Preschool–Grade 5

The Way, the Truth, and the Life Craft

I am the way · John 14:1–6 · print page 2 for each child (and page 3 for the harder level)

What it looks like finished



Easy and medium



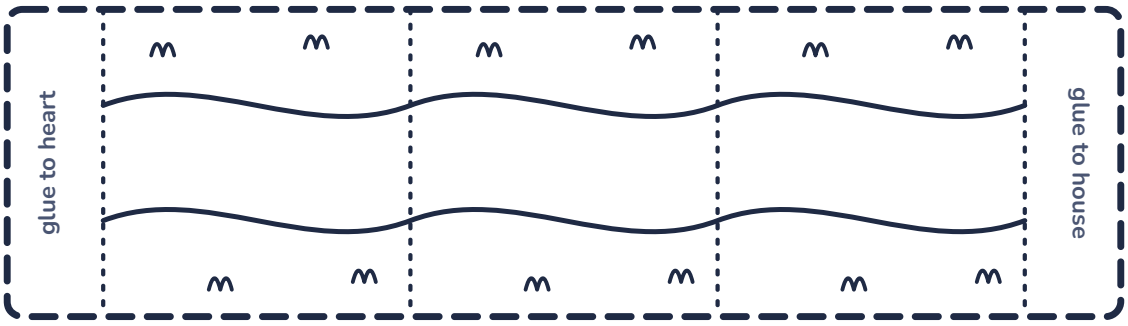
Harder

Both levels are a paper road that unfolds from a red heart up to a yellow house with many windows. Each child draws themselves in the heart. Folded up, the house lies on the heart, and Thomas asks, "how can we know the way?" (John 14:5). Lift the house, and the road opens: "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (14:6). Medium (left): the heart, the road and the house. Harder (right): the same, with a house front whose windows open like shutters to show the people each child drew inside, because "I go to prepare a place for you" (14:2).

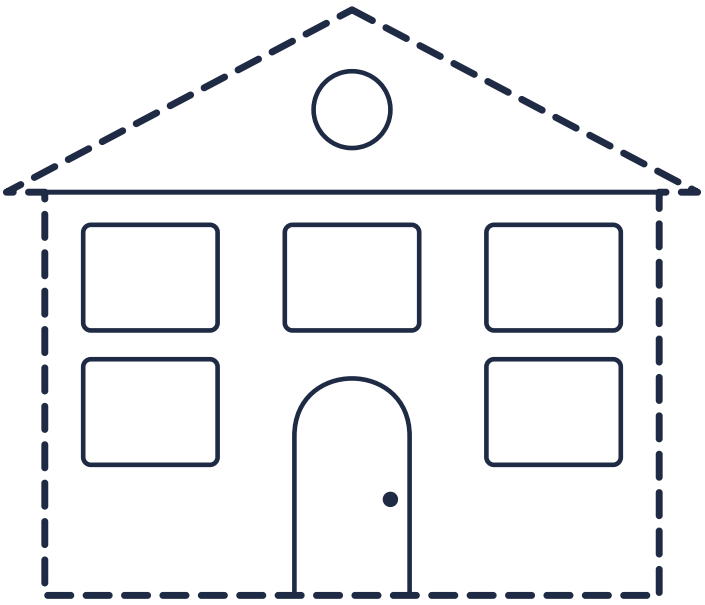
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Name: _____

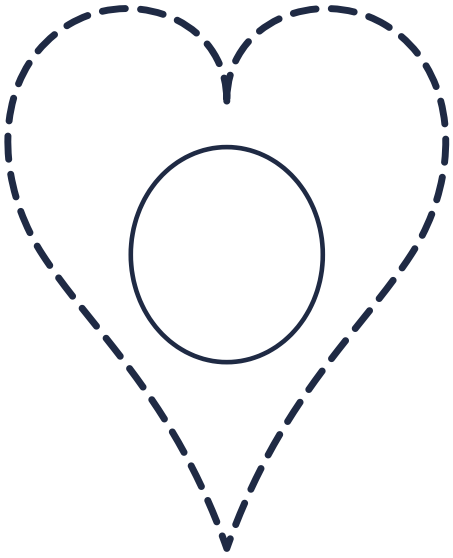
✂ Cut on the dashed lines



road: color the road brown and the grass green. Fold on the 2 dotted lines in the middle.



house: walls yellow, roof red,
door brown, windows light blue



heart: color it red.
Draw yourself in the oval.

**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)

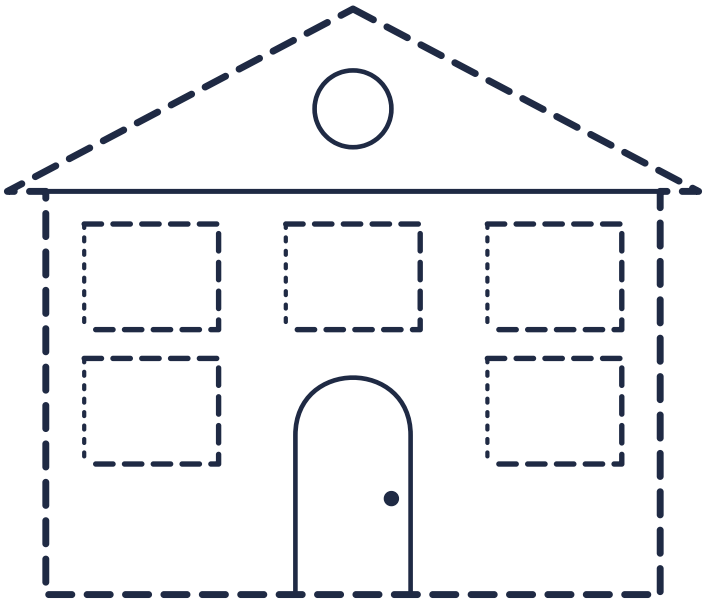
verse strip: glue it on the back of the house

