.

Christian Mentorship Involves:

- Help mentees become confident in Christ, passing our faith to others as God instructs us in Psalm 78:1-8
- To listen, clarify and encourage
- To give wise counsel
- To help set personal goals
- Accountability



liftedup MINISTRIES (LUM) is a non-profit Christian ministry located at 2675 E. High Street, Pottstown, PA

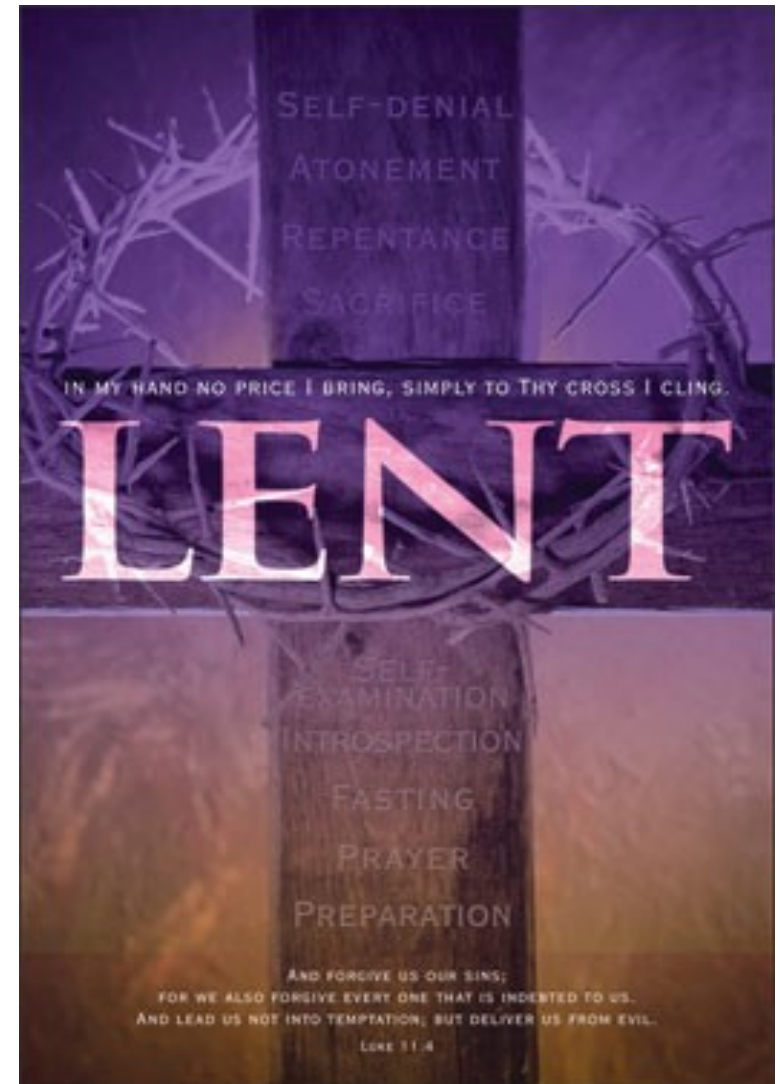
If interested, please contact Priscilla Brown at
610-412-8118



March 21, 2021

10:30 A.M.

I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life



Order of Service

Announcements

Welcome

Preparation for Worship

-----God's Greatness-----

Call to Worship

Hymns of Adoration

"Our God Saves". Baloche/Brown

"How Great Thou Art". Stuart K.Hine

Prayer of Invocation

Affirmation of Faith: The Heidelberg Catechism

Hymn of Praise: "All My Hope". Crowder/Cash

Children are Dismissed to Sunday School

----- God's Renewal-----

Scripture Warning

Public Confession

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon & Comfort: Ephesians 2:4-5

Song of Renewal

"Show Us Christ". Plank/Kauflin

-----God's Grace-----

Scripture Reading: John 14:1-8 (ESV)

Prayer

The Sermon: The Farewell Discourses

"I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE"

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Words of Institution

Hymn: "Holy Spirit". Getty/Townend

Prayer of Approach

-----God's Blessing-----

Parting Hymn

"We Believe". Hooper/Fike/Ryan

Benediction

"Truth is not found in a system of philosophy, but in a Person—Christ is 'the truth': He reveals God and exposes man. In Him are hid 'all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge' (Col. 2:3)."⁴

The Life: Regeneration

The wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23), and man in sin has fallen under death's power and curse. Apart from Christ we are spiritually dead (Eph. 2:1–3), unable to do anything spiritually for our salvation, so that life increasingly becomes a living death, without satisfaction or hope. But Jesus came "that they may have life and have it abundantly" (John 10:10).

