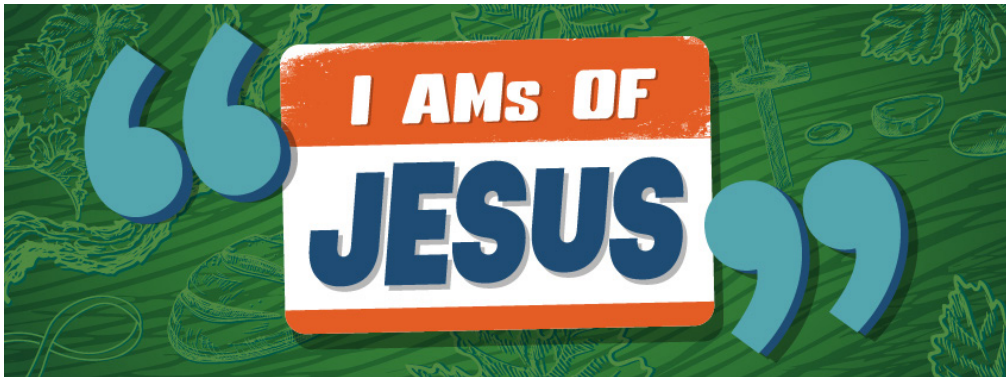




I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE

LESSON AT A GLANCE

■ New Apostolic Church USA



CURIOSITY

An object lesson, experiment, or activity that sparks curiosity, encourages exploration, and gets kids thinking about the wonder of God.

- Welcome Question: *Have you ever gotten lost? Tell about it.*
- Multisensory Activity: Draw a Map!
- Declaring God's Wonder

BELIEF *Choose either Hear It or Experience It and supplement with the video*

A deep and interactive dive into Scripture that guides kids into knowing God more deeply, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

- Opening Prayer
- God's Big Story: Hear It, Watch It, Experience It!
- Connecting the Wonder Truth

FAITH

An intentional conversation that helps kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own, emboldening their faith and fostering a deeper understanding of their place in God's kingdom.

- Discussion Questions for Younger and Older Kids
- Small Group Prayer Time

IDENTITY

An interactive worship response activity that creates space for God to remind kids of these core truths: I am known, I am loved, I am led, and my life can tell of God's wonder.

- Responding in Worship: Prayer Walk
- Blessing Your Kids

**I AM THE WAY,
THE TRUTH,
AND THE LIFE**
LESSON 2

NAC USA
Goals and Objectives
[IA 3-5, 7-10, 13-15, 17-20,](#)
[23-25, 27-30](#) [IB 1, 3, 5](#)
[IC 1-13](#) [IE 1-3](#) [IIIA 1-3](#)

WONDER TRUTH:
Jesus Is the Way to God

SCRIPTURE:
[John 14](#)

GOD'S BIG STORY:
Shortly before His death on the cross, Jesus prepares His disciples for what lies ahead, comforting them and teaching them that He is the way to God.

WORD OF WONDER:
[John 8:12](#)

I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in darkness. They will have that light. They will have life.



Lesson
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FOR LEADERS

A MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN'S LEADERS

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father...

Dear Sunday School Teachers,

Not knowing how to get somewhere can fill us with anxiety, especially when the directions we're given don't seem reliable. The stress increases when we realize we have no clear way forward. Jesus' disciples felt much the same way. In [John 14:1-7](#), Jesus reassures them—and us—that there is a reliable, sure way to get to where we want to be: to life, to truth, and to the Father.

When we're uncertain about life's direction, it's easy to seek guidance from sources that seem trustworthy but aren't aligned with God's will. Think back to a time when you followed advice that led you astray. How did you feel when you realized it wasn't the right path? In contrast, how have you seen the peace and truth that comes from choosing the way of Jesus, even when it's hard?

Jesus boldly declares, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life"* ([John 14:6](#)). This is the ultimate guidance we can trust—it's not based on opinion or guesswork, but on the eternal, unchanging Word of God. Jesus is the One who leads us to true peace, joy, and eternal life. As Sunday School teachers, we have the unique role of guiding children along this same path, showing them the importance of choosing Jesus' way in a world full of distractions.

