



LESSON 2 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Is the Way to God

SCRIPTURE: John 14

WORD OF WONDER: From John 8:12

My teenage daughter had an appointment to get her hair done for prom, and she had recently heard that a popular map app was now the most reliable for directions. After driving in circles, she arrived late and flustered.

Believing it was just a fluke or her own error, my daughter used the app again to meet her friends for pre-prom pictures. However, it turned out that it wasn't a fluke or her error. She got lost again.

Getting lost twice in one day made her think maybe she needed to find a new way to get directions. She switched back to the app that had always worked for her before, and thankfully she arrived at the right location for her prom. On time too!

Not knowing how to get somewhere can fill us with anxiety. It gets worse when we can't rely on the directions given to us. Jesus' disciples had very similar fears. Take a moment to read John 14:1–7. In this passage, Jesus reveals to His disciples that there is one way that will get us where we want to be—to life, to truth, to the Father.

Can you think of a time when you chose to orient your life based on ill-advised guidance? How have you seen life and truth by choosing the way of Jesus?

Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.

—**Jeff Stone**

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LESSON 2 FOR LEADERS I
AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Jesus is the embodiment of truth and the giver of life. He is the way to God, so closely identified with the Father that to know Jesus is to know the Father (John 14:7) and to see Jesus is to see the Father (John 14:9).

WHAT?

This passage is part of Jesus' final conversation with His disciples. Though He is going back to the Father, He declares that He is the way to God and promises His friends that they will see Him again. Until then, Jesus will give them the Holy Spirit to encourage them (John 14:15–17).

WHERE?

In the chapters leading up to this story, Jesus was anointed by Mary, the sister of Martha, in Bethany, about two miles west of Jerusalem. Then Jesus entered Jerusalem and stayed there the week leading up to His death.

WHEN?

This story takes place the night before Jesus' suffering and death. Jesus shared a meal with His disciples before the Passover Feast. He taught the disciples and prayed for them. Then they moved to the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus was betrayed and arrested.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

This story is part of the lead-up to the climactic moment of God's big story: the death and resurrection of Jesus. Jesus is the way to God and acted as such by defeating death, making a way for people to live forever with God.

LESSON 2 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Activity: Follow the Path

SUPPLIES: painter's tape

Before kids arrive, create a straight path on the floor using painter's tape or cones.

In today's story, we'll learn about when Jesus told His friends that He was going to His Father's house to prepare a place for them. Jesus told the disciples to follow Him and trust Him because He is the way to God. Let's follow the path to remind us that we can trust Jesus to show us the way to God!

Encourage kids to walk the path from beginning to end. When they get to the end, clap for them and say the Wonder Truth: Jesus is the way to God!

Our Wonder Truth today is JESUS IS THE WAY TO GOD.

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

JESUS—*Arms out on both sides.*

IS THE WAY—*Point straight in front of you.*

TO GOD.—*Point up.*



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

LESSON 2 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **God, show us Your love and Your way. Lead us and teach us to know You better. Remind us that Your Son, Jesus, is the way to You. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

God's Big Story

Pull out the Bible

Ask: What is this called? The Bible

Ask: Why is the Bible special? Because it is God's word. Everything in it is true. It really happened.

Tell the Bible Story

The Beginner's Bible, pages 442-445

The Last Supper

Word of Wonder

WORD OF WONDER

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world."

— John 8:12

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- Who is the light of the world and the way to God?
- What does Jesus' light do for the world?