



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

Curiosity Activity: Where Are You Going?

SUPPLIES: toy person figure

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Where Are You Going? Sheet

Encourage kids to sit in a circle. **Let's play a fun game with this map!** Place the Where Are You Going? Sheet on the floor in the middle of the circle. **I'm curious. Have you ever seen a map?** Allow kids time to respond.



A map is a picture that helps us know where we are and where we are going. This map is of a neighborhood. What are some things you see on the map? Allow kids time to respond. Let's have this person go somewhere on our map! Show the toy person figure. I'll give you a starting point, and you help me decide where to go.

Have kids take turns going to a place they choose on the map. Before you move the toy person, ask, "Where are they going?" Give time for kids to respond and move the figure to their desired location.

In today's story, Jesus tells His followers He is going away to prepare a place for them. His followers are confused because they don't know how they will find Him. Get ready, because Jesus is about to show them the way, and it's not by following a map!

Leader Tip: Kids may be unfamiliar with maps and directions. Consider providing other types of maps for kids to look at. Some examples could be a road map, a map of a park, or a map of a city.



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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



Curiosity

Belief

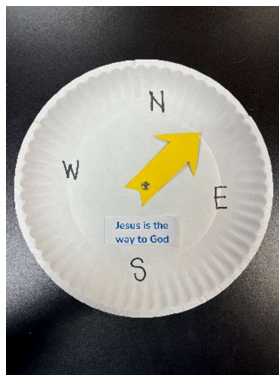
Faith

Identity

LESSON 2 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Craft: The Way to God!

SUPPLIES: paper plate with hole punched in the middle, brad fastener, arrow, Jesus is the way sticker



Pass out a plate and a set of stickers to each kid.

Jesus told the disciples there was a place for them in God's family. "There are many rooms in my Father's house," He said ([John 14:2](#)). That's where Jesus was going—to His Father's house. He was going to make the way for His friends to be with Him forever.

Show the kids how to write the first letter of each of the cardinal directions in the correct place. Then allow them to color their arrow and plate if desired. Help them to attach the arrow in the middle of the plate with the brad, then the Jesus is the way sticker.

You can take your plate home to help you remember that Jesus is preparing a place for His followers, and He is the way to God!