With love and joy,

The Faith Arc Team

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A ROAD MAP

WHO?

Jesus is the embodiment of truth and the giver of life. He is the way to God, so closely identified with the Father that to know Jesus is to know the Father ([John 14:7](#)) and to see Jesus is to see the Father ([John 14:9](#)).



WHAT?

This passage is part of Jesus' final conversation with His disciples. Though He is going back to the Father, He declares that He is the way to God and promises His friends that they will see Him again. Until then, Jesus will give them the Holy Spirit to encourage them ([John 14:15-17](#)).



WHERE?

In the chapters leading up to this story, Jesus was anointed by Mary, the sister of Martha, in Bethany, about two miles west of Jerusalem. Then Jesus entered Jerusalem and stayed there the week leading up to His death.



WHEN?

This story takes place the night before Jesus' suffering and death. Jesus shared a meal with His disciples before the Passover Feast. He taught the disciples and prayed for them. Then they moved to the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus was betrayed and arrested.



CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

This story is part of the lead-up to the climactic moment of God's big story: the death and resurrection of Jesus. Jesus is the way to God and acted as such by defeating death, making the way for people to live forever with God.



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WELCOME QUESTION

SUPPLIES: paper, colored pencils, whiteboard (optional), dry-erase marker (optional), [The Way Welcome Question Slide](#)

Before kids arrive, display [The Way Welcome Question Slide](#), or write the following question on a whiteboard: “Have you ever gotten lost? Tell about it.” Set out sheets of paper and coloring utensils.

As kids arrive, warmly welcome them by name and ask them to Check In.

All Ages

Always begin your class with a warm welcome and a social-emotional “check-in”. Use the feelings chart and ask each child how they are feeling (refrain from asking “How are you?” as children may be accustomed to responding with “fine”). You may want to print and post the feelings chart in your classroom for ease of use.

- Allow each child to name their feeling or to use a color to name their feeling. Older children might use words, younger children might point to the pictures or use the colors to express their feelings.
- There are no wrong feelings and all feelings should be acknowledged.
- Acknowledge how children feel by giving each child time and space to share anything they might need or want to share in regard to their feelings. For example, you can ask “Why are you angry?” or “What made you sad?”.
- If you can, address the feeling (hunger/thirst - provide a snack/drink, sadness - give a hug, joy - give a high five, tired - let the child rest, anger – a calming space, etc.).
- Keep in mind throughout the lesson how each child is feeling and that feelings may change during your time with the child.
- If you notice a change, you may want to allow the child to rename their feeling and again address the feeling if needed.
- Acknowledge all feelings, concerns, joys, and celebrations in your opening and closing prayer. Use a grace-based approach to the learning as feelings will impact how children learn. (adapted from the Zones of Regulation)

Show them the **Welcome Question**. Share about a time you have gotten lost, and ask kids to share their own stories. (If some kids don’t recall getting lost, encourage them to share what they would do if they ever got lost.) Invite kids to illustrate their answers if they choose. If you have younger kids, be sure to read the question for them.

At your start time...

Greet all the kids enthusiastically, welcoming them to church! Call on several kids to share their answers to the Welcome Question: **Have you ever gotten lost? Tell about it. Getting lost is not fun! Today we’ll find out about the one way that can keep us from being truly lost. But first, it’s time to be curious.**

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SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL CHECK IN

Angry



Scared



Panicked



Inconsolable



Happy



Focused



Calm



Proud



Worried



Frustrated



Silly



Excited



Sad



Bored



Tired



Sick



MULTISENSORY ACTIVITY:

DRAW A MAP!

