

# 'Journeying With Jesus'



This material is suitable for ages 8+.

### Aim:

To describe the Christian life as a great journey which is full of purpose and directed by the Lord.

### Bible focus:

John 14:1 - 7.

John 14:6 (The Message) Jesus said, 'I am the Road, and the Truth and the Life. No one gets to the Father apart from Me.'

John 14:6 (Phillips) Jesus said, 'I am the road to God. There is no other way you can come to Him.'

### You will need:

Pictures of roads of all kinds – country roads, city streets, highways, freeways, etc, blu-tac or tape them to the wall.

### Introduction:

(Show the pictures of the roads, streets, etc.)

Ask: What do all these have in common? (They all lead somewhere.) Is it important to get on a road just because it leads somewhere? (No. When we travel it is because we want to go somewhere.)

Roads have always been of great importance to people. Can you imagine what it would be like to travel if there were no roads? (Have the children talk about what would happen if you tried to drive a car on the grass, gravel etc. What difficulties would be faced?)

What about travelling by aeroplane? (Have the children talk about the problems of only being able to travel by aeroplane.) How would you get into the city from the airport? And how would you get around the city without streets?

The city of Babylon was paved at least 2000 years before Jesus came to earth.

The Egyptians had built good roads so they could carry the great stones with they used to build the pyramids. But the greatest road builders of ancient times were the Romans. Their stone-paved highways were often a metre deep and ran in straight lines from point to point, some of the roads being many kilometers long. Everywhere the Romans conquered other peoples, they built good roads. The Roman roads were important because they linked city to city, and country to country and made the task of spreading Christianity much easier.

## Bible Time:

Ask: Have you ever missed the right road, even though you were following a map? (Discuss the reasons for this.) Have you ever been lost? (Have one or two children share their experiences of being lost.)

Sometimes knowing the right road and taking it are two different things. When Jesus came to teach people about God and His plan for the world He found them confused and frightened. They were trying to find God in many ways, but they were hopelessly lost.

Read John 14: 1 - 7.

Jesus knew that many people were wanting to take the right road. They wanted to love God and obey Him but they were a bit confused about how to do this. So Jesus first taught His disciples, and the people of Israel who would listen, all He could about His Father so they would know the right road to take. He then told them He was going to prepare a place with the Father and that when they had lived their lives on earth they would be able to be with God. He then left the job of telling everyone else about God to those His followers.

## The right road:

Jesus said anyone could find God if they take the right road. In the passage we read Jesus said, 'I am the road to God. There is no other way you can come to Him.' Jesus is the way to many things – to adventure, to joy, to friendship, to love – but most of all He is the Way to God.

## Response:

Refer back to when you talked about the differences and similarities in the roads. Talk about how Jesus wanted us to take the right road to find God. That's why He came to earth. But He didn't just leave it at that.

Jesus gave us some tools to help us walk on the right road with Him. He gave us His word (the Bible) as a road map so we can read it everyday and God can speak to us through the Bible and help us to know the right road to take. He also showed us how we can talk to God. We can pray to Him and tell Him about our day, talk to Him about the things that concern us and most importantly, we can listen to Him and be guided by Him personally.



I'm going to use one of those tools that Jesus gave us right now. I'm going to pray and talk to God today. If you feel like you haven't been travelling on the right road and you would like to change that 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:

Dear Jesus, thank you for coming to earth to show me (pause) and teach me about the right road to take (pause). I'm sorry I haven't been travelling with you (pause) and that I've been going my own way (pause). Please help me to listen to you (pause) and to walk with you everyday (pause). Amen.

## Follow up:

Hand out the bookmarks (photocopy the attached template for each child) and ask the children to fill it in appropriately and decorate it. As they complete this activity take time to note or ask your group if they made a first time decision today.

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 'Hot Shots' (8 - 9 years) and 'Snapshots' (9 - 10 years) which are helpful in encouraging children to read their Bible regularly. Linking them to other sections in the corps e.g. Sunday School, SAGALA, Kids Club or Junior Soldiers, will also help their ongoing spiritual development.

A further counselling resource that may be helpful if a child has more questions is 'Team Talk' again produced by Scripture Union. It is available through their Resources For Ministry department ph.02 4337 0200. This resource includes pages for children who are recommitting their lives or for children who have asked questions about a particular issue. Eg. Why did dad leave home?



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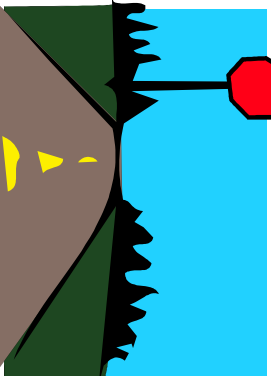
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John 14:6

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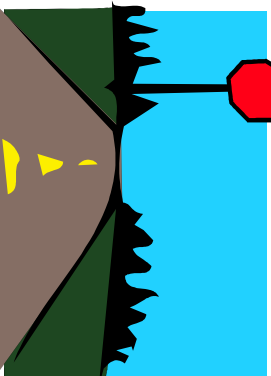
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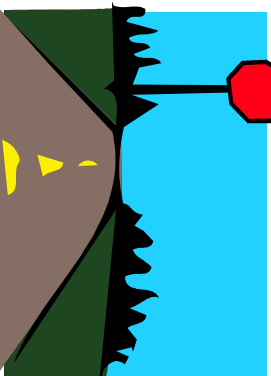
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