

John 14:1-6

“I AM The Way, the Truth, and the Life”

Scripture: John 14:1-6

Memory Verse: John 14:6 *“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”*

Lesson Focus: Jesus makes perhaps His most controversial “I AM” statement in these verses. After digging into why Jesus is the only Way to the Father, we will challenge the kids to go and share the good news to those around them.

Activities and Crafts: Coloring Picture of Way, Truth, and Life, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Bring It Home Discussion for 3rd – 5th.
Craft for 1st & 2nd: Jesus Compass

Starter Activity: Traffic Signs

We will provide you with several traffic signs to discuss with your kids to get the lesson going. We will also provide several other signs that you can use later in the lesson. But to get the lesson started talk through these few below and see the sample Qs for discussion. Be sure to use the generic “One Way” sign as the launching pad for the lesson.

- 1) 75 MPH Speed limit: governs how fast we can drive
 - Q: Where do we see this?
- 2) This is the German autobahn sign that indicates no more speed limits!
 - Q: Can you imagine being on a highway like this? Would you like it or not?
- 3) Falling rocks sign: Be careful when driving in mountains
 - Q: Where might you see this?
- 4) Silly falling cows sign: This one should give you some laughs
 - Q: Anyone seen this one before?

Then show them the generic “One Way” sign and have some discussion like the below:

Q: What does this sign indicate?

A: There is only ONE WAY to go.

Q: What happens if you ignore this sign?

A: Crash!

Today we are going to look at one of the most famous and controversial statements that Jesus ever made. Does anyone have any guesses as to how this traffic sign relates to something Jesus said? Let’s take a look!

Bible Study:

John 14:1a: Our study starts with Jesus encouraging His disciples to not be troubled.

Q: What does it mean to be troubled? What are some things that might trouble you?

This is right before Jesus was going to the cross to die for the sins of the world. The disciples were “troubled” because they didn’t understand this.

John 14:1b: This is another example of Jesus claiming equality with God! (**John 10:33**)

Q: Instead of worrying, what does Jesus tell them to do?

A: Believe or TRUST in God the Father AND God the Son!

John 14:2: Here Jesus says WHY they should TRUST in Him. He is going back to the Father to prepare a place for them.

Q: Have you ever “prepared a place” for someone? * You want to prepare something special for that person, because they are special to you!

Jesus is talking about something very similar here. He loves His disciples so much that He is preparing places for them in heaven, the “Father’s house”. He does the same for all of those who trust in Him!

Sometimes people can get overly focused on the word “mansions” in this verse (a better translation might be “dwelling place”). They may want to go to heaven mostly because it’s described as a mansion. But should that be the focus?

Q: What if you had a special place prepared for a special someone and it was the most perfect, beautiful, mansion you could imagine but when the special someone arrives, you are NOT there? Wouldn’t that be a disappointment for them?

John 14:3: Jesus makes the same point here. Jesus isn’t preparing “mansions” that they can enjoy by themselves, but rather beautiful places where they can be together in relationship forever! This is the only true “HAPPILY EVER AFTER” where we are not just in God’s house, but we are with Him! *

Q: But what will life in heaven be like, you might still wonder? (**Teachers:** Consider asking your kids what they think heaven is going to be like and have some discussion!)

The Bible does not give us much detail beyond everlasting love, joy, peace, and satisfaction being with Jesus. C.S. Lewis, the author of the *Chronicles of Narnia*, paints a magnificent image at the end of the series in the *Last Battle* where he writes about the children now in heaven (continued on next page):

*“... for them it was only the **beginning** of the real story. All their life in this world and all their adventures in Narnia had only been the cover and the title page: now at last they were beginning Chapter One of the Great Story which no one on earth has read: which goes on forever: **in which every chapter is better than the one before!**”*

Wow! Imagine a place where every day is better than the one before it because you are finally and fully restored to your perfect God and Savior! Sign me up!

John 14:4-5: Now Jesus talks about the WAY there. He says they know the WAY, but Thomas isn't so sure.

Jesus first has to straighten out what He means by the “WAY”.

John 14:6: Thomas was thinking about a road *, but Jesus is talking about a Person. In fact, He is talking about Himself. He says that HE IS THE WAY! This is now the sixth “I AM” statement that Jesus has made about Himself as recorded in the gospel of John and this is definitely the most controversial!

Q: Who knows what controversial means?

A: It means that it strongly divides people. People either **strongly** like or **strongly** dislike something that is controversial. An example of a less important, but still controversial statement could be, “*The Denver Broncos stink*”. This definitely divides people!

Q: Why might people strongly dislike Jesus's statement that He is the way, the truth, and the life, and no one comes to the Father but through Him?