SUPPLIES: paper (1 sheet per kid), pencils, crayons (optional),
Draw a Map! Slide, The Way Wonder Truth Slide

Display the **Draw a Map! Slide**. Hand out a sheet of blank paper and a pencil to each kid. Explain that you'll pretend there's a new friend visiting church today. Everyone will draw a map of your space (room, halls, bathrooms, surrounding areas, etc.) to help this new person find his way around. As kids draw, ask questions such as these:

- **What do you remember from your first time here?**
- **Was it easy or hard to find your way around? What helped?**
- **What do you think would be helpful to tell or show someone new to our group?**

Once kids finish their maps, encourage them to find a partner and exchange their drawings. Have kids use their partners' map to navigate their way around their immediate space. Allow time for kids to explore; then invite kids to gather back together.

Whew! You are all great mapmakers! Maps can help us figure out which way to go. But what about God? Is there a map to help us know who He is and how we can find Him? The answer is yes! But it's not a map like the ones we drew—it's a person. Someone who shows us what God the Father is like. Someone who is the way to the Father. Any idea who this could be? Allow kids to respond. **Great answers! It's the Son of God—Jesus!** Display **The Way Wonder Truth Slide**. Today's Wonder Truth is: **JESUS IS THE WAY TO GOD!**

Teaching Tip:

For Younger Kids:
Spatial awareness can be tricky for young kids. Encourage young kids to only draw the room in which you meet rather than mapping out the entire church. Start with a rectangle to represent the room, then help them place doors, windows, furniture, etc. Consider drawing an example on a whiteboard.

For Older Kids:
Consider rearranging chairs and tables to create obstacles that kids map out. Or challenge them to draw a map of their neighborhoods or towns.

DECLARING GOD'S WONDER

Write on a white board or chart paper or display **The Way Declaration Slide**. Read each line boldly and invite kids to repeat after you.

Thank You, God, that You are good! (Kids repeat.)

You made me on purpose, for a purpose. (Kids repeat.)

And I am Your kid! (Kids repeat.)

You know me, love me, and lead me. (Kids repeat.)

Thank You for Jesus; (Kids repeat.)

He is the way to You! (Kids repeat.)

My life can tell of Your wonder! (Kids repeat.)

OPENING PRAYER

Before entering into God’s big story, lead kids in an opening prayer. Use the prayer here or your own words: **Father God, thank You for giving us the opportunity to know You more. Help us to focus on You. We invite Your Holy Spirit to help us understand Your Word today. Thank You for loving us, and thank You for Your Son, Jesus, who is the way to You! In Jesus’ name, Amen.**

GOD’S BIG STORY

This lesson includes three opportunities for your kids to enter the story – we recommend you choose **HEAR IT!** or **EXPERIENCE IT!** and supplement with the **WATCH IT!** video. **HEAR IT!** is read directly from the Bible. **EXPERIENCE IT!** is an interactive story-telling activity.

Hear It!

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid), **The Way Title Slide**

Display **The Way Title Slide**. Invite kids to open their Bibles to the Gospel of John, the fourth book in the New Testament. Help kids navigate to the table of contents, find the [book of John](#), then flip to the large chapter number [14](#).

Let’s start by reading part of God’s big story directly from the Bible. Afterward, we will watch and experience more of the story! Invite kids to read [John 14:1-7](#) together out loud. If your group is mostly older kids, have the girls read the odd-numbered verses and the boys read even-numbered ones.

Watch It!

Watch the [I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life God’s Big Story!](#)

Teaching Tip:

For Younger Kids:
If your group includes pre-readers or those with reading challenges, help kids find [John 14](#) in their Bibles. Then invite them to stand and listen as you read the passage with expression.

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Lesson PPT Slides



Lesson PDF Slides



Lesson Printables

Experience It!

SUPPLIES: cardstock (1 sheet), tape, stepladder, **Jesus God Sheet**

Ahead of time, print the **Jesus God Sheet** on cardstock. Use the two-sided print function so one side says “GOD” and the other side says “JESUS.” Tape the sheet with the “GOD” side showing somewhere high enough that the kids can’t reach it but that an adult can reach it with the stepladder. Set the stepladder safely out of sight but where it is easily accessed. Recruit another adult leader to gather kids at the start of the Experience It! Script and to set up and climb the ladder at the designated point in the story.

