

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.

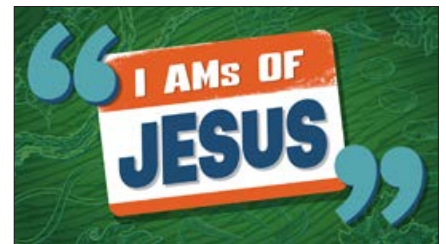
WORD OF WONDER: Jesus is the light of the world. —from John 8:12

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- Play Stations:
 - This Way!
 - Letter Trail
 - I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life Coloring Sheet
- Curiosity Activity: Where Are You Going?
- Word of Wonder: From John 8:12
- God's Big Story / Snack
- Circle Time: Follow the Path
- LARGE GROUP
- Responding in Worship: Prayer Maze
- Game: Jesus Is the Way to God



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

SCRIPTURE: John 14

WORD OF WONDER: From John 8:12

Play Stations

SUPPLIES: painter's tape, toy cars (3–5), pom-poms (handful), coloring utensils

RESOURCES: Trail Sheet (3-4/SG); I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life Coloring Sheet (1 per kid)

Greet the kids warmly and briefly explain the play stations to them. Invite them to play at any of the stations.

"Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help you get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas of what we'll be learning about today?"

Play Station: This Way!

Set-up: Using painter's tape, create a road on the floor or table. Consider creating several turns, stops, or a maze-type pattern with a defined beginning and end. Set out the toy cars.

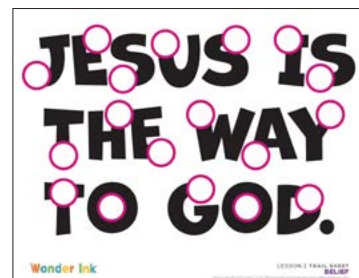
Play: Encourage kids to use toy cars and drive them along the road. Tell them to start at the beginning and follow the way to the end.



Play Station: Letter Trail

Set-up: Ahead of time, print several copies of the Trail Sheet. Set out pom-poms.

Play: Tell kids to place pom-poms on each dot on the letters. Read the Wonder Truth from the paper when their masterpiece is finished: Jesus is the way to God. Then they can move the pom-poms aside for another kid to place them in the letters.



Play Station: I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life Coloring Sheet

Set-up: Print one copy of the I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life Coloring Sheet for each kid. Set out the Coloring Sheets and coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a road that takes them to their home.

Curiosity Activity: Where Are You Going?

SUPPLIES: cardstock, toy person figure

RESOURCES: [Where Are You Going? Sheet \(1/SG\)](#)

Before the kids arrive, print one copy of the Where Are You Going? Sheet onto cardstock.

Encourage kids to sit in a circle. **"Let's play a fun game with this map!** Place the Where Are You Going? Sheet on the floor in the middle of the circle. **I'm curious. Have you ever seen a map?** Allow kids time to respond. **A map is a picture that helps us know where we are and where we are going. This map is of a neighborhood. What are some things you see on the map?** Allow kids time to respond. **Let's have this person go somewhere on our map!** Show the toy person figure. **I'll give you a starting point, and you help me decide where to go.**



Have kids take turns going to a place they choose on the map. Before you move the toy person, ask, "Where are they going?" Give time for kids to respond and move the figure to their desired location.

In today's story, Jesus tells His followers He is going away to prepare a place for them. His followers are confused because they don't know how they will find Him. Get ready, because Jesus is about to show them the way, and it's not by following a map!"

Leader Tip: Kids may be unfamiliar with maps and directions. Consider providing other types of maps for kids to look at. Some examples could be a road map, a map of a park, or a map of a city.

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible, flashlight

WORD OF WONDER
Jesus is the light of the world.

—from John 8:12

"Let's learn the Word of Wonder together! I'll start by holding the flashlight, and as we say the verse, we'll pass the flashlight around the circle. If you're holding the flashlight when we say, "light," turn it on and keep passing it around the circle until we finish the verse! Are you ready?" Repeat several times.