Jesus is the source of eternal life for those who believe and follow him. It would not have been enough for Jesus as the way to gain our reconciliation with God, tearing down the veil by his death on the cross for our sins. It likewise would not be enough for Christ the truth to grant us a revelation of God. We would yet remain dead, morally corrupt, and spiritually disabled, so that we would never be able to follow in the way that he has made or believe the truth that he has revealed.⁵

What kind of life we will have if we simply trust in Jesus?

The answer is that as he is the way, he will lead us to the Father and we will gain a life of love as dear children. As Jesus is the truth, he will teach us the wisdom of salvation so that our lives are freed from the darkness of ignorance and folly. As he is the life, he will grant us entry into the courts of heaven and we will know an increasing measure of life as we draw nearer to him. Apart from Jesus, the world offers many things, but they are all godless, darkened, and deadly. "I am the way, and the truth, and the life," Jesus said (John 14:6). He presents himself to us, demanding no achievements, not waiting for our improvement, but calling us simply to receive him in trusting faith, and ready to give to us by grace all that he has and all that he is. We will never receive a better offer, and we will never have a better time to receive Jesus than now.

¹Philip Graham Ryken, *Is Jesus the Only Way?* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 1999), 11.

²Carson, D. A. (1991). *The Gospel according to John* (p. 491). Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; W.B. Eerdmans.

³Carson, D. A. (1988). *The Farewell Discourse and Final Prayer of Jesus: An Exposition of John 14–17* (p. 30). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House.

⁴Arthur W. Pink, *Exposition of the Gospel of John* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1975), 763.

⁵Phillips, R. D. (2014). *John*. (R. D. Phillips, P. G. Ryken, & D. M. Doriani, Eds.) (1st ed., Vol. 2, p. 209). Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing.

God's Gracious Provision 3/14/2021

Offering: \$2622.00

Attendance: 45

Your offering may be place in the box at the Welcome Table.

world?" (14:22). These are slightly different questions, and each receives a slightly different answer. But each of the answers is a variant on John 14:6: "*I am the way, and the truth, and the life.*"

The Way: Reconciliation

Jesus does not simply blaze a trail, commanding others to take the way that he himself takes; rather, he is the way. He is himself the Savior (4:42), the Lamb of God (1:29, 34), the one who so speaks that those who are in the graves hear his voice and come forth (5:28–29). He so mediates God's truth and God's life that he is the very way to God, the one who alone can say, *No-one comes to the Father except through me.*²

We must recognize that the way Jesus takes is not simply to be imitated. To join Jesus in the Father's house demands the recognition that *Jesus himself is the way.* Jesus' followers must not simply follow his true teaching or copy his life: rather, they recognize in him the truth incarnate, worship him, and receive life from him. "*No one comes to the Father except through me.*"³

Thus, when Jesus said that he is "the way," he meant that sinners may come to God only through the ministry of reconciliation for which he came. Jesus is the way because God in his grace has provided for sinners to be justified in his sight through faith in his Son. "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God," Paul laments. But the good news is that we may be "justified by [God's] grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 3:23–24).

The Truth: Revelation

Jesus is first the way and coordinated with this is his claim to be the truth and the life.

Jesus is the way to God not only by what he did for lost mankind, dying on the cross for our sins, but also in revealing the truth of God so that we might believe and come to God through faith in him.

God had been revealing the truth about himself and his salvation before the coming of Christ. But Jesus is *the truth* in that all that God ever revealed points to Jesus and comes into focus in him. All that God ever revealed comes into clarity, focus, and ultimate truth in the coming of his Son, Jesus Christ.

Upcoming Events

TONIGHT 6:15-7:15 P.M. House of Prayer

GCC Prayer Gathering for youth and adults

1300 High Street, Pottstown, PA

Wednesday, March 24 7:00 P.M.

Coventry-Warwick Ministerium Lenten Service on youtube, Can be viewed any time. The link is on the GCC website. This week's speaker is Pastor Rick Knarr.

Friday, April 2 7:00 P.M. **Good Friday Service** at Grace Covenant Church

Sunday, April 4 10:30 AM **Easter Sunday Worship Service** at Grace Covenant Church

Saturday, April 10 8:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

JOY Builders Women's Ministry Event at Berean Bible Church
"All In! ... Women for the Kingdom 2021"

Cost: \$5.00 for continental breakfast and lunch

With many critical issues facing our country and families, we need a Kingdom-based framework for charting the course to our future. Learn how we can prepare for the future of Christianity in America.

