

'Journeying With Jesus'



This material is suitable for ages 5-7.

Aim:

Life is a journey we can travel with Jesus. Jesus is the only way to Heaven.

Bible focus:

John 14:1 - 7

You will need:

A map, a globe and a Bible.

Introduction:

Ask: Have you ever taken a shortcut? (Let the children respond.) Some people use shortcuts to make things easier. Others use them to get to places faster. When or where have you used a shortcut? Why? (Let the children respond.)

When we are looking for a shortcut, sometimes other people can help. Other times we might need a map (Hold up the map.) How can a map help? Finding your way can be easier with help. (Pick up globe and spin it.) This globe shows the whole world. I've been looking for heaven. I wonder if some of you could help me find it? (Hand around the map and globe, and let the children look.)

Bible time:

We can't seem to find heaven using these tools, but finding heaven isn't hard. God gives us good directions. (Hold up the Bible and read the verse.) In John 14:6

Jesus says, "I am the Road (the way), the truth and the life. There is no other way to God." There is only one way to heaven, there are no shortcuts.

God wants everyone to find heaven, but those who don't know Jesus will never find their way. We need to be on the right road, and that road takes us on a journey with Jesus. Are you on the road which will lead you to heaven?

Adapted from 'Quick Children's Sermons: Will my dog be in heaven?' Group Publishing 1997.

OR

Introduction:

You will need: A Bible, a map and a simple hand drawn map of your church building showing how to get from one place to another.

Maps give us a way to write down directions on how to get from one place to another. Have you or your parents ever used a map to find out how to get somewhere? (Allow a few children to share their experiences.)

I've got a map here that I've drawn. Look carefully at the drawing. Can you tell what my map shows? (Help the children figure out that it is a map of the building they are in, and that it would help someone get from one place to another.)

It was easy for me to draw a map of this church. I've been in this building many times, and I know my way around. It would be much more difficult for me to draw a map of some place I had never been before. That is why it is helpful to get directions from someone who has been where you are going.

Bible Time:

(Open your Bible to John 14:4 - 6.) There was a time when the followers of Jesus needed directions. The time had almost come for Jesus to go home to heaven. Jesus had told his followers all about heaven and then he said, 'You already know the road I am taking.' (The Message)

But the disciples were confused – they didn't understand what Jesus was saying. Thomas said, 'Master, we have no idea where you are going, how do you expect us to know the road?' He said this because He and the other disciples had never been to heaven – they didn't know how to get there.

But Jesus could give good directions because He had been to heaven before. And the directions Jesus gave are different from the directions you might get on a map from other people. Listen to the directions that Jesus gave to His followers and that He also gives to us. Jesus says, 'I am the Road, the truth and the life. There is no other way to God'.



What do you think Jesus means by those directions? (Let the children respond.) Heaven isn't a place we can travel to in a car or plane. The only way we can get to heaven is by believing in Jesus. He is the road to heaven's door.

Adapted from Quick Children's Sermons 2: 'Why did God make mosquitoes?' Group Publishing, 1998.

Response:

I'm going to pray and talk to God right now. If you would like to ask Jesus to show you the right way to live you can pray along with me. I'll leave a pause in between my sentences so you can tell God yourself that you want to follow His road.

Prayer:

God, thank you for sending Jesus to us (pause). I'm sorry I haven't been listening to you for directions (pause). Help me to listen to Jesus (pause). Thank you for your love for me (pause). Amen.

Follow up:

Hand out the boo bookmarks (photocopy the attached template for each child) and ask the children to decorate it. You can help them to fill it in the middle section appropriately and use this time to note which children made a first time decision.

Ensure you follow up any children who indicate they said this prayer with you for the first time. For this age group Scripture Union produces Bible reading notes called 'Join in – Jump on!' This age group may need an adult to help them work through the simple daily Bible reading times in this book. This may be a good opportunity to talk to the children's parents if it is appropriate (especially those with no other church contact) and encourage them to help their children to read through this book.



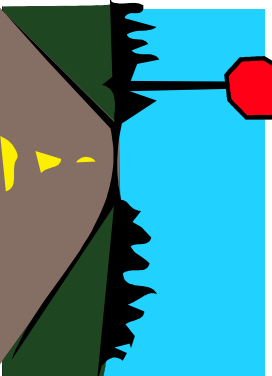
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Road to God.'*

*There is no other
way you can come
to Him.'*

John 14:6

Today I decided
to 'Journey with Jesus.'

I will continue my
'Journey with Jesus.'



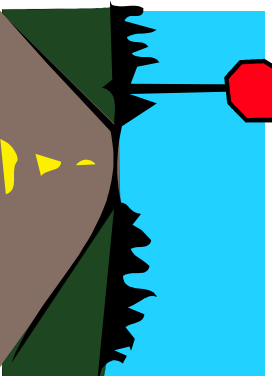
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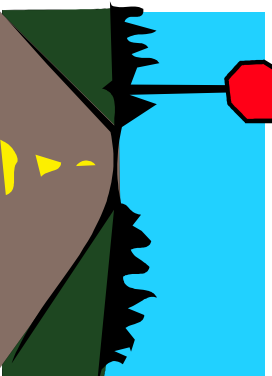
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