

JESUS PROMISES TO SEND THE HOLY SPIRIT

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: JOHN 14:1 – 15:8



Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life

The STORY

Pray with children to start class.

Teaching Points for Class Discussion:

Jesus is the way – Jesus was about to go to the cross. By his death on the cross, Jesus would make a way for men to know God and fellowship with Him forever. Jesus, in a declaration of His divinity, told the disciples that to know Him is to know the Father. Paul said it like this: “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation” (Colossians 1:15). The Father is a spirit. He does not have a human body. We come to know the Father in Jesus Christ, who is both God and man. Jesus is the way to salvation, He is the way to the Father and is the way to heaven. He will return and take us to heaven when He comes again.

Jesus is the truth – Now that Jesus is gone, how can we possibly know the truth? Well, God has given us two wonderful gifts. First, we have His Word, the Bible, which records the life and ministry of Christ. It does not record everything He said but it does record everything we need. The second gift is the Holy Spirit.

Jesus said, “the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.” This is the primary mission of the Spirit of God, to point people to Jesus and His words.

In this passage of Scripture we see the Trinity wonderfully displayed. Jesus said that the Holy Spirit will be sent by the Father (see John 14:26). But then He said He was the one coming back (see John 14:28). So it seems that Jesus and the Spirit are one. Jesus also said, “I am in the Father and the Father is in me” (John 14:11). So it seems that Jesus and the Father are one. If Jesus and the Father are one, and Jesus and the Spirit are one, they are all three in one!

Jesus is the life – Jesus is the way and the truth, and now He describes Himself as the life. He uses the picture of a grapevine. Jesus tells us that He is the vine, and we are branches that will bear much fruit. If you cut off a branch, it cannot survive. A branch’s only hope of bearing fruit is by remaining in the vine. Our lives must be spent pursuing Jesus and remaining in Him. We do this by following His Word, offering our lives in service to the Lord, and worshipping Him in our hearts every day.

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WHERE IS THE GOSPEL?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

Jesus is the way, Jesus is the truth, and Jesus is the life. He is the beginning and the middle and the end. The spiritual food that sustains us is His Word, and His regenerating Spirit gives us everlasting life.

In these final instructions, Jesus told His disciples that He was going to go to the Father in heaven and asked the Father to send the Holy Spirit. The disciples didn't realize that in a few hours Jesus would be arrested, tried, and sentenced to death.

On the cross, Jesus took the penalty for the sins of mankind. The Holy Spirit does not dwell within men apart from Jesus' sacrifice. Jesus paid the penalty for our sin, making us holy and acceptable in God's sight. It is only when we trust the blood of Christ for forgiveness for our sins that we are declared righteous. Then the Holy Spirit makes His home in our hearts. The gospel makes Jesus' promises possible.

ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

Read the following Bible passage from the Old Testament. Use the following questions to help the children understand how this passage points to Christ in the New Testament.

Bible Passage: Isaiah 29:18-20

Connecting the passage to Christ:

There are several key phrases that help us see Jesus in this passage. Jesus is the one who makes the deaf hear and the blind see. This word of Isaiah has its fulfillment in part at the first coming of Christ and will be fulfilled at His second coming. That is when the ruthless will vanish, the mockers will disappear, and when all who have an eye for evil will be cut down (see Isaiah 29:20).

Questions for reflection:

- When the Old Testament talks about a future day when the blind see or the deaf hear, does it always point to Jesus? (Yes, it is pointing forward to Christ.)
- How does it encourage us to know that God's salvation was planned ahead of time? (The only way God could plan the details of salvation for us through Jesus is if He has always been in control of all things. If God is in control of all things, we can place our trust in Him.)

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SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITIES & OBJECT LESSONS

Use the following activities for practical application and discovery of this lesson. For the younger children, review the preschool questions and use them to help the children relate to the passage. For older children, ask them why they think this passage is in the Bible for us today. How is it supposed to affect our lives?