Friday, April 23 7:00 P.M. **Sanctity of Life Concert** presented by Genesis Women's Clinic at Berean Bible Church

David and Mindy Nelson

While our US leadership has not been able to travel for onsite visits over the last year, we have been meeting with the CCI team every month. Over the last five weeks, we have been meeting with country directors and missionaries from India, Nepal, Vietnam,

Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, the Philippines, Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand and the USA.

Please Pray that every meeting will bare fruit.

Tim and Holly Howden

Pray that they will soon be fully supported financially and also find a suitable place to live in state college.



Prayer/Praise.March 21, 2021

- Praise that the surgery for Susan Williams' mom went well this past Monday!
- Pray for Susan Williams' son, Christopher, and his family. Glen and Susan may have custody of the children.
- Please continue to pray for Koreen Mace's brother-in-law, Jim, that God will speak to his heart and for salvation and healing for Jim.
- Pray for Diane Ziegler, friend of Donna Jenkins, who had her second breast cancer surgery. Pray for healing for Diane and wisdom for her doctors.
- Praise that Donna Jenkins' friend, Debbie Breyer, is now recuperating at home. Pray for continued healing for Debbie.
- Pray for Tracy Spencer, niece of Donna Jenkins. Tracy is 31 weeks pregnant with her first baby, and there are issues with the baby's lungs. Pray for wisdom for her doctors and God's strength for Tracy, Justin and their baby.
- Pray for Donna Jenkins' two grandnephews. The 5-year-old boy broke his elbow bone, and the 3-year-old boy has a viral infection that caused loss of feeling in his leg. Antibiotics are helping. Please pray for healing for the boys.
- Pray for Ashley, the niece of Lisa Frame's friend, Denise. Ashley was diagnosed with aggressive breast cancer. Pray for wisdom for her treatment team, healing for Ashley, and God's strength and peace for Ashley and her family.
- Please continue to pray for Paul Maloney, brother of Barb Schultz, who is a resident at Pennsburg Manor. Please send cards of encouragement to Paul at: Pennsburg Manor, 530 Macoby Street, Pennsburg, PA 18173.
- Pray for Jill Aument's sister, Gail, who had a procedure for back pain. Pray that it gives her relief.
- Pray for Kaci and Tyler Yensan stationed with the Navy in North Carolina. Pray that their life together will glorify the Lord.
- Please continue to pray for Jenn, sister of Rick Hunter. She has a long road ahead due to her accident. Pray for God's healing for Jenn.
- Pray for Donna Plowfield's son-in-law, David, who is seeking employment in physical therapy in this area.
- Pray for the family of Rhonda Clark. Her sister passed away from cancer, and her father is having a biopsy at the end of March to check for kidney cancer.
- Pray for Justine Schumaker, that she will have successful treatment for her colon cancer. Justine Schumaker's address is: 217 Cross Road, Gilbertsville, PA 19525.
- Pray for Koreen Mace's friend, Amanda. Pray that God places a Christian counselor in her life to help with emotional issues.
- Pray for continued healing for the father of Koreen Mace and Gwen Conrad. Pray for his strength for the surgery to replace his pacemaker.
- Pray for Nic Collins, who will be going to Quito, Ecuador for a mission trip at the end of March. Pray for travel, safety, and no COVID. Pray for funds to be raised.
- Pray for Jeremiah Mace, who is in a 9-month internship program. Please pray for continued healing for Koreen's family.

Message

The Farewell Discourse of Jesus I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life

John 14:1-8 (ESV)

"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In 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? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. ⁴And you know the way to where I am going."⁵Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?"⁶Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."⁸Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us."

**"Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord,
and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in thee."**

Confessions, St. Augustine

Troubled Hearts and Desertion

Rather than the disciples understanding Jesus leaving them as a desertion He assures them that his departure is for the purpose of establishing for them permanent dwelling places in the very presence of God. That is the truth about his leaving. If believed, their faith would triumph over their doubts and their troubled minds.

Introduction

The gospel's real offense is one that we cannot easily avoid. Christianity's true offense is none other than Christ himself. This is especially true when we consider Jesus' exclusive claims as the one Lord and only Savior of mankind.¹

Uncompromising Exclusivity

Jesus is the one and only source of satisfaction for the hunger of our souls.

The focus on the person of Jesus is seen all through this portion of John's Gospel, which centers on four questions asked by the disciples, each of which Jesus answered by directing them to himself. Peter asked, "Lord, where are you going?" (John 13:36). Thomas continued, "How can we know the way?" (14:5). Philip added, "Lord, show us the Father" (14:8), and Judas (not the betrayer) asked, "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the