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you. Remind kids not to shine the flashlight into people's eyes or face.

Leader Tip: As an alternate activity, each time a kid turns on the light, invite her to take a lap around the circle and shine the light on each person in the group as the verse is said.

- **JESUS IS**—Open arms out to sides, one at a time.
- **THE LIGHT**—Place all fingers in one hand together and open them quickly.
- **OF THE WORLD.**—Draw a large circle in the air.
- **FROM JOHN 8:12**—Hold your hands together in front, palms together, as if opening a book.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **Who is the light of the world and the way to God?**
- **What does Jesus' light do for the world?**

God's Big Story / Snack

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 hear 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."

Read John 13:1–2, 33, 36; John 14:1–7, 9 from an NIV Bible.

Circle Time: Follow the Path

SUPPLIES: large plastic hoops (6), dice (1)

Before kids arrive, make a path on the floor with six large plastic hoops and line the kids up at the beginning of the path.

"Let's play a game called Follow the Path! I'll roll the dice and say the number it lands on. One person will jump in that number of hoops down the path and then answer a question about our story."

Roll the dice and let each kid have a turn jumping in the hoops and answering questions from the list below. The questions can be asked more than once.



Leader Tip: As an alternative, use sidewalk chalk outside to draw a path of circles or a hopscotch board on the sidewalk.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **Where was Jesus going?** (to His Father's house, to the place where God is)
- **Why was Jesus going there?** (to get a place ready for His followers to be with Him forever)
- **How did the disciples feel about Jesus going away?** (worried)
- **How would you feel if Jesus told you He was going away?**
- **What do you think His Father's house looks like?**
- **What do you think it will be like to be with Jesus forever?**

Jesus told His disciples He was preparing a place for them, and He's preparing a place for us too. When we follow and believe in Him, we discover more about how Jesus is the way to God. Let's talk to God now in prayer!"

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That's OK! Encourage them to pray silently and to thank God for being the way, truth, and life. Jesus is the way to God!

Head to Large Group!

Return and finish the rest of this guide before parents arrive.

Responding in Worship: Prayer Maze

SUPPLIES: painter's tape (at least 2 colors), ropes (optional), cones (optional)

Before kids arrive, use painter's tape to create a maze on the floor. It can be a straight path, spirals, a snaking line, zig-zag, or any pattern that would be fun. With a different color of tape, put an "X" on four spots in the maze. You can also use ropes or cones on the floor to create the path.

"In God's big story, we learned that Jesus is the way to God, and He is the only way. When we know Jesus, we know God. As you walk along the Prayer Maze, think about your life and Jesus being the only way to God. When you come to an "X" on the floor, stop and whisper a prayer to God. I'll give you prompts to pray. When you finish the prayer, continue walking until you come to the next "X", then stop and pray again."

Encourage kids to walk the Prayer Maze and finish the following prayer prompts as they pray to God:

- 1—I'm glad I know You, God!
- 2—Jesus, You are the only way to God.
- 3—Jesus, You are the way, truth, and life.
- 4—Jesus, show me Your truth.

Leader Tip: Before beginning the Prayer Maze, model how to do the activity. Demonstrate by stopping on an "X" and pausing to pray quietly.

Game: Jesus Is the Way to God

SUPPLIES: painter's tape, table tennis ball (2 per group), disposable straw (1 per kid)

Before kids arrive, tape two straight paths on the floor, using painter's tape.

In God's big story, Jesus told His disciples that He is the way, the truth, and the life. There is one way to God: believing in Jesus and following Him. Let's play a game to help us remember today's Wonder Truth!

Encourage the kids to take turns blowing into their straws at a table tennis ball to get it to move through the path. The ball must stay in the path. When the ball reaches the end of the path, kids will high-five a leader and say the Wonder Truth: Jesus is the way to God.

It might have been difficult to keep your ball on the right path, but we can know the path to God through Jesus!