Before you begin, stand at your usual spot while another leader gathers the kids as far away from where you are standing as your space allows.

Hello! You seem kind of far away from me today! If I asked you to come closer, what are some of the ways you could get here? Wait for answers. Feel free to highlight funny ones. **Those are some great ideas! Why don’t you try those? When I say, “Go,” you can walk or crawl or bunny hop—just find a way to come closer to me. Go!** Wait for the kids to come closer.

Make it Inclusive: *If you have kids with mobility issues, consider moving toward the kids yourself, rather than having them move toward you. You can let them suggest a silly way for you to move.*

Great job! You found the way to me! I’m glad you’re closer now. I want you to be able to hear me, and I love to see your faces! Now let’s discover what Jesus had to say about the way to get to the most important person of all—God!

During Jesus’ ministry, the words He spoke and the miracles He performed placed Him on a specific path. It was the path He chose to walk—in step with His heavenly Father—and it eventually led to the cross, where Jesus gave His life for the good of the whole world.

Not everyone understood Jesus’ path. Some people wanted Him to be a king who takes up a sword and raises an army. Hold up a fist like you’re a mighty king commanding his people! Model this and let the kids pretend. Others wanted Jesus to remain a miracle worker, giving them whatever they wanted. Make a grabbing motion with your hands and bring them to your chest like you’re grabbing all you can get. Model it and encourage kids to do the same. Some just wanted Jesus to go home. Wave your hand like you’re saying goodbye. Model it and encourage the kids to do the same. Even Jesus’ disciples had trouble understanding His path. But Jesus loved His disciples and would love them to the very end.

It was almost time for the Passover Feast, when Jewish people remembered how God delivered His people from slavery in Egypt. “Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world. It was time for him to go to the Father” ([John 13:1](#)). During an evening meal with His disciples, Jesus prepared them for what lay ahead. “My children, I will be with you only a little longer,” He told them. “You can’t come where I am going” ([John 13:33](#)).

Peter, one of Jesus’ disciples, always tried hard to understand Jesus. He asked, “Lord, where are you going?” Jesus replied, “Where I am going you can’t follow now. But you will follow me later” ([John 13:36](#)). What did that mean?

The disciples didn’t realize that Jesus’ time had come—He was about to go to the cross. He was about to make the way for people to come to God and live forever. This is a gigantic part of God’s big story!

Before I tell you what happened next, can you look around and tell me if you notice anything? I’ll give you a hint. You may want to look up. Wait for them to find the “GOD” sign. What does the sign

say? Wait for a response. **That's right. It says "GOD."** Reach up your hands. **Can you touch the sign?** Wait for a response. **No. It's too high. Stand up. Now can you reach it?** Wait for a response. **No. It's still too high. What if you jump your biggest jump? Go ahead. Jump! Can you reach it?** Wait for a response. **No! It's still too high!** Invite the kids to sit back down.

Jesus' disciples wanted to go with Him. But He told them they could not follow Him yet. That made them sad.

Jesus comforted His disciples. "Do not let your hearts be troubled," He told them. "You believe in God. Believe in me also" ([John 14:1](#)). Then Jesus explained that there was a place for them in God's family. "There are many rooms in my Father's house," He said ([John 14:2](#)). That's where Jesus was going: to His Father's kingdom—the dwelling place of God. Jesus was going to prepare a place for His disciples there. He was going to make the way for them to be with Him forever. "If I go and do that," Jesus told them, "I will come back. And I will take you to be with me. Then you will also be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going" ([John 14:3-4](#)). Really? Did the disciples know the way?

Thomas, one of the disciples, spoke up. "Lord, we don't know where you are going. So how can we know the way?" ([John 14:5](#)). The disciples were still struggling to understand. Just like you couldn't find a way to the "GOD" sign, no matter how high you jumped, the disciples didn't know how they would get to the place Jesus was going. What was the way?

Invite an adult leader to bring the stepladder out, carefully climb the ladder, take down the "GOD" sign, and hand it to you. Make sure he doesn't let the kids see the other side of the sign. Let the kids watch and engage with what's happening; then gently call their attention back to you. The adult leader can carefully remove the stepladder from the space.

