

Katie



The Sunday
School Lady



JOHN 14 THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE

Scripture: John 14

Open: Greet, Praises, Requests, Pray

Supplies: Popsicle sticks, markers, marble/paperclip, construction paper, magnet, 4 boards to build a table, and a piece of plywood or something to act as a tabletop

Ask:

- What happened in our story last week? (Jesus washed his disciples' feet and explained that somebody would betray him)
- Can anyone remember any of the I AM statements Jesus has made through the book of John? (The gate, the resurrection and the life, the I AM, the bread of life, light of the world)
- Today we're going to learn another I Am statement of Jesus. Let's check it out!
- This teaching that Jesus gives is still during the Last Supper (when he washed the disciples' feet and told them Judas would betray them. It is all the night before he is sentenced to death.

Read: John 14:1-7

Ask:

- What is our I AM statement? (I am the way, the truth, and the life)
- So what is Jesus the way to? (Allow for answers, he is the way to the Father, the way to heaven)

Activity

Do an activity to remind kids that Jesus is the way. Have them build their own maze out of popsicle sticks and then have them team up and have the partners try out each other's mazes. See the end of the lesson for pictures and instructions.

Explain and Apply:

This is the most important truth of the Bible, friends. Jesus is the only way to heaven. He is the only way to the Father. You see, we've all sinned. To sin can be to do what you aren't supposed to do. It can mean you don't do what you ARE supposed to do. It can mean you miss the mark. If the target is a perfect life, do you hit it every day? (No). We all sin. And because we sin, we deserve death, because the Bible tells us that sin leads to death and the wages of sin is death. That is why Jesus came. He never missed the mark. He lived a perfect life. He always did the right thing. But he came so that he could die for our sins. The Bible says in Isaiah that the punishment that brought us death was laid on him. He bore our sins and our transgressions (another word for wrongs) on the cross. Because he did that, we don't have to be stuck in our sins. We can believe in him as Lord. We can ask him to forgive us and give us grace for our sins. He promises to do this. Then, we can live for him and follow him. That is how he is the way to heaven. He is the only path. Being good doesn't get you to heaven, knowing Jesus and accepting his death on the cross and the forgiveness of sins does. You can't earn it. You can't be good enough. You can't do anything. Only Jesus. Only his way. If anyone doesn't know Jesus and wants to know more about him and more about how to ask him for forgiveness and follow him and his Way, come talk to me after class.

Explain:

So Jesus said he was the way and what else? (The truth and the life)

When we talked about Lazarus, we talked about how Jesus was the life. One day, all who follow him will be with him in heaven. But he also gives us life now. He teaches us and shows us the best way to live, and he does that through the Bible. Jesus is truth, and his word is truth. So let's talk about how we know the Bible is true.

Activity:

To give the kids a visual to help them remember how we know the Bible is true, explain these next points while building a table.

NOTE: my students are getting older, so this is venturing into apologetics. If your kids are young, try playing the game two truths and a lie. Have each child give three statements and the others have to guess which statement isn't true. At the end, explain how God's Word is true.

Experience:

One way we can know the Bible is true is by the fact that it has truly changed people's lives. It is a book over 2,000 years old and it still speaks to people, changes people, and gives them insight into their lives. Maybe you know someone who has been healed, or someone who totally changed when they met Jesus. This is one way we know the Bible is true.

Place one leg under the tabletop in the middle. Ask if this seems very solid. It doesn't, but don't worry, there's more.

Logic:

Like I just mentioned, the Bible was finished about 2,000 years ago. But it was also written over a 1,000+ year span. There are different authors, living in different time periods, and sometimes in different places, but the Bible still works together and makes sense. The message is still the same. That's incredible!

Now take two table legs and place them diagonally across from each other in the corners. Our table is more stable, but still a little tippy. Let's learn more.

History/Prophecy:

There are so many stories from the Bible that have been proven. They have found tunnels in Israel that are described in the Bible, they have found pottery and different artifacts. They found the Dead Sea Scrolls which contained most of the Old Testament from a very long time ago, and it was still the same Bible we read today.

The Bible is also full of prophecies, many of them pointing to Jesus. Isaiah was a prophet who told that Jesus would be born of a Virgin, and that he would be a suffering servant. He wrote that over 700 years before Jesus was born! There are an incredible number of prophecies that have been accurately fulfilled that show beyond a shadow of a doubt that God's Word is true.

Add a third leg. See as the table becomes more stable.

Jesus:

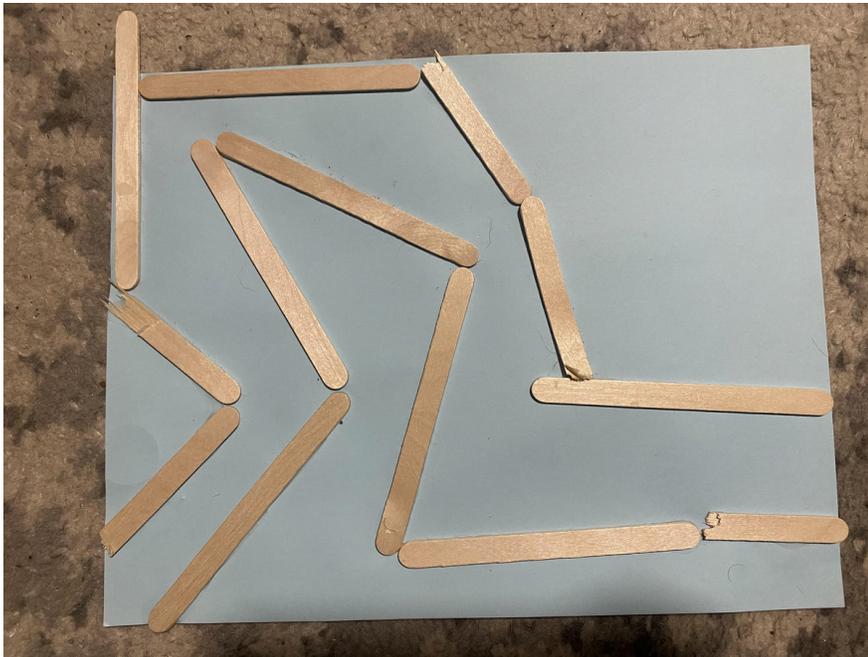
Finally, we can believe the Bible because we believe Jesus. If we believe these other three things about the Bible, then we can believe the Bible is true. If the Bible is true, then Jesus would have to be who he says he is. And if he is who he says he is-- the Son of God made known to the world, fulfilling the prophets and the law of God, then we can trust that when he says his word is true, it is so.

Add a final leg. Now we have a sturdy table, a good foundation.

Allow a time for any questions the kids may have. Don't fear not knowing the answers. First, you have God's Spirit inside of you. Second, even if you aren't sure of the answer, what a beautiful way to show the kids that we're all still learning and that even you have questions. Then, go seek out the answer to that question and bring it back to the students next week.

Memorize: John 14:6

Close in Prayer



Have the kids make as many twists and turns as they like with the maze. They can break the sticks and move it in any way across the paper.

Allow time for the glue to dry. Consider discussing the apologetics or playing two truths and a lie to allow this to happen.

Once the mazes are dry, have the kids find a partner.

Have one child place a paper clip or small metal object on the maze, while the other holds their maze. Using a magnet below the paper, have the child try to complete the maze with their paper clip. Have the kids switch.