

Calvary Chapel of Philadelphia



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

3rd - 5th Grade

## Sunday Morning

Study 19

*I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life*

# The Way, the Truth, and the Life

The Objective is the key concept for this week's lesson. It should be the main focus of the study.

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verses support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word.

**Objective** To present Christ's promise of a future reunion with Him, and to ensure the students understand that there is only one way to be saved.

## Key Verses

John 13:31-14:6—Main Teaching Passage

John 16:33

Hebrews 12:2

## Memory Verse - Acts 4:12

"And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

## Hook

Review last week's memory verse, 2 Corinthians 5:1.

Ask the students, "What is the Gospel? Can anyone explain the Gospel to the rest of the class?" When the students have given a well-rounded explanation of the Gospel (you might have to help) ask them, "What happens if I don't want to believe in the Gospel?"

Finally ask them "Are there any other ways that people can be saved apart from Jesus?"

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

# BOOK

This week we are looking at two incredible statements found in John 14. The context of this passage is found in John 13. Jesus had just completed the Last Supper, telling the disciples that one of them would betray Him, and was preparing to go out and pray before being arrested and handed over to be crucified. It was in the context of Jesus preparing to leave the earth and, more importantly, the disciples behind that He said, "I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, you may be also." Jesus was putting a promise before His disciples that there would be a joyous reunion despite the horrible events which were about to take place.

Thomas responded to this by saying that the disciples did not know the way to wherever Jesus is going, and Jesus replied, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man comes to the Father except by me." Jesus' promise is therefore twofold: He has gone to prepare a way for us to be reunited with the Lord in heaven, but we can only get there by following the one way that He provided, through His own sacrifice.

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

# LOOK

When we read through Scripture, we have to pay close attention to the words that we are reading. Changing just one word, even a very small word, could change the entire meaning of a passage. Take for example John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man comes to the Father except by me." What would happen if we changed all of the "the"s to the word "a," "I am a way, a truth, a life"? How would that change the meaning of the passage? If I want to go to Chick-fil-A for lunch tomorrow and there is only one road that I can take to get there, it is "the" way. If I can choose four different routes to take, then the one I take is only "a" way. The difference in meaning is huge. Jesus is making a profound statement here. He is saying that there is only one way to be reunited with Him in heaven, and that is by obeying His Word and trusting in Him as Christ. There simply is no other way.

The problem is that people want to try and get into heaven their own way. They don't want to believe what God has told them, so they make up their own system that seems fair to them. They try and earn heaven by being a good enough person, or by working really hard. Jesus did not say, "I am a way, but any other way you want to try and get in to heaven is fine." He said, "I am THE way... no man comes to Father except by me."

# LOOK (Continued)

Imagine that you found out that you had a serious disease. The doctors told you that you were going to die, but thankfully they had developed one cure. It was the only cure they had ever found to work, but it worked 100% of the time. All you needed to do was take one little pill and you would be fine. You would take the pill. You would not complain that there was only one way to be healed, you would be incredibly thankful that there was ANY way for you to be saved.

When we tell God that we don't want to do things His way, it is like telling the doctor in the story above that we don't want to take the pill. We want to figure out our own way to save ourselves. God has made one way for us to be rescued, through the sacrifice of His Son Jesus Christ. There is no other way, and even looking for one is an insult to the work that He has done for us.

There is another incredible promise found in John 14. In verses 1-3, Jesus promises us that He is going to meet with us again. He promises us that He has gone ahead of us to prepare an incredible reunion with Him in heaven. Hebrews 12:2 says that Jesus endured the cross for the joy set before Him. I believe that John 14 is the joy that Hebrews is talking about. Jesus was able to endure the cross because He knew that in the future there would be an incredible reunion with us. That is the joy that we also need to put before us. The Bible says that there will be tough times in our lives (John 16:33), but that we should never give up hope, because no matter what we have to endure in this life, there is a joy that is set before us. John 14 promises us that Christ is returning to the earth to take all of us to be with Him forever.

John 14 is filled with wonderful promises. Jesus is preparing a place for us to be with Him in heaven, if we trust in Him then we can be saved and spend eternity with the Lord, but there is also only one way, and if we seek to "earn" heaven on our own we will miss out.

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

# TOOK

As a class, memorize Acts 4:12.

**Pray:** Thank the Lord that He has made a way for us to be saved. Ask Him for the ability to endure all things coming on this world and set our hope on the promised hope of heaven. Praise Him for His work on the cross and for the ability He gives us to follow Him.

**Parent Question:** As a family read Hebrews 12:2. What was "the joy" set before Jesus?

# FURTHER STUDY

## Commentary on John 14 by David Guzik

### *John 14 - The Departing Jesus*

A. The departing Jesus' relationship to the Father.

1. (1-4) Jesus assures a future reunion in His Father's house.

