



I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, & THE LIFE

JOHN 14:1-11

GOAL

- ▶ **To reveal Jesus as the way, the truth, and the life!** Jesus is the way because He is the gate, the path, and the final destination to eternity in heaven with God. He is the truth about everything and the fulfillment of all prophecy concerning the promised Messiah. He is the life because He is the Creator of all life, and He sustains every living creature. Teach children to choose the way of Jesus because His way is right; teach them to filter everything through God's Word, so that they are able to discern truth from lies; and teach them to understand that their very next breath comes from God, and that it is Christ, alone, who gives eternal life.
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WORDS TO KNOW

- ▶ **Way:** Instruction on how to do something, how to think, and how to arrive at a destination. In the context of this story, Jesus claims that His instruction is perfect and life-giving, and that He is the only path to Heaven.

Truth: What is true about everything. The actual reality of what is both seen and unseen. In the context of this story, Jesus claims that everything He says is certain, His doctrine is always right, and His commands and rules are righteous.

Life: The force that gives and sustains life. In the context of this story, Jesus claims to be the source of life behind every living thing and the only means to sustain or restore it—physically and spiritually.

MEMORY VERSES

- ▶ **John 14:6:** Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

John 8:32: You will know the truth and the truth will set you free.



OVERVIEW

Read John 14:1-11: This story presents the vision of Jacob's Ladder—the great ladder to heaven—and the revelation concerning its mystery. Jesus says, “I am the way the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” Jesus is the answer to the promise of a Savior—the promise that God would make a way for mankind to confidently approach Him in order to find mercy and grace and the promise to make the Kingdom of God accessible to all who believe on His name. In this story, we can find comfort in the promise of Heaven and the ever-nearing promised return of Christ.

SUGGESTIONS

Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life.” Without Jesus, we are unable to find the path that leads to life, our understanding is limited, and we have no hope for an eternal existence. Discuss each item:

- 1. Way:** Jesus is the way, without whom we would be lost and heading toward destruction; we would be unable to find the gate and keep to the path that leads to eternal life in Heaven.
- 2. Truth:** Jesus is the very definition of truth, and without His truth, we would be unable to discern right from wrong or truth from lies. We would be forced to rely on our own inadequate understanding or on the limited understanding of others. Without the light of God's truth, we would stumble in darkness.
- 3. Life:** Jesus is the giver and sustainer of all life. Whether we acknowledge Him or not, He is the one who gives us our next breath; without Him, we would physically die. The same is true spiritually: Apart from faith in Jesus, we would remain dead in our sins, and we would have no hope for eternal life.



**PRE-LESSON
ACTIVITY**

▶ **The Price is Right | Supplies:** approximately 10 small household items and the knowledge of their corresponding purchase price, index cards to label each one, and a picture depicting Heaven.

Ahead of time, prepare an index card for each item. Fold each index card in half. On one side, write an approximate price, either a little higher or a little lower than the actual price. On the other side, write the actual price. On the index card labeling the price for Heaven, write \$10,000 as the approximate price, and write \$0 on the back as the actual. Divide the group into small teams and give each team a sheet to write their guesses about whether the displayed price for each item is higher or lower than the actual price.

Present each item, one at a time, and give the teams opportunity to talk about each one. When each team is finished coming up with their answers, one-by-one reveal the actual prices of each item. When you get the item for Heaven, explain that it does not cost anything, because the price has already been paid. Jesus paid it all! Explain that salvation is by grace alone, through faith in Jesus, not by anything we do.

**MEMORY
VERSE
MEANING**

▶ **John 14:6:** Jesus is the only way that does not lead to destruction; everything about Him is true and perfect; without Him, eternal life would be impossible. There is no other way.

John 8:32: Truth is not simply a list of written rule; it is the power to live! Jesus is the truth that gives freedom from the hard bondage of sin and gives us the power and the right to be worthy sons and daughters of God.



POST-LESSON ACTIVITY

▶ **Verse Hunts | Supplies:** yarn or string and sheets of 8.5 X 11 paper with a single word from one of the memory verses written on each sheet.

Roll up each piece of paper and tie them closed with yarn or string. Hide the “scrolls” of paper around the room in advance. If the group is large, go ahead and hide the words for both memory verses around the room. When the children find the correct number of the hidden scrolls, have them work as a team to put the words in order. Have them glue or tape the words on a board in the front of the room or a poster paper or board.

TAKE HOME

▶ How should knowing and believing that Jesus is “the way, the truth, and the life,” affect our everyday lives?

1. Single-minded pursuit of eternity: There is only one way to heaven—one way to God: Jesus. Salvation is only through His sacrifice. No other sacrifice, good deed, or religious methods are adequate. Jesus’ claim to be the only way makes every other way false.

2. Transformed understanding: God’s Word is truth, and the more we know about the truth, the more we are changed. Truth about who Jesus really is and about His teachings give us the ability to discern right from wrong and the power to become more and more like Him—the power to become sons and daughters worthy to carry on His holy name.

3. Transformed worship: As Jesus revealed more and more about who He was—the source of light and life, the gateway to heaven, the caring Shepherd, and the truth about everything—His disciples grew in their worship of Him. Then when He conquered death, His disciples pledged undying loyalty to him, even to the point of death. We love Him because He first loved us, and our love grows deeper the more we understand who He is and what His love really means.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 1



Q1a: Who did God speak to in a dream?

A1: God spoke to Jacob in a dream

Q1b: Have you ever dreamed you could fly?

