



**WAY**  
**TRUTH**  
**LIFE**

Discipleship as a Journey of Grace

**SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE**

Written by Jeff Stark

# HOW TO USE THIS RESOURCE

This small group discussion guide, written by Dr. Jeff Stark, is meant to be a companion resource for David A. Busic's book *Way, Truth, Life: Discipleship as a Journey of Grace*, and used alongside the **seven videos featuring David Busic**. If you are a small group leader or Sunday school teacher planning to use this resource, there are numerous ways you can get the most out of this download for your context, and the materials are flexible to fit your needs. This discussion guide can also align and be used with a six-part *Way, Truth, Life* sermon series grounded in the **Sermon Outlines** that are also part of this downloadable resource. Busic's book has six chapters, an introduction, and an afterword. This discussion guide follows the six main chapters of the book to help you lead your group through a robust and meaningful study on discipleship and grace.

# WEEK 1:

# INTRODUCTION

*I shall be telling this with a sigh  
Somewhere ages and ages hence:  
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—  
I took the one less traveled by,  
And that has made all the difference.*  
—Robert Frost

The final stanza in a poem written by poet Robert Frost in 1915 invites us to recognize the power of reflection. “Somewhere ages and ages hence,” somewhere much further down the road, we will be afforded an opportunity to reflect upon the myriad times we’ve met diverging paths and chose one over the other, often uncertain of the outcome. Hindsight will afford the traveler the necessary distance to discern the impact of each path chosen. These proverbial divergent paths make all the difference in the world.

Consider this present study a fork in the road. The decision you make moving forward will have “made all the difference.” Dr. David Busic, a general superintendent in the Church of the Nazarene, set out in *Way, Truth, Life: Discipleship as a Journey of Grace* to give guidance to faithful pilgrims and travelers on the Jesus Way. In this book, Busic extends to us an invitation. He simply invites the reader to take the road of discipleship “less traveled by.” He invites us to see the whole of our lives as shaped by a conscious, willful commitment to follow the path of Jesus that leads us through many intersections of grace, each building on and adding depth to the last.

The beauty of this path is that you don’t have to wait until you get to the end to discern whether it made any difference. You will know immediately. The journey of grace is radically transformative. It’s marked by an immediate impact, where who we’ve been is overcome by the transformative power of God’s grace, shaping us into who we were created to be. From the outset, the decision makes a difference. What we discover on this “road less traveled” is that—at each moment we surrender our reservations, push through our hesitation, lay down the idols and allegiances that too often impede the lordship of Jesus, and disentangle from the sin that so easily binds us—we discover the full and abundant life God intended for all humanity. This happens now, in the present. We needn’t wait until some distant destination to experience in the impact of taking this path.

This discussion guide serves as a trail guide for embarking on the journey of grace with *Way, Truth, Life*, adding opportunities to examine Busic's material and reflect on the immediate impact of this journey on your life. Just as with any journey, there will be opportunities to bow out. There will be diversions on the divided path that will distract you from deliberate and intentional focus. Stay on the path. Each week of this study engages an element of the journey, exploring the different types of grace you will experience along the way.

The bulk of this study will occur over the next seven weeks. Use this material to add some flesh to the concepts and to tease out from participants their thoughts. Each lesson will be broken up into four sections.

First you will encounter a **Discussion Opener**—an opportunity to set the stage for the conversation.

Next you will read aloud with the group that week's **Scripture**. Remember, because this is a journey, not all travelers will be at the same place on the path. Some may have solid knowledge of Scripture while others might be hearing it for the very first time. Don't rush through the Scripture readings! Read as though the text itself matters deeply—because it does.

Third is the bulk of the weekly content in the **Lesson/Discussion Outline**. You will be afforded an opportunity here. Depending on how you distribute your materials, some may have read the lesson before your group meeting, and others won't. Some may have read the accompanying chapter in *Way, Truth, Life*, and others won't. This guide is written so you can either read it verbatim to the group or summarize the pieces that fit the class. Questions for discussion are scattered throughout the lesson. Therefore, whichever way you choose, you will want to stick close to the lesson.

Finally, there is a **Closing**. The beautiful part of this journey is that we were never intended to travel alone. We are given traveling partners. Use this time of closing to build community in your group as a time of commitment, reflection, encouragement, and prayer.

Christianity was never intended to be an episodic affair, moving from one worship experience to the next, one program to the next. Christianity is about taking a serious and sustained journey into the heart of God's purposes for your life and for this world. This study alongside *Way, Truth, Life* sets the stage for this journey. The steps you take next will "make all the difference."

During this, your first meeting, the leader should have each person in the group introduce themselves and, if you are using the videos alongside the discussion guide, watch the first video. The members of this group will be taking a journey together, not only exploring grace as the catalyst for discipleship but also as a journey of vulnerability among their peers. Work to cultivate an environment of warmth, transparency, safety, and friendship.