"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also. And where I go you know, and the way you know."

a. **Let not your heart be troubled:** Although He is leaving them bodily, it is not forever. Jesus is confident that He will meet Peter and the rest in His Father's house

b. **Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me:** Even though there was good reason why their hearts might be troubled, Jesus tells the disciples to challenge their troubled hearts with faith in the Father and the Son. They did not have to give into the emotions of fear and despair - they really could **let not your hearts be troubled**.

c. **I go to prepare a place for you:** You only **prepare a place** for someone if you are confident of their arrival. Jesus could only say this to the group after Judas had left. He would not go to prepare a place for Judas - at least not a place in His **Father's house**.

d. **Many mansions:** In light of the ancient Greek, "**mansions**" is better translated "dwelling places." The noun *mone* (connected to the verb *meno*, "stay" or "remain") means "a place to stay." But in light of God's character, it is better to translate it **mansions**. Whatever dwelling place God has for us in heaven, it will be as glorious as a mansion.

e. **To receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also:** The entire focus of heaven is being reunited with Jesus. Heaven is heaven not because of streets of gold, or pearly gates, or even the presence of angels. Heaven is heaven because Jesus is there.

i. Take comfort; even as He prepares a place for us, He prepares us for that place.

2. (5-6) Jesus is the exclusive way to the Father.

Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

a. **I am the way, the truth, and the life:** In light of soon events, this declaration is a paradox. Jesus' *way* would be the cross; He would be convicted by blatant *liars*; His body would soon lie *lifeless* in a tomb. Because He took that way, He is **the way** to God; because He did not contest the lies we can believe He is **the truth**; because He was willing to die He becomes the channel of resurrection - **the life** to us.

b. **No one comes to the Father except through Me:** Is Jesus the only way to God? An often-heard disagreement with Christianity is "Jesus and Christianity are fine, and it is great that you have a way to God. But I have my own way, and the Muslim has his, and the Buddhist has his. All roads lead to God if we are sincere in seeking Him."

i. If a Christian objects to such a statement, they are often met with the reply, "What right do you have to send me to Hell just because I don't believe in Jesus the way you do?"

ii. But the Bible tells us that Jesus is the only way to God. How can we say this? We begin with the basic truth that Jesus is at least *a way* to God. Was He a true or a false prophet? Was He at the very least an honest man? If Jesus is a true prophet - or at least an honest man - then what He said about Himself is true. Therefore, Jesus is the only way to God.

iii. Simply put, if Jesus is not *the only* way to God, then He is not *any way* to God. If there are many roads to God, then Jesus is not one of them, because He absolutely claimed there was only one road to God, and He Himself was that road. If Jesus is not the only way to God, then He was not a honest man; He was most certainly not a true prophet. He then would either be a madman or a lying devil. There is no middle ground available to us.

iv. Sometimes people object and say, "I believe Jesus was an honest man, and I believe He was a true prophet. But I don't actually believe He said those things about Himself in the gospels. I believe Christians added those things in later on all by themselves." But there is no *objective* reason for a person to make a distinction between "Jesus really said this" or "Jesus really didn't say that." We have no ancient texts showing us just the supposedly "true" sayings of Jesus. Any such distinction is based *purely* on subjective reasons - "I personally don't think Jesus would have said that, therefore He did not say that - later Christians just put those words in His mouth."

v. If it is all up to personal opinion - if we can determine what Jesus said or didn't say on our own whims - then we can just throw out the gospels period. It really is an all-or-nothing deal. Either we take the words of Jesus as recorded by these historically reliable and accurate documents, or we throw it out all together.

vi. To take it a step further, it is not enough to merely believe in Jesus. Shockingly, that isn't narrow enough! The Bible also tells us the atoning work of Jesus on the cross was the only way salvation could be accomplished. In the Garden of Gethsemane, the night before His death, Jesus prayed *if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me* (Matthew 26:39). Jesus asked the Father if there was any other way to accomplish the salvation of man other than His atoning work on the cross, other than Him drinking the "cup" representing the wrath of God poured out upon Him in our place, let it be so. But there was no other way.

vii. Even the demons could admit the truth that Jesus was the Son of God (Matthew 8:29); but they did not submit to Jesus or believe in His atoning work on their behalf.

viii. The idea that all religious beliefs are equally valid, and all that matters is that we be sincere in our beliefs is so absurd that people would only apply it to religion. If you thought you were a cow - sincerely, of course - and insisted that you should stay outside and eat the lawn, men in white coats would take you away. Why won't they allow you to be sincere in your beliefs? Because they objectively know you are wrong. Why do we apply the same muddled thinking to religion?

ix. But is Christianity bigoted? Certainly, there are some who claim to be Christians who are in fact bigots. But Biblical Christianity is the most pluralistic, tolerant, embracing of other cultures religion on earth. In fact, Christianity is rather pluralistic - it is the one religion to embrace other cultures, and has the most urgency to translate the Scriptures into other languages. A Christian can keep their native language and culture, and follow Jesus in the midst of it. An early criticism of Christianity was the observation that they would take *anybody*! Slave or free; rich or poor; man or woman; Greek or Barbarian. All were accepted, but on the common ground of the truth as revealed in Jesus Christ. To leave that common ground is spiritual suicide, for both now and eternity.