

October 28, 2018
Country Roads
Part 1: The Broad and Narrow Roads
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1. Have you ever taken a wrong turn or found yourself lost on a trip? How did you get on the right course? Can you relate that to your spiritual life?

2. How did you get to know Jesus? Was it difficult for you to know and trust him? Did you look at any other paths before choosing to follow him on the narrow path?

3. Why do you think 65% of all self-identifying Christians and 56% of Evangelical Christians believe that there are many paths, other than faith in Christ, to get to God and eternal life? Provide an answer that comes to your mind first and then try to come up with other possibilities.

4. In John 14, Jesus comforts his disciples by telling them that even though he's going away, he will come back and take them to be with him. When he said they knew the way to the place where he was going, Thomas said, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way? Jesus made several responses, including the famous assertion: "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:1-7).

*How has Jesus been the way, and the truth, and the life for you?

*What is a good way to help people know that Jesus is the Way to the Father?

*Do you think in this context Jesus is talking about abundant life or eternal life or both? Is there a way to know for sure?

* What do you think will happen to the millions of Muslims, Sikhs, and Jews? (And the little girl in Cambodia sold into sex slavery and dying of disease and abuse before she ever hears of Jesus?)

*Could those who have never heard of Jesus come to the Father simply because of what Jesus has done?

5. Near the end of the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7 and sandwiched between Jesus's teaching about seeking and bearing fruit, Jesus says, Wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it."

*Is Jesus talking about life on earth being destructive or abundant?

*What does destruction and life look like?

*Give examples of people whose lives could be called destruction because of choices they make which are nothing like the example and teachings of Jesus?

*How many people do you know who seem to be living an abundant life? How much does that abundant life seem connected to their desire to follow Christ and his teachings like we find in the Sermon on the Mount?

6. Who has helped you get or stay on the "narrow road," the road of truly following Jesus so few take? How are you helping another find the "narrow road"?