A: Notice that Jesus says He is THE way. He did not say He is A way! (**Teachers:** At this point consider showing the “ONE WAY” sign that has Jesus on the arrow)

If Jesus is the ONE WAY, that means everyone who does not trust in Jesus is going the WRONG WAY! In fact, they are headed straight for a DEAD END. (**Teachers:** Consider using those two signs as well)

People who do not trust in Jesus will challenge you if you say this. One thing that they may say is, “How can Jesus be the ONE WAY, when there are so many different religions in the world?” Before we answer, let's first discuss WHY He is the ONE WAY.

Teachers: Write on your board $2 + 2 = _$. Then ask the kids what is the correct answer to this math problem. Stress to them that there is only one right answer to this math problem. There are many, many “possible” answers, but only one correct answer. Now, we all have a sin problem. The Bible teaches this and we are all aware that we have done bad things. This sin problem separates us from God. Just like there is only one correct way to solve $2+2$, there is only one Person who solved our sin problem: Jesus! NO ONE else paid for our sin. NO ONE else lived a perfect life. That is why HE is the ONLY WAY, because ONLY Jesus solves the sin problem!

So yes, there are many different religions in the world, but the sobering truth is that those who follow them are still going to have to pay for their sin. They are going the **WRONG WAY**.

This should trouble us because there are millions of people following false religions heading toward the **DEAD END** of hell. Maybe **YOU** are going the **WRONG WAY**! This should trouble **YOU**!

Q: What did Jesus say back in **John 14:1**? Believe in Him, Trust in Him! If you trust in Him, then He is preparing a place for you in heaven! Your sins are paid for and you can look forward to being with Jesus forever!

Key Point: And if you do trust Him and believe in Him, He has something to say to you about people in the world going the **WRONG WAY**. He gives you the great commission! **Read Matthew 28:19.**

If Jesus was not the **ONLY WAY**, why would He command us to go into all of the world and make disciples? He told them to do this **BECAUSE** He is the **ONLY WAY** to have your sins forgiven!

People in the world are sick with the disease of sin and He is the **ONLY** cure!

Optional Small Group Activity: Below are some ideas to go deeper with your kids after the lesson:

- 1) If appropriate, briefly share your testimony with the kids and how you were going the **WRONG WAY** until someone loved you enough to share the gospel with you.
- 2) Ask the kids if they have ever shared the gospel with a friend and what happened.
- 3) Use this illustration on the white board to teach the kids how to share the gospel with their friends:
 - a. Write the words “**FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD**”
 - b. Draw a thick box around those words and make sure all lines connect.
 - c. Draw a person outside the box and stop and ask the class is there any way to get inside of the box? No, because there are no openings in the box!
 - d. Erase a small portion of the box and write the word **JESUS** there. Now there is an opening, but it is **ONLY THRU JESUS**!
 - e. Draw an arrow that begins at the person, goes thru Jesus, and ends pointing at the words in the box.
- 4) Then have the kids practice sharing this with each other as it is something that they could use at school or with friends to share the gospel.

Bring It Home

(Devotional for the Family)

Lesson Theme: “Jesus: The Way, the Truth, and the Life”

Scripture: John 14:1-6

Memory Verse: John 14:6 “*I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*”

Teachers/Parents: One thing we taught the kids in our lesson is that Jesus’s statement in **John 14:6** is controversial. We explained that something that is controversial strongly divides people. Discuss some controversial statements or ideas in our current culture and why they are controversial. For example, talk about masks!

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Read **John 14:1**. While the disciples were troubled, Jesus gives them the basic cure for their worry. What was it? How does this help us in our troubles and worries?
- 2) What are some things that you find troubling? How will putting your trust in God help calm these worries?
- 3) Read **John 14:2-3**. As a believer in Jesus Christ, do these verses get you at all excited? Why or why not?
- 4) The Bible gives us brief glimpses of heaven as a real “happily ever after” with Jesus Christ, but it does not give us a lot of detail. This mystery has inspired great songs like, “*I Can Only Imagine*”. What do you think heaven will be like and why?
- 5) Read **John 14:6**. What is controversial about Jesus’s statement in this verse and why might people strongly object to Jesus’s claim?
- 6) During class we talked about WHY Jesus is the ONLY WAY: He is the only One who actually solved the problem of sin that has infected all of humanity. If you were sick and the doctor told you there is only one medicine that will cure you, would you take it or object that there can’t be only one medicine? How does this help us understand why Jesus is the ONLY WAY?
- 7) When we understand Jesus is the ONLY WAY, it should trouble us about the people around us who do not know Jesus. Read **Matthew 28:19**. Who comes to your mind that you can reach out to with the good news of the gospel?