



LESSON 1 SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

The world's "wisdom" says that there are many ways to enlightenment or peace or God. But Jesus revealed that the only way to get to God the Father is through Jesus. That's God's Truth.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will say "God's Truth is: Jesus is the ONLY way to be saved."

KEY PASSAGE:

John 14:1-11, Jesus is The Way to the Father

MEMORY VERSE:

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6 (NIRV)

SUMMARY:

In this four week session on "Wrong Way," we'll be learning about how God's Truth is better than the world's "wisdom." Our children will hear from the world there are many "truths" or there are many ways to know peace or goodness, but we'll learn the Bible teaches that Jesus is the ONLY way we can have the life in God we were meant to have.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear Heavenly Father,

We know You have given us truth in Your Word, the Bible. We know You sent us Jesus because He is the only way we can be saved. Help us to trust and obey You in all things.

In Jesus' name we pray,

Amen



MEMORY VERSE

Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” John 14:6 (NIRV)

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Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” John 14:6 (NLT)

Jesus saith unto him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” John 14:6 (KJV)

LARGE GROUP:

Display the verse on the focal wall. Say the verse in unison. Tell the children God sent Jesus because He wants to share His life with us, and that Jesus is the only way that can happen. Say the verse in unison again.

SMALL GROUP:

Ask if anyone wants to try to say the verse by themselves. Tell the children that in the world we hear about lots of different ways we can have life in God, but that Jesus says He is the only way. Say the verse in unison.



SKIT

One Way

ITEMS NEEDED: Two chairs. The coach has a clipboard, and Walker has something to use as a “steering wheel,” perhaps a paper plate.

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

Coach Caution—male or female. Might wear a baseball cap. The coach is very nervous and often reacts in panic.

Walker—male or female. Any clothing. Walker is very enthusiastic and energetic.

(Coach Caution and Walker are sitting in two chairs facing the audience. Walker is on the coach’s left.)

WALKER: Wow, coach, I am really excited to be learning to drive with you at the Coach Caution Car Carefulness Cruising Course!

COACH: Well, um, that’s very nice of you to say....(looks at clipboard)....Walker.

WALKER: Hah! My parents named me Walker, but after today you can call me Driver! (“Turns on” car.) Can we get started?

COACH : Wait, wait, wait, wait, wait! Ah! Not so fast! There are a couple of things to talk about first!

WALKER: Right, coach! I listen to you and you tell me what to do. You are the one way to my driving adventures! Let’s do this!

(Walker hits the accelerator. The coach and Walker both lean back in their seats. The coach screams and hides behind the clipboard. Walker excitedly turns the steering wheel this way and that and they both shift from side to side as the car turns.)

COACH: Aaaahhhh! Stop, stop, stop, stop, stop!

(Walker slams on the brakes. They both lean forward.)

WALKER: Sure, coach. You’re the boss. You’re the one way I’m going to learn to drive. Is everything okay?

COACH: (Nervously) Walker, I would like you to please put the car in park, and leave it there for a minute.

WALKER: You got it, coach! (Puts car in park.)

COACH: Walker, I appreciate your enthusiasm and your energy.



SKIT

WALKER: You bet, Coach Caution! I'm just so excited to be here.

COACH: But you're here to learn from me.

WALKER: Yeah, buddy! You are the one way I'm going to learn to drive.

COACH: That's right. But you keep saying I'm the one way you're going to learn to drive, but you keep doing all these different things.

WALKER: Oh, yeah, you're right! I'm sorry! It's like in the Bible, where Jesus tells us He's the only way to get to God the Father. But people keep trying other things.

COACH: Right, Walker! Jesus is the only way to know peace and goodness and have a life with God, but many people listen to the world's wisdom rather than God's Truth.

WALKER: Oh! Like I'm having a hard time listening to you because I keep trying other things?

COACH: Well, not exactly. Listening to Jesus can bring you eternal life. Listening to me can just help you learn how to drive.

WALKER: But I want to learn how to drive!

COACH: That's great, Walker. And I want to teach you. But you have to follow me, okay? No more just taking off on your own.

WALKER: I'll do better, coach, I promise. You're my one way to learn to drive.

COACH: That's good, Walker. And we'll be calling you Driver before you know it.

WALKER: I'd love that! Okay, coach, what do I do?

COACH: Okay, put your foot on the brake and put it in drive. (Walker does.) Now look both ways to make sure there's no traffic. (Walker does.) Now take your foot on the brake and press the accelerator.

(Walker slams on the accelerator and they both lean back in their seats.)

COACH: Aaaaaahhhhh! Slowly!

WALKER: Wheeeee!

(The actors exit.)



