Preschool–Grade 6

The Way, the Truth, and the Life

Sunday School Lesson for Kindergarten to 2nd Grade, 45 minutes

Main point: Jesus is the only way to God. I can trust Him, so my heart does not have to be troubled.
Bible passage: John 14:1–6. Read it before class (and John 13:33–36 just before it).
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, masking tape, a chair and a blanket, 6 paper strips, a marker, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: make a long, winding masking-tape road on the floor that ends at a chair with a blanket over it (the "house"). Add two short tape side roads that stop at a wall. Write the memory verse on the 6 paper strips (see part 4). Put a bookmark in your Bible at John 14.

1. Opening game: Find the Way (5 minutes)

Kids stand at the start of the tape road. One at a time, they walk the road to the house. When a child turns down a side road and it stops at the wall, say, "Oops! That way doesn't get to the house. Go back and try again." When everyone has reached the house, ask: *How did you find the right way? Would it help to have someone who already knows the way?* Say: "Today one of Jesus' disciples asked Him, 'How can we know the way?' Let's hear what Jesus said."

2. Bible story: Jesus Is the Way (10 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to John 14, so the kids can see the story comes from God's Word. Tell it in your own words:

It was night (John 13:30). Jesus and His disciples had eaten supper together (13:2, 13:4). Jesus knew it was almost time for Him to leave this world (13:1). He said, "Little children, yet a little while I am with you... Whither I go, ye cannot come" (13:33). **Whither** means where. Simon Peter asked Him, "Lord, whither goest thou?" Where are You going (13:36)?

Jesus said to His disciples, "**Let not your heart be troubled**: ye believe in God, believe also in me" (14:1). **Troubled** means worried or afraid. Jesus was saying, "Don't be afraid. Trust in Me."

Jesus told them, "In my Father's house are many mansions" (14:2). **Mansions** here means places to live. There is plenty of room! Jesus said, "if it were not so, I would have told you." Jesus always tells the truth. "I go to prepare a place for you." **Prepare** means get it ready.

Then Jesus made a promise: "I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also" (14:3). That means Jesus is coming back to take His people to be with Him!

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The story continues: Jesus said, "And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know" (14:4). But **Thomas**, one of the disciples, was not sure. Thomas said, "Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?" (14:5). That means, "Lord, we don't know where You are going. How can we know the way to get there?"

Read John 14:6 from your Bible: "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." Say: "Jesus didn't draw Thomas a map. Jesus said, '**I am the way.**' Jesus Himself is the way! He is **the truth**: everything Jesus says is true. He is **the life**: He gives us life. And no one comes to God any other way. We come only by Jesus."

3. Questions to ask (5 minutes)

1. Jesus said, "Let not your heart be..." what? *(Troubled: worried or afraid, John 14:1)*
2. What did Jesus say is in His Father's house? *(Many mansions, many places to live, 14:2)*
3. What did Jesus say He would go and do? *(Prepare a place for you, 14:2)*
4. What did Jesus promise He would do after that? *(Come again and receive us to be with Him, 14:3)*
5. Who asked, "How can we know the way?" and what did Jesus answer? *(Thomas asked. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life," 14:5–6)*

4. Memory verse: Road Verse game (5 minutes)

Lay the 6 strips on the floor in a line, like a road: *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.* Explain the old words: **saith** means said, **cometh** means comes, and **but by me** means only by Jesus. Walk the "road" together, stepping on each strip as you say its words. Then pick up one strip and walk it again, saying the missing words from memory. Keep picking up strips, one each time, until the kids can say the whole verse by themselves.

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5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "Jesus said He is the way, and no one comes to God but by Him. How do we come to God by Jesus? God loves you very much. But everyone has done wrong things. The Bible calls that sin: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God who came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins, He was buried, and He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us how to obey the gospel, the good news about Jesus: '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 we are sorry for our sin and we turn away from it. We are **baptized**, buried all the way under the water, in Jesus' name, so our sins are washed away (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). **Remission** means God takes our sins away. And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, His own Spirit, and we speak in other tongues, words God gives us, just like the believers did in the Bible (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.
This week: when you feel worried or afraid, say, "Let not your heart be troubled," and pray. Tell someone that Jesus is the way.

6. Activity (10–15 minutes)

Choose one: the **Way, the Truth, and the Life word search** (vbshq.com/puzzles/the-way-the-truth-and-the-life-word-search), crossword, maze or worksheet, the craft (vbshq.com/crafts/the-way-the-truth-and-the-life-craft), or **Follow the Way:** one child is the leader and walks the tape road to the house, and everyone follows, doing what the leader does (tiptoe, giant steps, hop). When the leader reaches the house, everyone says together, "I am the way, the truth, and the life!" Then a new child leads.

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. When we are worried or afraid, help us trust You, so our hearts are not troubled. 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 not your heart be troubled." Let their parents and pastor answer questions about that person.

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