



The Way In A Manger

Part 1: *Dead Ends.*

Big Idea

When you've lost your way, Christmas is where the way back begins

Key Scriptures

- Proverbs 14:12
 - John 1:14; 14:5–6
 - Luke 2:1, 3–7
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Discussion Questions

- When was the last time you lost your way getting somewhere (wrong turn, wrong station, wrong suburb)?
 - What tipped you off that you were off course, and how did you react?
- Think about a time in life (not direction this time) where you were really confident you were on the right track, but later realise you were actually off.
 - What made the path seem right at the time?

- Looking back, what were the warning signs you can see now that you couldn't see then?
 - What tends to be your default response when you hit a "dead end" (push through, shut down, blame others, pretend it's fine, something else)?
 - **Read Proverbs 14:12**
 - Why do you think "ways that seem right" can be so attractive, even when they're not good for us?
 - During the message it was said, "We can't get to where we want to be until we recognise where we are." What helps you honestly recognise where you actually are in life, not just where you wish you were?
 - What makes that kind of honesty difficult (with yourself, with God, with others)?
 - **Read John 1:14**
 - John describes Jesus as "full of grace and truth" at the same time. Where in your life do you tend to lean more "truth" with very little grace? Where do you lean more "grace" and avoid hard truths?
 - How would your relationships look different if you lived more like Jesus in that tension?
 - **Read John 14:5-6**
 - If you were sitting at the table, what question would you have asked Jesus?
 - How might your current decisions look different if you started with, "who will I follow?" instead of "what's my next move?"
 - Chris ended with a simple prayer: "Jesus, show me your way for my life." What, if anything, makes a prayer like that challenging or risky for you?
 - If you prayed that each day this week, where do you most hope Jesus would bring clarity or direction?
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Challenge Question (For Takeaway):

This week, try living out the prayer in three simple ways:

1. **Pause:** Once a day, stop long enough to name honestly where you feel "lost" (big or small).
2. **Pray:** Pray, "Jesus, show me your way for my life," and sit in silence for a minute before rushing on.
3. **Follow:** Pay attention to any nudge toward a different response, conversation, or decision, and take one concrete step of obedience.