

Jesus is The Way

Teacher Pep Talk: How do we get to heaven? It seems like such a simple question, and it deserves a straightforward answer. Jesus gave that answer to His disciples on the night before His Crucifixion. In the gathering sorrow of the evening, Jesus reassured them that in His Father's house there were many rooms and that He was going there to prepare a place for them (and all of us to follow.) "And if I go and prepare a place for you," He said, "I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." Then He told them that they knew the way to the place where He was going.

Thomas (always one to need more info) said that since they didn't know where he was going, how could they know how to get there?! Then, Jesus told them... "I am the Way."

Mankind wonders how to get to heaven. Whole religions are based on being good enough, or knowing enough, or attaining some thing that we must chase either within or without... When in reality the Way is right there staring us in the face.

Jesus is the Way. It doesn't rest in us at all. It is fully Him. If we know Jesus, we know the Way. He is the One who is able to take us to Heaven. No man comes to the Father, except through Him. God provided a way for us: that Way is Jesus.

TEACHER'S NOTE: Lesson #12 – "Jesus is The Way" includes an additional lesson plan called "Leading Children to Jesus as their Savior." If you feel led to present the Gospel Message to your class, this outline may prove useful. PLEASE speak with your Pastor ahead of time regarding this. Consider inviting your pastor to visit your class to speak with the children directly about the Gospel Message. – *God bless you!*

You will need: A copy of the activity sheet for each child
A hole-punch
Crayons, scissors, yarn, and double-sided tape
Duct tape for one activity

Scripture Ref. John 14:2-6

In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Memory Verse: John 14:6 Jesus answered, “I am the way...”

Major Points: The disciples were sad Jesus was going away
Jesus told them about His Father’s house
Jesus told them the way to Heaven
Jesus is the Way
To know Jesus is to know the Way

The disciples were sad that Jesus was going away

- Have you ever gone on a trip? Where did you go? (*Wait for answers.*) Before you left, what did you do? (*Packed a bag, said good-bye, etc.*)
- One night Jesus told His friends (His disciples) that He was going away.
- His friends (the disciples) were very sad. Why do you think they were sad? (*They didn’t want Him to go. Maybe they even wanted to go with Him.*)
- Jesus knew that His friends couldn’t go with Him right then, and He told them so. That made them even sadder. (*Really sad!*)
- Then Jesus told them something to make them feel better. The things He told them are for us to hear as well!

Jesus told them about His Father’s house

- Jesus told His friends (the disciples) about His Father’s house
- Who is Jesus’ Father? (*God!*) And where is God? (*In Heaven!*) So, where would God’s house be? (*Heaven!*) Right!
- Jesus said, “In my Father’s house there are many rooms.”
- Think of that... Lots of rooms in God’s house... one for each of us, if we want it! That sounds great, doesn’t it?! (Yes!)
- Jesus also said, “I am going there to prepare a place for you...” Wow! That sounds REALLY great! There are lots of rooms in God’s house, and Jesus Himself is getting a place ready for us!
- Then Jesus said something else... Jesus said “If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.” Wow! That’s really, Really, REALLY great!! If He goes away, He’s coming back, AND He’s going to take us with Him so we can be with Him!

Then Jesus told them the way to Heaven

- Jesus said, “You know the way to the place I am going.”
- Uh, oh... there was a problem... One of Jesus’ disciples (Thomas) pointed this out to Him. He basically said something like: “*Whoa! Uh, excuse me... Jesus... We don’t even know where you are going... so, how can we know the way there?*” (*Maybe they needed some sort of heavenly GPS or something!*)

- Seriously! How were they going to get there, if they didn't know the way?

Jesus is The Way

- Then Jesus told them something marvelous. He told them something wonderful, that is as much for us as it was for them.
- **Jesus said, "I am the way."**
- Wow! That is really, really, really, REALLY great! Jesus is the Way to God the Father. Jesus is the Way to God's house... (the house with many rooms!) Jesus is the Way to Heaven.
- Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."
- That means that Jesus is the way, AND that He is the only way.

To Know Jesus is to Know the Way

- Jesus wanted us to know that He had to leave, but that He is coming back.
- Jesus also wanted us to know that there is room for any of us who want to come, in Heaven with God the Father.
- Jesus wanted us to know that He is the Way to the Father.
- That is a VERY good thing, because just think if Jesus wasn't the way. If He wasn't the way, maybe we would run around all over the earth looking for the way. Maybe we would try being extra special good, so God would pick us. Maybe we would try to get extra special rich, so we could buy our way into heaven. Maybe we would do all sorts of silly things to try and get into heaven on our own somehow. But we don't have to do those things. Because it is all Jesus. He did everything. We accept Him as the one who is the Way... and that's it... we get to go to Heaven.
- So easy, even a child can do it. So simple, people fall over it. So fair, anyone can do it. So free, anyone can afford it. So amazing, only God could make it happen.
- I'm so glad that Jesus is the Way. Jesus sets us free from all the tyranny of possible other ways. Only Jesus is the Way.

Let's pray and thank God that Jesus is the Way.

Prayer: Dear God,
Thank you that you love us.
Thank you for sending Jesus, your Son.
Thank you that He is the Way to you and to heaven!
Thank you for making a way for us to you!
Amen.