OBJECT LESSON

ITEMS NEEDED:

A toy or model airplane

Good morning, boys or girls. In John 14:6 Jesus tells us that He is the only way to get to God the Father. We have to trust in Jesus so that we can have the life in God the Father He wants us to have. Now you're going to hear a lot of things in your lives that don't agree with that. You'll hear that there's no such thing as God, or that everyone gets to go to Heaven, or that all religions have "some truth." Lots of different things.

But Jesus died on the cross and rose again from the dead to prove that He is the only way to God. No other way works.

Maybe some of you have flown in an airplane. Landing an airplane is actually very difficult. Pilots have to be very experienced and skillful, and they have to do exactly what the airport traffic controllers tell them to do, or people could get hurt or even killed.

You really don't want a pilot who thinks "there are lots of different ways to land this plane safely." What would that be like? You'd have plane crashes all over the place. You want a pilot who knows that there's only one way to keep everyone safe.

In the same way, there's only one way to get to God the Father, and that's through His Son, Jesus. Other ways just don't work. Jesus is the Only Way.



LARGE GROUP GAME

One Way Wingding

ITEMS NEEDED: In the activity area, set up a race track, either with tape lines or small orange cones or something else suitable. This can be as simple as a circle or as elaborate as you care to make it.

For optional fun, provide paper plates that the children can use as “steering wheels.”

Again, for optional fun, post a “one mile per hour” speed limit sign somewhere.

INSTRUCTIONS: Tell the children that everyone has to walk the racetrack course for four laps, but there’s only one way to complete it.

On the first lap, they have to walk it while making “vroom, vroom” noises.

On the second lap, they have to walk it while making “vroom, vroom” noises, AND flapping their elbows.

On the third lap, they have to walk it while making “vroom, vroom” noises, AND flapping their elbows, AND going backwards.

On the fourth lap, they have to walk it while making “vroom, vroom” noises, AND flapping their elbows, AND going backwards, AND hopping.

(If time allows, feel free to add more laps and more silly things.)

Children with disabilities or mobility issues can participate with an able-bodied helper.

WHAT’S THE POINT: The only way to play the game right is to follow the rules. The only way to get to God is to follow Jesus.



LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

The world's "wisdom" says that there are many ways to enlightenment or peace or God. But Jesus revealed that the only way to get to God the Father is through Jesus. That's God's Truth.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will say "God's Truth is: Jesus is the ONLY way to be saved."

KEY PASSAGE:

John 14:1-11, Jesus is The Way to the Father

INTRO:

There are a lot of people who believe a lot of different things about how we can find peace or goodness or even God. Some people teach that there is no God, some people believe that there are many "gods," and even some people who believe in the one God will say that there are many different ways you can get to Him.

God sent His Son Jesus to the world so that we could be saved from our sins. He died on a cross and rose again from the dead to pay the price for our wrongdoing and to defeat the power of death and Hell. In the last few hours before Jesus was arrested, tried, and crucified, He spent some time with His closest friends, His disciples.

Jesus knew that things were going to be hard for His followers. The devil hates the people of God, and he is active in the world spreading lies. There are many false teachers and many strange ideas about how things work. Jesus wanted to prepare His friends for the coming time, and He told them this:

READ JOHN 14:1-11**MAIN POINT:**

Now some of you may be thinking "if there are so many different people teaching so many different things, how do we know the Bible is true and that Jesus is the only way to God?" That's a good question, and you shouldn't ever be afraid to ask it. Part of the answer is that God asks us to trust Him, and we should. Even when we have doubts, we should still do our best to believe in God.

But the Bible was written by people who actually saw these things happen. Our story today comes from the book of John, and John knew Jesus very well and saw Him after He rose from the dead. Lots of other people saw Him after He rose from the dead, and we have records of that in the Bible, too. We know from history that Jesus died on the cross, and we know that His tomb was found empty. We have lots of reasons to believe that the Bible is true.



LARGE GROUP LESSON

People still believe false things, though. Do you know that many people believe that you can get to Heaven by being a good person? You can't. The Bible teaches that no one is good enough for Heaven. We've all sinned. Do you know that many people believe that the Bible is just made up? It isn't. It's a record written by people who were there when these things happened, or at least they talked to people who were there, like reporters do.

Do you know that there are people who believe that all religions have some truth and that there are many ways to get to God? But what does Jesus say here? He says that no one can come to God the Father except through Him. It doesn't get any simpler than that. Jesus is the only way to God.

DRIVE IT HOME:

Have you ever been out riding with someone and you traveled on a one-way street? What would happen if you went the wrong way? If you were lucky you'd just cause a traffic jam and get honked at. If you weren't lucky somebody could get hurt.

You're going to have friends and teachers and leaders who don't believe that Jesus is the only way to get to God. Don't be mean about it—God wants us to show love to everyone. But I want you to remember that Jesus Himself said that He was the only way we can be forgiven for our sins and have life in God the Father.

