



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**

Associate Pastor and Professional Counselor

Contributor to Wonder Ink

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.



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

LESSON 2 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Play Stations

SUPPLIES: painter's tape, toy cars (3–5), coloring utensils

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life Coloring Sheet (1 per kid)

Greet the kids warmly and briefly explain the play stations to them. Invite them to play at any of the stations.

Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help you get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas of what we'll be learning about today?

Play Station: This Way!

Set-up: Using painter's tape, create a road on the floor or table. Consider creating several turns, stops, or a maze-type pattern with a defined beginning and end. Set out the toy cars.

Play: Encourage kids to use toy cars and drive them along the road. Tell them to start at the beginning and follow the way to the end.



Play Station: I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life Coloring Sheet

Set-up: Print one copy of the I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life Coloring Sheet for each kid. Set out the Coloring Sheets and coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a road that takes them to their home.



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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

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **Where was Jesus going?** *(to His Father's house, to the place where God is)*
- **Why was Jesus going there?** *(to get a place ready for His followers to be with Him forever)*
- **How did the disciples feel about Jesus going away?** *(worried)*
- **How would you feel if Jesus told you He was going away?**
- **What do you think His Father's house looks like?**
- **What do you think it will be like to be with Jesus forever?**

Jesus told His disciples He was preparing a place for them, and He's preparing a place for us too. When we follow and believe in Him, we discover more about how Jesus is the way to God.

Word of Wonder

WORD OF WONDER

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

— John 8:12



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LESSON 2 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Game: Jesus Is the Way to God

SUPPLIES: painter's tape, ping pong ball (2 per group), disposable straw (1 per kid)

Before kids arrive, tape two straight paths on the floor, using painter's tape.

In God's big story, Jesus told His disciples that He is the way, the truth, and the life. There is one way to God: believing in Jesus and following Him. Let's play a game to help us remember today's Wonder Truth!

Encourage the kids to take turns blowing into their straws at a table tennis ball to get it to move through the path. The ball must stay in the path. When the ball reaches the end of the path, kids will high-five a leader and say the Wonder Truth: Jesus is the way to God.

It might have been difficult to keep your ball on the right path, but we can know the path to God through Jesus!