Leading Children to Jesus as their Savior
(Optional Lesson Plan – See Note Which Follows)

Major Points:	God loves us. God wants us to be with Him forever. Mankind is separated from God. (Sin) God provides the Way to Him: Jesus
Scripture Ref.	John 14:6 <i>Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.</i> John 3:16 <i>"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."</i> Romans 3:23-2 <i>...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.</i>

God Loves Us

- God loves us! Did you know that? (Yes!) We can know that!
- God loves every person everywhere. There is no one, no where, that God does not love!
 - Whether you are tall or short, God loves you.
 - Whether you are young or old, God loves you.
 - Whether you are sick or well, God loves you.
- God loves you, and you, and you, and you, and you... and everybody!

God wants us to be with Him forever

- God loves us and He wants to be with us
- God made us so that we could be with Him forever

Mankind is separated from God (Sin)

- God wants us to be with Him... but there is a problem!
 - Uh Oh! What's the problem?
- God wants us to be with Him forever... but we messed up!
- Mankind sinned. The first Man and Woman sinned against God, and, because of that, we couldn't be with God forever.
 - Uh Oh! What does that word mean? What is "sin"?
 - Sin is when we choose on purpose to do something wrong
 - Sin is when we choose on purpose to do something God told us NOT to do... and we know it!
- Have you ever done anything wrong? You don't have to tell what it was. Just say Yes or No. (Wait for answers. Remember: Older children will usually know that they have done wrong things. Younger children may have no sense of doing wrong.)

- OK, so some of us can say that we have definitely done things that were wrong. I know that I have done wrong things. These wrong things we do are what the Bible calls “sin.”
- These sins keep us from God.
- Something had to be done about them!

God provides the Way to Him: Jesus

- God made a way for us to be with Him forever
- God’s Son, Jesus, came here to earth and He paid the price for all of these wrong things (these sins) we have done.
- What Jesus did on the cross made up for all of our sins
- *(The wrong things we have done deserved punishment. Jesus took that punishment on Himself. He died in our place on the cross, and then God raised Him from the dead to live forever.)*
- Now, because of what Jesus did, we can be with God forever!
- Jesus is The Way to God!
- We are grateful to God for providing us the way to come to Him and to be with Him forever
- That way is Jesus – The Son of God!

Let’s pray and thank God for sending Jesus, who is the Way to be with God forever.

Prayer: Dear God,
Thank you that you love us.
Thank you for sending your son, Jesus.
Thank you that He is the Way.
Thank you that because of Jesus we can be with you forever!
Amen

After this lesson, some children may want to say a very special prayer. For example:

Dear God,
I know that you are God.
I know that you are always good.
I have done wrong things (sins.)
I am sorry for these wrong things I have done.
I know that Jesus is your Son.
Thank you that He paid for all of the wrong things we have done.
Thank you that you raised Him from the dead.
Thank you that He is alive with you forever.
Today I thank you for what Jesus did for me, (child’s name).
Today I ask Jesus to come live in my heart forever.
Thank you that, because of Jesus, I will be with you forever.
Amen

Optional Lesson Plan – *Leading Children to Jesus as their Savior*

TEACHER'S NOTE:

You will have noticed that Lesson #12 contains a lesson plan called “Jesus is The Way” and another one called “Leading Children to Jesus as their Savior.” You may, of course, use either or both of these lessons during any class.

“Leading Children to Jesus as their Savior” is included with this lesson in the hope that it may be useful to you. If one or more of the children in your classroom seems interested in having an assurance of heaven, it is possible that this lesson plan may prove helpful. *It is meant to be a simple, straightforward, Biblically-based explanation of the Gospel Message, presented in a way that young children may follow easily.*

Please discuss this with your pastor ahead of time. Consider inviting your pastor to come to your classroom to talk with the children directly about the Gospel Message.

Suggested Activities: *(Choose a few activities for your class!)*

Wide Way/ Narrow Way – *The children will enjoy walking on a line on the floor*

Before Class: Place a long piece (10') of duct tape in a line on the floor.

During Class: Tell the children that Jesus said that wide is the way that leads to destruction but narrow is the way that leads to life. We are to make every effort to find that narrow way. Jesus is that way. Discuss the difference between wide and narrow with the children. Allow them to try and walk on the narrow strip of tape you have placed on the floor. Put one foot in front of the other. Put your arms out for balance.

Sing “Jesus Loves Me” – *The children will sing Jesus Loves Me*

Sing some old familiar tunes with the children. Be sure to include the wonderful song, “Jesus Loves Me.” It will be very appropriate for this particular lesson.

One Way/ Jesus – *The children use the activity sheet to make a fun craft to take home.*

Before Class: Obtain a copy of the activity sheet for each child. Provide crayons, scissors, yarn and double-sided tape (or glue.)

During Class: Allow the children to color the signs on the activity sheet. Fold the sheet in half using the dotted line as a guide. Use double-sided tape or glue to stick the two sides of the sign together, back-to-back. (The arrows should line up on top of each other.) Cut them out as one piece. Add more tape or glue as needed. Punch a hole in the top of the arrows at the circle. Place a loop of yarn (8”) through the hole and tie its ends together in a knot. Allow sign to dry, if necessary. Hang on a doorknob to display.