TN: In our dreams, we often find ourselves in strange situations with incredible abilities. If we dream we can fly, that doesn't mean we can once we wake up. Not all dreams, however, are nonsense; sometimes, God uses our dreams to communicate with us. There are several instances documented in the Bible in which God spoke to people through dreams. All we need to do when we're not sure whether God has communicated to us through a dream is to compare it to Scripture. If the message or action suggested in the dream doesn't match up with Scripture and Jesus' goals for our lives, then it was just a dream.

SLIDE 2



Q2a: What did Jacob see in his dream?

A2: Jacob saw a ladder that stretched all the way to Heaven.

Q2b: Is it possible to build a ladder that reaches all the way up to Heaven?

TN: No. Heaven isn't really a place that exists in the sky, so no matter how high up a ladder reaches, it would never reach all the way up to Heaven. In this story, Jesus teaches us the only way to reach Heaven is through our faith in Him.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 3



Q3a: Why did Jesus come to live among mankind?

A3: Jesus came to serve and to give up His life as payment for our sins.

Q3b: Jesus said He was preparing a place for us in Heaven. What do you think that place will be like?

TN: Let students answer and get creative. Before moving to the next question, remind students that in Heaven, we will be in the presence of God and that there will be no pain or sadness.

SLIDE 4



Q4a: When did Jesus say He would come back?

A4: Jesus said He would come back when His perfect paradise is complete, and when the time is right.

Q4b: Does anyone know the exact time when Jesus will return?

TN: No, but that doesn't stop people from trying to predict it. Jesus said no one knows when He will return, and if He said it, then no one knows.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 5



Q5a: Who asked Jesus how they would know the way to find where He had gone?

A5: Thomas asked how the disciples would know where Jesus had gone.

Q5b: Have any of your family members or friends gone on long trips away from home?

TN: It can be difficult to be separated from friends and loved ones for long periods of time; but trips end, and they come home after awhile. Jesus left earth a long time ago, but just like our family and friends, He will return. Jesus always keeps His promises!

SLIDE 6



Q6a: Who asked Jesus to show the disciples the Father?

A6: Phillip asked Jesus to show the disciples the Father.

Q6b: Can you just walk into the White House and talk to the president?

TN: No way! There is a lot of security at the White House to keep the president safe, which means that walking in without an appointment isn't going to happen. Even more impossible than that is knowing God and getting to Heaven without first knowing Jesus. Belief in Jesus is the only way to know God and to receive eternal life in Heaven.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 7



Q7a: What did Jesus' death build?

A7: Jesus' death built a bridge between earth and paradise.

Q7b: Where can we find this bridge that Jesus built between earth and paradise?

TN: There is no literal bridge between earth and Heaven. Bridges help us to cross over rivers, canyons, and other obstacles. Before Jesus, there was no way for humans to enter the Kingdom of Heaven; sin had separated us from God. When Jesus died for our sins, He reconnected us to God and made it so we could enter Heaven. Our faith in Jesus allows us to cross into Heaven and live for eternity in the presence of God.



MEMORY VERSES

▶ **John 14:6:** Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

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BIG IDEA

▶ Jesus' death on the cross has created a path for us to follow on our journey to eternal life in Heaven.

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CLOSING PRAYER

▶ Dear Lord, help us to follow Your ways and walk in them with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. Jesus, You said You came to give us life and help us to live our lives in a way that honors You. May we always speak the truth in love and live in the good of Your truth. We ask these things in Jesus' name, amen.



LESSON TRANSCRIPT

SLIDE 1



Even during the darkest times in human history, God spoke to people. He promised to reach down from Heaven and give mercy to sinners by making a way for them to be with Him forever. On one such occasion—years before Jesus came to earth—God spoke to His servant Jacob in the most amazing dream.

SLIDE 2



In his dream, Jacob saw a great ladder that stretched all the way up to Heaven. Angels were climbing up and down each step, freely moving between Heaven and earth, and God stood high above the glorious scene. He reminded Jacob of His promises and that, one day, He would send the Messiah to bring salvation to the whole world.

SLIDE 3



And when the time was just right, Jesus came. Yes! God Himself came to live among mankind. He came to serve, not to be served; He came to give up his life as payment for many. Just days before His death, Jesus comforted His disciples saying, “Do not be troubled. Although I am leaving you for a time, I go to prepare an amazing place for you in Heaven, a place where you can be with Me in sweet peace and constant joy.”

SLIDE 4



Jesus continued, “Don’t worry; I will not be gone forever. When My perfect paradise is complete, and when the time is right, I will return for you. And I will be your King, and you will be a part of My kingdom for all eternity!”



LESSON TRANSCRIPT

SLIDE 5



The words He spoke were beautiful, but His disciples did not understand. Thomas asked, “Lord, we do not know where You are going. How can we know the way?” They were troubled at His announcement that He would soon depart, and they were even more confused and upset that they did not know the way to where He was going.

SLIDE 6



Jesus calmed their fears by telling them, “I am the way, the truth, and the life! No one comes to the Father except through me.” Then Phillip, one of His other disciples, excitedly said, “Show us the Father—show us God—and that will be enough!” Jesus replied, “How long have I been with you, and you still do not know who I am? If you have seen me, you have seen the Father!”

SLIDE 7



And Jesus did just as He said He would: He died in order to build a bridge between earth and paradise. He died to make a way for all of mankind to be saved from sin and death and to be brought into the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus truly is the way, the truth, and the life!