

To come to the Father through Jesus

When you pray for people to become followers of Jesus, you are praying for them to come home to God, as if they were coming home as long-lost children to their father. You are praying for them to love and enjoy God as their Father. You can pray with specific clarity as you shape your prayers after the clear statement of Jesus in John 14:6 about how people come to the Father. In this session our prayers will be focused on how Jesus can become the way, how He can reveal the truth, and how He can impart God's life to those who are far from the Father.

1. For Jesus to become for them the way.

Apart from God, people may appear to be doing well, living in the traditions and patterns of their culture. But in fact, every person finds themselves distant from God, trapped in their own transgressions, isolated from heaven's life and God's joy. As we pray that people will be awakened to seek God, in fact, they will be found by Him. Christ desires to meet them in their situation and become for them the way to the Father.

Clarify your prayer with some simple praise before making your request:

"Jesus Christ, You are more than a helper. You are more than a mere guide. You do more than point the way. You actually bring people to God so that they can know Him fully."

And then pray:

"Bring (insert their name) to know and love the Father. Become the way home for him/her."

John 14:6

*Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life.
No one comes to the Father but through Me."*

2. For Jesus to reveal Himself as the truth.

Christ is much more than an access or an approach to God. He is not just a mediator who brings people close to God. He is Himself the truth of God and the life of God. He does more than true things. He reveals truth itself. He exposes what is unreal and brings people before God in radical reality.

Offer praise before praying:

"Jesus, You are more than a set of teachings. You are far more than a great teacher who knows true things. You are truth itself. You dispel every falsehood. You expose every fear. You displace all that is fake or phony. Your truth transforms people to be genuine."

And then pray:

"Break through to show Yourself as truth to (insert their name) and so reveal the Father."

3. For Jesus to impart His life.

Because of sin that runs rampant throughout the human race, death afflicts us all, even while we are alive. Essentially, we are praying for dead people to be raised to life. Before Jesus died, He said that God had given Him authority to lay His life down and to take it up again. When Jesus rose from the dead, He was raised to a new order of life. Now He has authority from God to give spiritual life to any that He chooses.

Before praying, declare a simple expression of praise to the risen Christ:

"Jesus, You are more than a coach or consultant. You gave us far more than a pattern to live. You gave us life itself. You are not merely alive. You are the life-giver of all who live before God."

And then pray:

"Give Your life to (insert their name) so that he/she would love the Father."

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This session is a straightforward way of praising and praying with a special focus on Jesus. Remember that every session of FreshPrayer is designed to help people pray in creative, biblical ways for those who have yet to follow Christ.

In this session, you will be praying in accordance with the familiar passage of John 14:6. This verse is often quoted in discussions about the uniqueness of Christ as compared to other religious systems. But rarely are these three marvelous realities—Christ as the life of God, Christ as the truth itself, and Christ as the way to relationship with the Father—explored or expressed in prayer. These three great realities almost pray themselves. In leading this session your task is simply to urge people to pray that Jesus would act so that these three things become a reality in the lives of specific people.

Ground your praying by considering John 14:6 afresh.

Encourage full-hearted and full-minded praying by urging participants to consider John 14:6 in fresh ways. Have each person pick one of the three realities of John 14:6 that describes how they encountered or followed Jesus Christ. For example, someone may pray for three different people. Or alternatively, one can pray for the same person in three different ways.

Focus your praying for particular people.

Praying John 14:6 can make it easy to pray for three different people. Or alternatively, each participant, or the whole group, can pray for the same person in three different ways. Ask participants to pick which of the three points (Christ as way, truth, or life) might be most pertinent for a person they are praying for. This is a simple exercise which helps people think over the scripture as well as the people they are praying for. Invite participants to write down the names of people they are praying for in the pre-written prayers either before or after they pray them.

Use the scripted prayers to launch personalized praying.

The pre-written prayers of praise and intercession can serve as a springboard to more spontaneous, personalized praying. There are numerous ways to welcome groups to read the scripted prayers and praises aloud together, individually, or even silently. Welcome participants to reiterate or extend the written prayers using their own words or including details about the lives of those being prayed for.