

LESSON 2

I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Is the Way to God

SCRIPTURE: John 14

GOD'S BIG STORY: Shortly before His death on the cross, Jesus prepares His disciples for what lay ahead, comforting them and teaching them that He is the way to God.

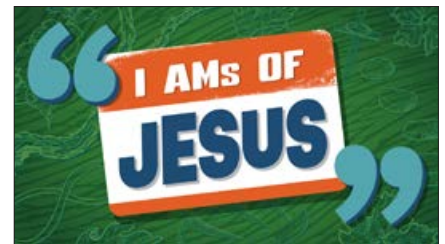
WORD OF WONDER: Jesus is the light of the world. —from John 8:12

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship: All I Wanna Do, What a Friend
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Prayer and Blessing



I Ams of Jesus Preschool Spotify playlist



LESSON 2 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Is the Way to God

SCRIPTURE: John 14

WORD OF WONDER: From John 8:12

My teenage daughter had an appointment to get her hair done for prom, and she had recently heard that a popular map app was now the most reliable for directions. After driving in circles, she arrived late and flustered.

Believing it was just a fluke or her own error, my daughter used the app again to meet her friends for pre-prom pictures. However, it turned out that it wasn't a fluke or her error. She got lost again.

Getting lost twice in one day made her think maybe she needed to find a new way to get directions. She switched back to the app that had always worked for her before, and thankfully she arrived at the right location for her prom. On time too!

Not knowing how to get somewhere can fill us with anxiety. It gets worse when we can't rely on the directions given to us. Jesus' disciples had very similar fears. Take a moment to read John 14:1–7. In this passage, Jesus reveals to His disciples that there is one way that will get us where we want to be—to life, to truth, to the Father.

Can you think of a time when you chose to orient your life based on ill-advised guidance? How have you seen life and truth by choosing the way of Jesus?

Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.

—Jeff Stone

Associate Pastor and Professional Counselor

Contributor to Wonder Ink

LESSON 2 **FOR LEADERS**
I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Jesus is the embodiment of truth and the giver of life. He is the way to God, so closely identified with the Father that to know Jesus is to know the Father (John 14:7) and to see Jesus is to see the Father (John 14:9).

WHAT?

This passage is part of Jesus' final conversation with His disciples. Though He is going back to the Father, He declares that He is the way to God and promises His friends that they will see Him again. Until then, Jesus will give them the Holy Spirit to encourage them (John 14:15–17).

WHERE?

In the chapters leading up to this story, Jesus was anointed by Mary, the sister of Martha, in Bethany, about two miles west of Jerusalem. Then Jesus entered Jerusalem and stayed there the week leading up to His death.

WHEN?

This story takes place the night before Jesus' suffering and death. Jesus shared a meal with His disciples before the Passover Feast. He taught the disciples and prayed for them. Then they moved to the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus was betrayed and arrested.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

This story is part of the lead-up to the climactic moment of God's big story: the death and resurrection of Jesus. Jesus is the way to God and acted as such by defeating death, making a way for people to live forever with God.



LESSON 2 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Is the Way to God

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WORD OF WONDER: From John 8:12

Welcome

Slide: Series Welcome Loop

As kids arrive...

Walk around the room and welcome as many kids as possible by showing excitement that they have joined you. Give high-fives, fist bumps, encourage them to sit on the floor in their spots, and ask questions about their week.

Video: Countdown

Welcome kids to worship time. Introduce yourself by name.

Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions

Leader: Tac, what's wrong? You seem worried about something.

Tac the Cat: I am worried! So worried! My mom told me today that she was going on a trip. She said she has a surprise for us and is getting something special ready for us.

Leader: Oh, wow! That sounds exciting and fun! But I don't understand why you are worried.

Tac the Cat: I'm worried because I'll miss her. I'm worried because I don't know where she's going or when she's coming back. How will I know what to do while she is gone? What will I eat? Who's going to help clean my fur every day? Who's going to tuck me in at night? I'll feel so alone.

Leader: I'm so sorry, Tac.

Tac the Cat: (interrupting) And what does she mean she's getting something special ready for us? Is she going to tell us? I just don't want my mom to go on her trip!

Leader: I know, Tac. While your mom is away, you'll miss her, but it sounds like she's doing something important while she's away, and she'll make sure you are taken care of.

Tac the Cat: Maybe.

Leader: Tac, this sounds a little like the story from the Bible we'll be hearing today. In fact, Jesus tells His followers He's going away to prepare a place for them.

Tac the Cat: Really?

Leader: Yes! And He even tells them that He will show them the way to go.

Tac the Cat: Wow! Really?

Leader: Yes! It's a great story from the Bible that helps us know Jesus and who He is. You know, Jesus is with us too, so we don't have to be worried.

