

December 27, 2020

The Father Dwells in Jesus

John 14:8-14

In 2019, the most recent installment in the Star Wars universe premiered. This series, *The Mandalorian*, and its adorable runaway star, The Child (also known as Baby Yoda), took the country by storm. Viewers were introduced to a lone gunslinger, the Mandalorian, who travels the galaxy as a bounty hunter. He is part of a nearly extinct tribe. “The Mandalorians were a clan-based cultural group that was composed of members from multiple species all bound by a common culture, creed, and code.”¹ Throughout the series, we hear the Mandalorian creed often: “This is the way.”

While the series is not overly specific about what exactly that “way” is, viewers slowly pick up a few hints. First of all, the Mandalorians never remove their helmets. That is the way. They also sacrifice whatever needs to be sacrificed in order to protect one another. That is the way. “It explains something very obvious about the Mandalorian people: as brute as they are, and as cut-throat as their reputation may be, these people are still bonded in a very strong way—and clearly, live by a universal code that they all adhere to.”²

In this week’s lesson, the student book author talks about “the Way.” Early Christians were a diverse group bound together as followers of Jesus Christ. We still are today. We don’t always agree, but at the root of it, we are all bonded together by the universal code in our Savior, Jesus Christ. The student book author writes, “You don’t get to God by following a geographic route. You find the way through Jesus, who is the way. ‘If you have really known me,’ Jesus explained, ‘you will also know the Father.’”³

Like the Mandalorian, you may sometimes feel like you are on your journey alone. But you are never alone when you have Jesus. When you have found “the Way,” you are part of a tribe that belongs to the one true God. You are part of a legacy of community, love, and service. When you follow the teachings of Jesus, you become part of something much greater than yourself. This is the way.

1. What part of the Mandalorian culture appeals most to you? Why?
2. If you had to create a creed for your Bible study group, what would it be?
3. How does being part of “the Way” of Jesus make you feel more connected to other Christians?

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¹From starwars.fandom.com/wiki/Mandalorian.

²From menshealth.com/entertainment/a29888972/the-mandalorian-this-is-the-way/.

³From *Adult Bible Studies*, Winter 2020-21, by Taylor Mills (Cokesbury, 2020); page 38.