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear Heavenly Father,

We know that You have given us truth in Your Word, the Bible. We know that You sent us Jesus because He is the only way we can be saved. Help us to trust and obey You in all things.

In Jesus' name we pray,

Amen



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION K-2ND

ICEBREAKER:

Share about a time when you didn't obey directions and it turned out badly (maybe by trying a shortcut or not following assembly instructions or a recipe.) Ask the children if anyone wants to share a time they didn't obey directions and it didn't go well.

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Ask if anyone wants to try to say the verse by themselves. Tell the children that in the world we hear about lots of different ways we can have life in God, but that Jesus says that He is the only way. Say the verse in unison.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

One Way. Have the children walk in a circle around a row of chairs (or some other object in the room.) Every so often, tell someone to "go their own way" and see the mess it causes. (Caution the children to be careful about bumping into each other.)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why can't we get to Heaven on our own? (We have sinned.)
2. What did Jesus do for us? (Died and rose again to pay for our sins.)
3. How many ways are there to come to God the Father? (Just one, Jesus.)

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear Jesus,

We know that You came to be our Savior and Lord. Sometimes it is hard to follow You because the world wants to tell us things that aren't true. Help us to keep our hearts and our minds on You.

In Your name we pray,
Amen



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION 3RD-5TH

ICEBREAKER:

Share about a time when you didn't obey directions and it turned out badly (maybe by trying a shortcut or not following assembly instructions or a recipe.) Ask the children if anyone wants to share a time they didn't obey directions and it didn't go well.

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Ask if anyone wants to try to say the verse by themselves. Tell the children that in the world we hear about lots of different ways we can have life in God, but that Jesus says that He is the only way. Say the verse in unison.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

One Way. Have the children walk in a circle around a row of chairs (or some other object in the room.) Every so often, tell someone to "go their own way" and see the mess it causes. (Caution the children to be careful about bumping into each other.)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Do you think you can get to Heaven by being good? Why or why not? (Answers will vary.)
2. Could God have saved us some other way than sending Jesus? (Answers will vary.)
3. Do you think all religions have some truth? (Answers will vary. Many other religions do teach good ethical practices, but these can't take care of our sin.)

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear Jesus,

We know that You came to be our Savior and Lord. Sometimes it is hard to follow You because the world wants to tell us things that aren't true. Help us to keep our hearts and our minds on You.

In Your name we pray,
Amen



POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

1. Jesus knew He was going to ____ soon. (die)
2. Jesus planned to die on a cross to pay for our _____. (sins)
3. Jesus rose again to show that He had defeated _____. (death, sin, hell)
4. Jesus said He was going to _____ to prepare a place for us. (Heaven)
5. Jesus said that He was the _____, the _____, and the _____. (way, truth, life)
6. Jesus said no one could come to the _____ except through Him. (Father)
7. True or false? There are lots of ways to get to Heaven. (false)
8. Many people in the world don't believe in _____. (God)
9. Many people believe that you can get to Heaven by being _____. (good)
10. Many people believe that all religions have some _____. (truth)
11. Jesus wants us to _____ others about Him. (tell)
12. God sent Jesus to save us because He _____ us. (loves)

MAKE IT STICK

WRONG WAY LESSON I

5 SIMPLE WAYS
YOU CAN MAKE
THIS LESSON STICK
WITH YOUR KIDS

THIS WEEK'S LESSON

5 Simple Ways to Make This Week's Lesson Stick



IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

The world's "wisdom" says that there are many ways to enlightenment or peace or God. But Jesus revealed that the only way to get to God the Father is through Jesus. That's God's Truth. John 14:1-11, Jesus is the Way to the Father



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real: Exodus 2:1-10, The Birth of Moses

How many ways are there to get to Heaven? (Just one, trusting in Jesus.)
How did Jesus make it so we could go to Heaven? (He gave His life for us.)
Can you get to Heaven by being good enough? (No, because no one can be good enough.)



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

Do you think all religions have some truth in them?
Do you think you'll ever meet someone who's good enough to go to Heaven?
How can knowing Jesus teach us more about God the Father?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this series' memory verse, John 14:6. Talk to them about what it means to have faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior.



PARENT TIME:

What you need to know:

In this lesson series we're going to be talking about knowing God's truth to help us avoid the dangers in the "world's wisdom." Today we learned that Jesus told us that He is the only way we can come to God the Father.



TAKE HOME

Items needed:

Light cardboard or construction paper. Scissors, crayons, and markers.

You may want to make an example ahead of time to show the group. Help the children cut out a simple cross shape out of the construction paper. At the top of the cross, have them draw a small arrow pointing up and the words “One Way.” Let them color and decorate their cross if desired.

Remind the children that Jesus is the only way to get to Heaven.



Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”
John 14:6 (NIRV)



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