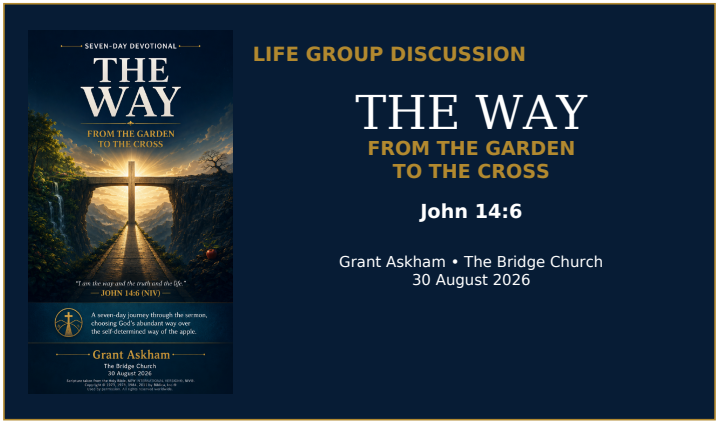


WELCOME

This week Grant contrasted two ways of living: the Way of the Garden, where life is received under God's good rule and in relationship with Him, and the Way of the Apple, where self-determination says, 'my will, my way, my timing'. Tonight is not about testing how much we remember. It is about letting the sermon and Scripture expose which way we are actually walking.

THE WORD BEFORE OUR WORDS

READ ALOUD TOGETHER

Before discussing the sermon, have three people read Acts 9:1-2, John 14:6 and Proverbs 14:12 aloud, one after another. Listen before anyone comments. Give the Word of God the first voice in the room.

'Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."'

— John 14:6 (NIV)

THE SERMON IN A FEW MINUTES

Grant began with Acts 9 and the earliest description of Christians as people who belonged to 'the Way'. Jesus is not a formula for successful living; He is the Way Himself. The sermon then went back to Genesis. Humanity was created for the garden - abundance, relationship, provision and life with God. The forbidden tree was not God withholding life, but God protecting humanity from the fruit of self-rule.

The tempter offered another way: question God's Word, contradict His warning, and claim the right to determine good and evil for ourselves. Grant called this 'the way of the apple'. Its consequences are not always immediate; sin can work like a slow poison. Genesis begins in a garden and ends in a coffin.

The gospel opens the way back through Jesus. Salvation is God's free gift, repentance turns us from self-rule, baptism pictures dying to the old way and rising into new life, and worship becomes a surrendered walk of obedience. Grant then applied the choice directly to church community, marriage, parenting, relationships, sexuality, finances, business and honouring authority.

WHAT WE HEARD THIS WEEK

- Jesus is the Way - Christianity is a relationship and a walk, not merely a system.
- God's abundance is not prosperity-centred; it is life received under His will and provision.
- The tempter still asks, 'Did God really say?' and offers self-determination as freedom.
- The way of the apple can look right now while producing destructive fruit slowly over time.
- The cross reconciles us to God; repentance and baptism express a turning from self-rule to Christ's Lordship.
- Worship is a surrendered life, and personal revelation must be tested by God's Word, Spirit and body.
- God's way reaches into community, marriage, parenting, relationships, work, finances and the body.

THREE CONVERSATIONS

Take your time. The aim is not to get through every possible answer, but to let the sermon and Scripture move into the way we are actually living.

1

GARDEN OR APPLE - WHO IS REALLY DECIDING?

Grant's basket of abundant fruit and the single apple gave the sermon a simple picture: God offers life under His good rule, while the tempter offers the right to determine life on our own terms.

LET'S TALK: What makes the way of the apple attractive to us, especially when God's Word conflicts with our desires or reasoning? Where have we seen self-will produce fruit slowly rather than immediately?

FROM THE WORD: Genesis 3:1-6; Proverbs 14:12

2

IS MY WORSHIP ACTUALLY SURRENDER?

Grant said, 'I worship by walking in the Way.' Worship is more than singing; it becomes visible where my will meets God's will. The narrow way is difficult because 'my way, my timing and my rights' feel natural.

LET'S TALK: Where is surrender most difficult for us at present? How can we distinguish biblical obedience from legalism, and how do we test a personal 'revelation' that seems to release us from something Scripture says?

FROM THE WORD: Acts 24:14; Matthew 7:13-14; 1 Peter 5:8

3

WHAT DOES GOD'S WAY LOOK LIKE AT HOME?

The sermon became very practical: God forms a people, husbands and wives are called to honour His design, parents must actively train their children, and unmarried people were urged to honour God's timing and covenant rather than create their own definition.

LET'S TALK: Which of these practical areas most challenges our culture - and us personally? Without policing one another, how can we speak truth in love and create a community where the Holy Spirit has room to convict, restore and lead?

FROM THE WORD: Exodus 6:7; Ephesians 5:22-33; Proverbs 22:6

LET'S PRAY TOGETHER

Rather than one person praying through everything, invite several people to pray briefly. Keep the prayers rooted in what we have heard tonight.

> Surrender: Ask God to expose the places where 'my will, my way, my timing' has become more important than His way.

> Discernment: Pray for sober minds that know God's Word and can recognise 'Did God really say?' even when it comes dressed as new revelation.

> Homes and relationships: Pray for marriages, parents, children and unmarried people to receive grace to honour God's design rather than simply follow cultural pressure.

> Church community: Ask God to make us a people who find our inheritance together, speak truth in love and leave room for the Holy Spirit to convict and restore.

> Abundant life: Thank Jesus for reconciling us to the Father and ask that His life would become visible in our minds, homes, work, relationships and worship.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

Every day the choice appears again:

'THE WAY OF THE APPLE'
or
'JESUS - THE WAY INTO LIFE.'

Lord, what is Your way?

Suggested flow: Scripture aloud • sermon recap • three conversations • prayer • take-home thought