Tac the Cat: That is awesome! I feel better already. I'm going to go give my mom some extra snuggles before she leaves, so I gotta go now. See you later!

"Have you ever been curious about something? Let's take a moment and think: When have you felt alone? Allow the kids to respond. God sent Jesus to show us the way to Himself. How does that make you feel? Allow the kids to respond. We all see and hear things that make us curious. Did you ever stop to think about how big God's love is for us? We are never alone because He sent Jesus to show us the way.

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

Today's Wonder Truth is **JESUS IS THE WAY TO GOD**. Today, we'll discover how Jesus is the way to God!"

Declaring God's Wonder

SLIDE: DECLARATION

Encourage the kids to stand and say the statements and do the motions with you.

Thank You, God, that You made me! (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Make prayer hands, then point up to God and to yourself.

And I am Your kid! (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands on your hips.

Jesus loves me so much; (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

His love for me is big. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

The Holy Spirit leads me, (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Bring your arms down from the sky, making a path in front of you.

And I can follow You. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

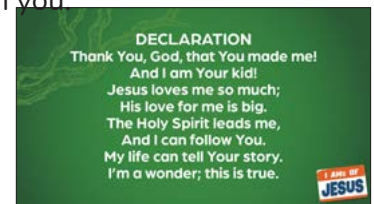
March in place like you're following the leader.

My life can tell Your story. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

I'm a wonder; this is true. (Kids repeat words and motions.)

Put your hands up, shaking your fingers, celebrating ("praise hands").



Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use your own words. Here is an example: **God, show us Your love and Your way. Lead us and teach us to know You better. Remind us that Your Son, Jesus, is the way to You. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

"Today, we'll learn about how Jesus is the way to God. Let's sing together about Jesus, the way, truth, and life!"

WORSHIP SONGS: All I Wanna Do, What a Friend

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Tell them today's story comes from the book of John in the Bible. Open a Bible and show them where the story is found.

Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week before the Bible story to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

I open my Bible and what do I see? (*Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.*)

God's big story, waiting for me! (*Point to yourself.*)

"Let's watch part of God's big story, which comes from the book of John in the Bible. John is the last book of the Gospels, which include the first four books of the New Testament: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John."

VIDEO: GODS BIG STORY

GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: Bible

"As we go through God's big story today, you can mimic each of my actions. Let's practice. Wave to the kids and invite them to do the same action after you. **Great job! Let's get started.**

Jesus did amazing things on earth. Applaud. Kids mimic.

The disciples and others didn't understand Jesus' ways. But Jesus loved them. Hands over heart. Kids mimic.

The people were getting ready for the Passover feast when they celebrated how God saved them from Egypt. Pretend to eat food. Kids mimic.

"Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world. It was time for him to go to the Father" (John 13:1). Rub eyes as if crying. Kids mimic.

He wanted to tell the disciples what would happen. He told them, "Where I am going you can't follow now. But you will follow me later" (John 13:36). Open mouth wide in disbelief. Kids mimic.

Jesus was going to make the way for people to come to God and live forever! Applaud. Kids mimic. **But the disciples were worried, and Jesus wanted to help them. He said, "You believe in God. Believe in me also"** (John 14:1). **Then He told them there was a place for them in God's family.** Cheer. Kids mimic.

"There are many rooms in my Father's house," he said (John 14:2). **That's where Jesus was going—to His Father's house, where God is.** Point to the sky. Kids mimic. **He's getting a place ready for His followers so they can be with Him forever!** Cheer. Kids mimic.

Thomas, one of the disciples, asked Jesus, "Lord, we don't know where you are going. How can we know the way?" (John 14:5). Shrug shoulders with both palms facing up. Kids mimic.

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6). **People who believe in Jesus will live forever. He gives life to everyone who follows Him.** Point up. Kids mimic. **People who believe in Him will live forever.**

Jesus is also the truth. He lets people see and know the truth about God. When people look at Jesus and His life, they see what God is like.

As the truth and the life, Jesus is the only way to God. To know Jesus is to know God. That is what Jesus wanted His followers to know. Jesus is the way to God."

Connecting the Wonder Truth

Ask the following question to kids to help them connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

"Our Wonder Truth today is **JESUS IS THE WAY TO GOD**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth happen in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

This story leads to the very important moment of God's big story: when Jesus died and rose from the dead! Jesus is the way to God, and He made the way for us to know God when He beat death so we can be saved and live forever with God!"

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for preparing a place for us and showing us the way to God through Jesus. Use your own words. Here is an example:

God, thank You for sending Jesus to be our friend. As we follow Your way, help us show others Your way too! We thank You that one day we can be with You forever. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them. Use your own words. Here is an example:

Blessing: May you believe in Jesus, follow His way, and know how much He loves you. May you know God. May you be reminded this week that Jesus is the way, truth, and life, and He is the way to God.