Preschool–Grade 6

The Way, the Truth, and the Life

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: Jesus is the way. I can trust Jesus, and I don't have to be afraid.
Bible passage: John 14:1–6. Read it yourself before class.
Memory verse: "I am the way, the truth, and the life" *John 14:6 (KJV)*.
You need: a Bible, masking tape, a chair and a blanket, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: make a winding masking-tape road on the floor that ends at a chair with a blanket over it (the "house"). Put a bookmark in your Bible at John 14.

1. Opening game: Follow Me Home (5 minutes)

Say, "Follow me!" and lead the kids along the tape road, one behind the other, to the house. Then let them crawl under the blanket. Do it again with silly steps: tiptoe, march, giant steps. Say: "You knew the way because you followed me! Today we will hear a true story about Jesus. Jesus said, 'I am the way.'"

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to John 14. Say: "This story is true. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

Jesus ate supper with His friends, the disciples (John 13:2). *(Pretend to eat.)*

Jesus said He was going away soon (13:33). *(Wave goodbye.)*

Jesus said, "Let not your heart be troubled" (14:1). *(Hand on your heart.)*

Troubled means worried or afraid. Jesus said to believe in Him, to trust Him (14:1). *(Hug yourself.)*

Say it with me: "I don't have to be afraid!"

Jesus said there are many places to live in His Father's house (14:2). *(Make a roof with your hands over your head.)*

Jesus said, "I go to prepare a place for you." That means He will get a place ready for you (14:2). *(Point to a friend.)*

"I will come again" (14:3). *(Point up, then bring your hand down.)*

Say it with me: "Jesus is coming again!"

Thomas said, "how can we know the way?" (14:5). *(Shrug your shoulders.)*

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (14:6). *(Point to the road, then to your Bible, then lift both hands.)*

Say it with me: "Jesus is the way!"

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3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. Who ate supper with the disciples? *(Jesus, John 13:2)*
2. Jesus said, "Don't let your heart be..." what? *(Troubled: worried or afraid, 14:1)*
3. Who did Jesus say is the way? *(Jesus! "I am the way," 14:6)*

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "Jesus said, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life.'" Teach the motions: for **the way**, point both hands forward like a road; for **the truth**, hold your hands open like a Bible; for **and the life**, lift both hands high. Say the verse with the motions three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "John 14:6" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
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.

6. Activity: The Way to the House (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw a road that goes up to a house. They can draw themselves at the start of the road. While they color, ask: "Who is the way? Who is coming again?" Kids who finish early can walk the tape road to the house again.

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Thank You, Jesus, for being the way.
When I am afraid, help me trust You. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: keep the story moving and let every child walk the road. If they get wiggly, do the "Jesus is the way" motion again. Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

If a child talks about someone who has died: listen kindly and say, Jesus said, "Let not your heart be troubled" (John 14:1). Let their parents and pastor answer questions about that person.

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