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Name: _____ ✂ Harder level

House front (harder level)

Cut on the dashed lines, and cut each window on its 3 dashed sides.
Fold each window open on its dotted side.



house front: walls yellow, roof red, door brown, round window and shutters light blue

How to add the house front

1. Make the heart, the road and the house from page 2 first, but don't color the five square windows of the house light blue. In those windows, draw yourself and people you love.
2. Color the house front: the walls yellow, the roof red, the door brown, and the round window and the five window shutters light blue.
3. Cut out the house front on the dashed lines. Then cut each square window on its three dashed sides, and fold it open on its dotted side, like a shutter.
4. Put glue on the back of the house front, on the roof and the walls only, not on the shutters. Press it exactly on top of the house from page 2, edges matching.
5. Tell it: close the shutters. Jesus said, "In my Father's house are many mansions... I go to prepare a place for you" (John 14:2). Open the shutters to show the places in the house.

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For the teacher

See it finished: a photo of the finished craft is at vbshq.com/crafts/the-way-the-truth-and-the-life-craft
Time: 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the level · **Ages:** 3 to 11, in three levels · **Cost:** under 50 cents a child for the easy and medium levels
You need: page 2 printed once per child (cardstock is sturdiest), brown, green, yellow, red and light blue crayons or markers, crayons for drawing, scissors and glue sticks. For the harder level, also page 3 printed once per child.
Before class: for preschoolers, cut out the road, the house, the heart and the verse strip, and fold the road on its two dotted lines.

Three ways to make it

- **Easy (preschool, ages 3–5), about 15 minutes, no scissors:** before class, cut out each child's pieces and fold the road. Kids color and draw themselves in the heart. Help them glue the tabs and the verse strip. Then they lift the house to open the road.
- **Medium (grades K–2), about 20 minutes:** follow the steps below. Kids color, draw, cut, fold and glue the pieces themselves. This is the craft in the first photo.
- **Harder (grades 3–5), about 30 minutes:** make the craft like the medium level, but draw people in the house's windows. Then glue on the house front from page 3, whose five windows open like shutters: "I go to prepare a place for you" (John 14:2). This is the craft in the second photo.

Steps (medium level)

1. **Color the road** brown and the little tufts of grass beside it green.
2. **Color the house:** the walls yellow, the roof red, the door brown and the six windows light blue.
3. **Color the heart** red. In the white oval, draw yourself.
4. **Cut:** cut out the road, the house, the heart and the verse strip on the dashed lines.
5. **Verse:** glue the verse strip on the back of the house, near the top of the walls. Read it together.
6. **Fold** the road on the two dotted lines in its middle, back and forth like a fan.
7. **Glue to the heart:** put glue on the printed side of the "glue to heart" tab and press it on the back of the heart at the top middle, so the road comes up out of the top of the heart.
8. **Glue to the house:** put glue on the printed side of the "glue to house" tab and press it on the back of the house at the bottom middle, under the door, so the road leads up to the door.
9. **Tell it:** fold the road up so the house lies on the heart. Ask Thomas's question, "how can we know the way?" (John 14:5). Then lift the house, and the road opens: "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (14:6).

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Questions to ask while kids work

- Point to the heart. What did Jesus say not to let our heart be? *(Troubled: worried or afraid. "Let not your heart be troubled," John 14:1)*
- Point to the house. What did Jesus say is in His Father's house? *(Many mansions, many places to live, 14:2)*
- What did Jesus say He would go and do? *(Prepare a place for you, 14:2)*
- What did Jesus promise after that? *("I will come again, and receive you unto myself," 14:3)*
- Fold the road up. Who asked, "how can we know the way?" *(Thomas, 14:5)*
- Lift the house. What did Jesus answer? *("I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me," 14:6)*

Tips

- **Old Bible words explained: troubled** means worried or afraid; **mansions** means places to live; **prepare** means get ready; **receive you unto myself** means take you to be with Him; **whither** means where; **saith** means said; **cometh** means comes; **but by me** means only through Jesus.
- **What the Bible says:** John 14 does not say what the Father's house looks like. The house with many windows, the road, the heart and the colors are the craft's simple picture of Jesus' words.
- **No one is drawn on the template, and never Jesus:** each child draws themselves in the heart (and, at the harder level, people they love in the windows). Jesus is not drawn; the road stands for His words, "I am the way."
- **Preschool:** pre-cut everything and fold the roads before class. Use glue sticks, not liquid glue. Let every child open and close the road.
- **Teach the story first:** this craft goes with the free Way, the Truth, and the Life lesson and word search at vbshq.com/bible-stories/the-way-the-truth-and-the-life.

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