



Hope. Peace. Contentment. We all long for these things. But we can't close our eyes and pretend that we have them. There are markers along the way that must be addressed. *But what if I told you that Jesus Christ remarkably offers to address every one of those markers?* He begs you to consider his path to hope, contentment, and peace. And it can all be found in 10 words offered by Christ in John 14:6.

**These questions are intended to deepen your experience of the message. Use them for your personal or family study time, or with an open Bible as you share the good news with your neighbor.**

**Group Introduction:** Discuss the lyrics to songs about searching for meaning in life (and finding hopelessness). Ex: U2--Haven't Found What I'm Looking For.

**Book Recommendation:** Timothy Keller, *Making Sense of God* (Viking, 2016)

**Speech/Podcast:** Os Guinness, "True Truth." <https://www.bethinking.org/truth/fran-cis-schaeffers-true-truth>

**IS THIS ALL THERE IS?** Read **Ecclesiastes 1:1-11 & 3:16-22**. How does the author describe a sense of hopelessness about life? Can you think of popular music that shares this sense of hopelessness? **Follow up:** Now think of music that tries to find ways to establish meaning or to find peace and contentment. Why do we cry out for these things? **Read John 14:6.**

**REALITY.** Nathan referred to Robert Nozick's "Experience machine." You can read about it online. Would you accept a dream world for the rest of your life? Most people say no. Why not? Why is reality—with its difficulties—something we want? **Follow up:** Jesus says "I AM." Is it helpful or encouraging to know that Christianity accepts reality, and calls us to mourn and to share in other's sorrows?

**MEANING.** Why do we need purpose and meaning in our lives? It turns out we can't live without it. How does Jesus saying he is "the life" speak to our longing for purpose?

**JUSTICE.** How has our cultural moment shifted from "relativism" to a strong list of moral absolutes? Does this speak to our need for right standards of justice? But how can there be an objective standard of obligation without referring to something to which we are all accountable? How does Jesus saying "I am the Way" speak to our longing?

**TRUTH.** Nathan pointed out that freedom requires truth (you have to know what something truly is in order to free them). Without truth, everything is manipulation and power games. How does Jesus saying "I am the truth" speak to our longing?

**PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER.** Christianity claims there is one unifying story that is the foundation of all reality, the source of all meaning, the root of all justice, the ground of objectivity and the definition of truth. Atheism and agnosticism offer only "the firm foundation of unyielding despair" (Bertrand Russell). Discuss.