LIST THE BLESSINGS

Supplies:

white board

Just before His death, Jesus encouraged his disciples with many wonderful blessings and promises. Have the class read through John 14 and list all the promises Jesus gave his disciples. Then go back and ask how these same promises can encourage us.

Here are a few, for example:

- Jesus promised to prepare a place for us in heaven. (This is a great encouragement to know that when we die we will go to be with Jesus in heaven.)
- We can know the Father by knowing Jesus. (The Father lives in unapproachable light. But through Jesus and what He did we can know Him.)
- Jesus would send the Holy Spirit as a counselor to the disciples. (We also receive the Holy Spirit into our hearts when we believe.)
- The Holy Spirit will remind us of Jesus' teaching. (We can rely on the Holy Spirit to help us understand God's Word.)



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THREE PATHS TO HEAVEN

Supplies:

- costumes and props as desired

This skit is designed to show the true way to heaven and two of the most enticing false ways. The following dialogue is suggested. You may memorize it or simply ad lib.

The setting is a carnival atmosphere where each of three characters is appealing to the audience to buy his product.

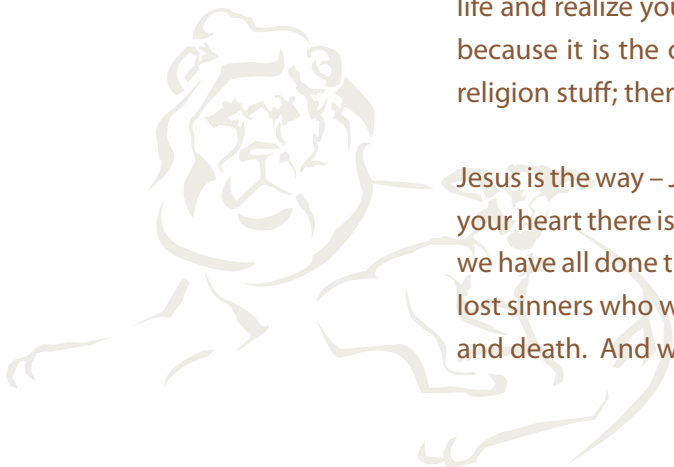
I am the way -- Ladies and gentlemen, take not another step. Do you wonder what the way to lasting peace really is? Do you walk under a cloud of guilt? Why go on struggling with all your failures? Look positive, man! Think good thoughts, woman! Don't dwell on your mistakes. You are the best thing that ever happened to you. You have everything that you need.

Take a look at me, I have never been happier in my life. And when I die I have plenty of good to fall back on. Why I give time each week to help and serve others. I look to be a good and honest citizen. I know that when I die I will live forever. God loves you. He is not a condemning God. Stop beating yourself. You can do it. You can do it! Just repeat after me, "I can do it. I can do it." Remember, even the Bible tells us, and I quote, "I am the way."

There is no way – Don't listen to him ladies and gentleman. His religion is worthless. There is no way! There is no everlasting life! All we have is what we see. Sure, we should serve others. You know the golden rule, "you rub my back, and I'll rub yours." You treat someone right today. You never know when you will need a favor.

Look at me. I love life! I work hard for decent money. The weekends are my time to play. Eat, drink, and be merry for tomorrow you die. Sorry for the bumner of death, but everyone comes to an end, my friend. Do you want to get to the end of your life and realize you didn't do half of what you wanted? Listen friend, live a good life because it is the only one you are going to get. This life is all there is. Forget this religion stuff; there is no way; there is only today!

Jesus is the way – Jesus is the only way. Don't be fooled by these barkers. You know in your heart there is a God. The Bible tells us who He is and who we are. We are sinners; we have all done things wrong. God, on the other hand, is sinless and perfect. We are lost sinners who would love to do good but always fail. We are under the curse of sin and death. And worse, our sins are crimes committed against a holy God.



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A FEW SHORT AND QUICK IDEAS

Supplies:

- Bible
- 2 liter soda bottle
- marble
- tomato plants (Good for summer months, or force some seeds ahead in winter.)

Here are a couple of short object lessons to help you illustrate the lesson.