Looks like we found a way to the sign that says "GOD." What was the way we got to the sign? Wait for the kids to respond "ladder."

When Jesus' disciples wanted to know the way to God, Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" ([John 14:6](#)). This was an incredible thing to say! Jesus is the life. He's the one who gives life to the whole world. Those who believe in Him will one day live forever in God's kingdom. Jesus is also the truth. He's all the truth about God in a human being. When people look at Jesus and His life, they see what God is like. They see the truth. Since He is the truth and the life, Jesus is the way—the only way—to God the Father.

Turn the sign over so that "JESUS" is showing. **What does this side of the sign say?** Wait for the kids to respond. **That's right! It says "JESUS."**

To know Jesus is to know the Father. To see Jesus is to see the Father. That's what Jesus was helping His disciples understand. They had been walking with "the Way" the whole time. Turn the sign back over to the "GOD" side as you say this last sentence: **Jesus is the way to God.**

CONNECTING THE WONDER TRUTH

Display **The Way Wonder Truth Slide**. Pose the following question to kids to help them connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:

Our Wonder Truth today is JESUS IS THE WAY TO GOD. Where did you see our Wonder Truth in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

This story leads up to the biggest moment in God's big story: the death and resurrection of Jesus. Jesus is the way to God. On the cross, He defeated death and made the way for people to live forever with God!

ELEMENTARY

Divide your group into smaller groups based on age. If your group is already small, stay together for this time.

QUESTIONS: YOUNGER KIDS

- **Today's story took place when it was almost time for the Passover Feast. What is celebrated at Passover?** (*God delivering His people from slavery in Egypt*)
- **Where did Jesus tell His disciples He was going?** (*His Father's Kingdom—the dwelling place of God*)
- **What is the way to this wonderful place?** (*Jesus Himself is the way.*)
- **What was Jesus about to do?** (*die on the cross*)
- **How does what Jesus was about to do connect with the Passover celebration?** (*By dying on the cross, Jesus would make the way for people to live with God the Father forever. He would free them from their sins like God freed His people from slavery in Egypt.*)
- **Can anyone follow Jesus? How?**

Jesus is the way to God the Father. He told His disciples that all they needed to do was believe in Him. That is true for us too! Jesus made the way for us to be together with God forever! Let's pray and thank Jesus for being the way.

Make it Inclusive: *To make it possible for kids of varying abilities to participate in discussions, consider adjusting questions to yes/no format, allowing kids to write or draw their responses, and/or providing additional processing time for kids to think before answering.*

PRAYER TIME: YOUNGER KIDS

Encourage kids to share anything they would like prayer for—both praises and requests. Pray for each child by name, thanking God that Jesus has made the way for (child's name) to be with Him forever!

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QUESTIONS: OLDER KIDS

- **Today's story took place when it was almost time for the Passover Feast. What is celebrated at Passover?** *(God delivering His people from slavery in Egypt)*
- **Where did Jesus tell His disciples He was going? How would He get there?** *(His Father's Kingdom—the dwelling place of God. He would get there by dying on the cross.)*
- **How could the disciples follow Jesus to this wonderful place?** *(through believing in Jesus, who is the way)*
- **How does what Jesus was about to do connect with the Passover celebration?** *(By dying on the cross, Jesus would make the way for people to live with God the Father forever. He would free them from their sins like God freed His people from slavery in Egypt.)*
- **If you had been in the room with Jesus, would you have understood what He was saying? Why or why not?**
- **Can anyone follow Jesus? How?**

Jesus is the way to God. He told His disciples that all they needed to do was believe in Him. That is true for us too! Jesus made the way for us to be together with God forever! Let's pray and thank Jesus for being the way.

Make it Inclusive: *To make it possible for kids of varying abilities to participate in discussions, consider adjusting questions to yes/no format, allowing kids to write or draw their responses, and/or providing additional processing time for kids to think before answering.*

PRAYER TIME: OLDER KIDS

Invite kids to share anything they would like prayer for—both praises and requests. Pray for the group, inviting each kid to say her own name as you repeat the phrase, "Jesus, thank You for making the way for (child's name) to be with God forever."

