Preschool–Grade 6

The Way, the Truth, and the Life

Sunday School Lesson for 3rd to 5th Grade, 45–60 minutes

Main point: Jesus is the only way to God. He is the truth, so we can believe every word He says, and our hearts don't have to be troubled.
Bible passage: John 14:1–6 (with John 13:33–36 just before it). Read it before class.
Memory verse: "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)*
You need: a Bible for each child (or one for every two children), a small paper house drawing, a whiteboard or large paper, a marker, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: write the memory verse on the board. Hide the paper house somewhere in the room.

1. Opening game: Directions, Please (5–10 minutes)

One child goes out of the room (or covers their ears and turns around) while you show the class where the paper house is hidden. The child comes back and may not search on their own. They ask the class, "Which way?" The class gives only directions: "Take three steps forward. Turn left. Look up." Play a few rounds. Ask: *Could you find it alone? What helped?* Say: "You needed someone who knew the way. One night a disciple named Thomas asked Jesus, 'How can we know the way?' Jesus' answer is the most important direction in the world."

2. Bible story: Jesus Is the Way (15 minutes)

Kids open their Bibles to John 13. When you reach a **Look up** line, a child finds the verse and reads it out loud. Tell the rest in your own words.

The last night. Look up John 13:1. Jesus knew His hour had come to leave this world, and He loved His disciples to the end. They had eaten supper together (13:2, 13:4), and it was night (13:30). **Look up John 13:33.** Jesus told them He was going where they could not come yet. **Whither** means where. Peter asked, "Lord, whither goest thou?" (13:36).

Don't be troubled. Look up John 14:1. Troubled means stirred up, worried and afraid. Jesus told His disciples to believe, or trust, in Him. **Look up John 14:2. Mansions** here means dwelling places, places to live, and there are many. "If it were not so, I would have told you" means Jesus would never let them believe something untrue. **Prepare** means make ready.

A promise. Look up John 14:3. Jesus promised to come again and **receive** them, to take them to be with Him. Jesus said, "whither I go ye know, and the way ye know" (14:4).

Thomas's question. Look up John 14:5. Thomas said, "Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?" Thomas was honest: he didn't understand, so he asked. **Look up John 14:6.** Jesus did not give Thomas a map or a list of steps. He said, "**I am** the way." Jesus Himself is **the way** to God. He is **the truth**: everything He says is true. He is **the life**: He gives us life. And "no man cometh unto the Father, but by me": no one comes to God any other way.

3. Questions to ask (10 minutes)

Thinking questions (no single right answer; let kids talk)

1. The disciples had just heard that Jesus was going away (13:33). Why do you think Jesus said, "Let not your heart be troubled" first?
2. What kinds of things make kids' hearts troubled? What can you do when you feel that way (14:1)?
3. Thomas said honestly, "we know not." Why is it good to ask Jesus questions when we don't understand?
4. Jesus didn't say, "I will show you a way." He said, "I am the way." What is the difference?
5. Jesus said, "if it were not so, I would have told you" (14:2). How does knowing Jesus is the truth help you trust His promises?

Recall questions

1. What did Jesus say is in His Father's house? *(Many mansions, John 14:2)*
2. What did Jesus promise to do after He prepared a place? *(Come again and receive us unto Himself, 14:3)*
3. Who asked, "How can we know the way?" *(Thomas, 14:5)*

4. Memory verse: Erase a Word (5 minutes)

Explain the old words: **saith** means said, **cometh** means comes, and **but by me** means only through Jesus. Read the verse on the board together. Erase two words and read it again. Keep erasing two words at a time until the board is empty and the class can say it alone. Then kids say it to a partner.

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5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "Jesus said no one comes to God but by Him. So how do we come to God through Jesus? God loves you. The Bible says: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means all of us have done wrong, and none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God manifest in the flesh, which means God came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again the third day (1 Corinthians 15:3–4). How do we obey the gospel? 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.' (Acts 2:38, KJV) To **repent** means to turn away from sin; our old self dies (Romans 6:6). We are **buried with Jesus in baptism**, all the way under the water, in Jesus' name. **Remission** means our sins are washed away, and we come up to live a new life (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, and we speak with other tongues as the Spirit gives the words (Acts 2:4). The Bible calls this being born again (John 3:5)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.
This week: when something troubles you, pray and say John 14:1. When someone asks about God, tell them what Jesus said in John 14:6.

6. Activity: Bible Look-Up Race (10–15 minutes)

Kids work in pairs with one Bible. Read a reference and a question. The first pair to find the verse and read the answer out loud wins the point.

1. John 13:30: What time of day was it? *(It was night)*
2. John 13:36: Which disciple asked, "Lord, whither goest thou?" *(Simon Peter)*
3. John 14:1: What did Jesus say not to let be troubled? *(Your heart)*
4. John 14:2: What are there many of in the Father's house? *(Mansions)*
5. John 14:3: What did Jesus say He will do? *(Come again, and receive you unto Himself)*
6. John 14:5: Who asked, "how can we know the way?" *(Thomas)*
7. John 14:6: What three things did Jesus say He is? *(The way, the truth, and the life)*
8. Acts 1:11: Who will come again in like manner as He went into heaven? *(This same Jesus)*

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. When our hearts are troubled, help us believe Your words, because everything You say is true. Thank You that Jesus is coming again. Thank You for loving us and coming to save us in Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen."

If a child asks where Jesus was going: Jesus was about to die on the cross for our sins, rise again, and go back up to heaven (John 13:1; Acts 1:11). He promised, "I will come again" (John 14:3).

If a child talks about someone who has died: listen kindly and read John 14:1 together. Let their parents and pastor answer questions about that person.

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