- Prior to class, tie your Bible by a string to the ceiling then ask the children to reach it. They of course cannot without help. Have someone figure out a way to get it down. Once they get it down, use this as an illustration of how we need to rely on the Holy Spirit to help us reach God's Word (see John 14:26).

- Place the soda bottle with cap on, and marble on the table and ask for a volunteer to put the marble inside the bottle without destroying the bottle. After you get your volunteer tell them that they need to do it without removing the lid. Coax them as though you are aware of a way. Finally agree with them that there is only one way to get the marble into the soda bottle. Then use this as an illustration of Jesus being the only way (see John 14:6).

- Show the plant to the class. Ask the class what we call the stalk of a tomato plant (a vine). Ask them if they knew that the tomato is also considered a fruit. Ask them who has a garden and would like to grow a few tomatoes. Then, proceed to cut off branches for each person enthusiastically. They should look at you strangely when you tell them to go home and set the branch in front of a sunny window and watch it grow.

This of course is an illustration of needing to remain in the vine to bear fruit from John 15:1-8.



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PRAYER

Pick several children to pray based on the day's scripture passages.

IN CLASS PROJECT

AN ACTIVITY

Supplies:

pencil and paper

Draw a picture of a grape vine with a small branch coming out but bearing a huge bunch of grapes. Write the words, "Remain in me and bear much fruit." Add the Bible reference, John 15:5.

FOR THE OLDER GRADES

JESUS IS THE WAY

Supplies:

white board

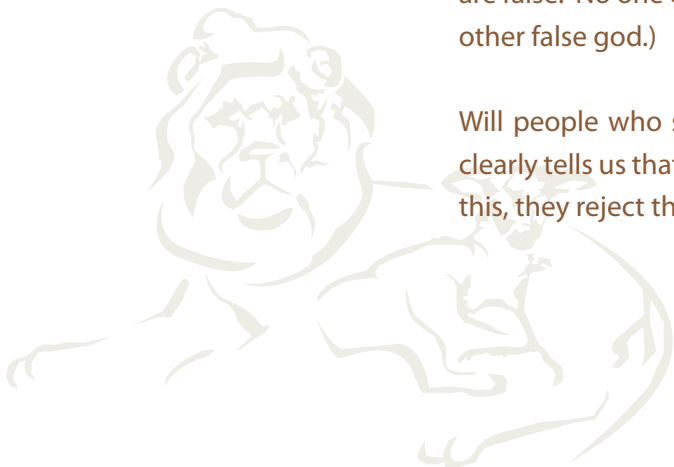
Compare the following verses:

John 14:6, Acts 4:12, John 10:1-9

What are all these passages teaching? (Jesus is the only way to the Father and Jesus is the only way to salvation.)

What about all the other religions of the world? (All the other religions of the world are false. No one can get to heaven by following Hindu gods, Allah, Buddha or any other false god.)

Will people who sincerely believe in these other gods go to hell? (Yes, the Bible clearly tells us that all men know that there is a God, who is the true God. In spite of this, they reject the truth to follow their idolatry. See Romans 1:18-25.)



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A LITTLE BIT MORE

Holy Spirit – The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity. He is also called the Spirit of Christ in Romans 8:9 and 1 Peter 1:11. Jesus tells us the Holy Spirit lives in believers (see John 14:17). In the same passage Jesus tells us that he will be in us (see John 14:20). This is the mystery of the Trinity. To say that Jesus lives in our hearts is just as correct as to say the Holy Spirit lives in our hearts because the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ.

The Bible tells us that the Holy Spirit is our counselor and that he will convict the world of guilt with regard to sin and righteousness (see John 16:8). The Holy Spirit will teach us and remind us about Jesus (see John 14:26).

The disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit (see Acts 13:52). Ephesians 5:17 exhorts believers to continue being filled with the Spirit. The Bible also tells us that there are gifts of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:1-11), and that we should eagerly desire these gifts, especially the gift of prophecy (1 Corinthians 14:1).