Today's a great day to practice the First Commandment. Jesus came to show us who God is, so let's say this commandment together, "I am the Lord, your God. You shall have no other gods before Me." Say the commandment using choral response. That is what Jesus came to show His disciples and us, that we should love God with all of our heart, with all our soul, and all our strength. What are some ways you can show your love for God? Let kids share their answers. How did Jesus show His love for His Father? Let kids share their answers. Remind kids that Jesus showed His love by always doing His Father's will.

RESPONDING IN WORSHIP: PRAYER WALK

SUPPLIES: masking tape (prep only), butcher paper (optional), permanent markers (optional), [Responding in Worship Slide](#), [Prayer Walk Prompts Sheets](#), [I AMs of Jesus Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

Ahead of time, tape a wide path along the floor that kids can walk along. Options for shapes could be a spiral, a snaking line that goes back and forth, a zig zag, etc. Print the [Prayer Walk Prompts Sheets](#) and tape the prompts at intervals along the taped path, leaving the final paper (the "God!" heart) for the center or end of the path. Make sure there is enough space near the final paper for many kids to gather and worship. Alternatively, you could use permanent marker to write the prompts in larger letters on sheets of butcher paper and tape those alongside the path.

Gather kids together. Display the [Responding in Worship Slide](#). **Jesus is the way to God! Let's take some time to think about the ways God's Son, Jesus, helps us know God the Father and follow Him. A song will play, and when you're ready, I invite you to slowly walk along the path taped to the floor, thinking about God and praying to Jesus. When you get to one of the papers, stop and read what it says. Then you can take a moment to say a quick prayer to Jesus.** Model this for the kids by stopping at the first paper and reading it to the kids: **What is something hard you need help with? Ask Jesus for help.** Demonstrate by pausing and praying quietly. **Each time you finish talking with Jesus in prayer, you can continue walking. This is not a time to rush or hurry. If you meet up with another friend, remain quiet and keep walking the path. It's not a race! This is a chance for us to walk and talk with Jesus, who is the way to God the Father. When you come to the end of the path, you'll see a paper with the word "God!" in a heart. Walk to the final paper and point to it. Here you can spend some time showing God your love and gratitude by worshiping Him. You can kneel or stand, sing or dance, and tell God "thank You" for sending Jesus to be the way to Him!**

Make it Inclusive: *Some kids, especially those who are neurodivergent, struggle to remain focused in quiet prayer. Provide simple alternative ways for kids to express their prayers to God. Consider setting play dough out on one table and paper and coloring utensils on another, along with the prayer prompts, for kids who want to express their prayers creatively.*

Softly play "Waymaker" or other songs from the [I AMs of Jesus Elementary Spotify playlist](#). Open with a short prayer of invitation, such as this: **Father God, thank You for Jesus. Help us focus on Him as we find our way to You.** Allow time and space for kids to respond as they feel led, moving along the path and stopping to pray. When kids complete the prayer path, encourage them to spend time worshiping through song, dance, and prayer.

Teaching Tip:

For Younger Kids: Position leaders at each of the prayer prompts to read/interpret them for younger kids and those who aren't confident reading. Or pair younger kids with older kids who can read each prompt for them.

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Disclaimer: We have permission from the publisher to use the Spotify music playlist solely for the purposes of the Sunday School hour, Vacation Bible School experiences, fellowship events, or for listening at home. Please note that this playlist is not to be used during the divine service or for any streamed or broadcasted occasion.

BLESSING YOUR KIDS

Display **The Way Blessing Slide**. Speak this blessing over your kids, as a group or as individuals. If you bless kids individually, insert each name into the blessing.

Blessing: God loves you more than you could ever imagine! He sent His Son, Jesus, to make the way for you to be with Him forever! May you walk with Jesus—the way, the truth, and the life—today and all the days of your life.