



**Mustard Seed Sunday School Lesson for February 18, 2007
Released on Wednesday, February 14, 2007**

"Jesus Is the Way, the Truth, and the Life"

Lesson: John 14:1–14

Read: John 14:1–14

Time: A.D. 30

Place: Jerusalem

GOLDEN TEXT: "Jesus said to him [His disciple, Thomas], 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through Me.'" (John 14:6)

SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT:

John 14:1-14 (NIV)

Jesus Comforts His Disciples

1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me.

2 In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you.

3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

4 You know the way to the place where I am going."

Jesus the Way to the Father

5 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

7 If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

8 Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."

9 Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

10 Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.

11 Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves.

12 I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

13 And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father.

14 You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

TEACHER'S NOTES ON THE LESSON

If there is one Bible doctrine that is despised and ridiculed today more than any other, it is the teaching that Jesus is the exclusive truth. Many people today are offended by the Bible's teaching that Jesus is the only way of salvation. They want to believe that all religions lead to God, that no one religion embodies the absolute truth, that all are essentially equal. The Bible teaching could not be more opposite, as is clear in this week's lesson.

Why do Christians believe that Jesus is the only Saviour, the only way to the Father? We believe it because Jesus claimed this about Himself. Those who choose to believe otherwise should realize that they are essentially saying they think they know more about it than Jesus does. Not many people want to say that so directly, but when we contradict His clear statement, that is in essence what we are doing.

In this day characterized by postmodernism, be prepared to face serious opposition from the world. Many today are tolerant of other views—except those views that are intolerant. Jesus was intolerant of any other way of salvation.

Let us believe Jesus' words and pray that our students will do the same. His Word is truth!

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Teach that Jesus is the only way to God.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. Jesus promised to prepare a place for us.
2. Jesus Himself is the way to get there.
3. Jesus is really God—one with the Father.

PLANNING VISUAL AIDS:

For Helping to Remember, bring a piece of yellow construction paper for each student, along with markers or pens, crayons, glue sticks, and a big poster board.

BEGINNING THE LESSON:

Shannon was looking through a book about world religions from the library. She saw many colorful pictures and read many interesting ideas. Shannon's mother was watching her read. She noticed that Shannon seemed to be troubled. Finally, Shannon asked her mother this question: "Can these other religious leaders take people to heaven as Jesus does?"

That is a good question. It does not matter much what I think or what you think about it. It does not matter much what different religions say about it. There is one thing that really matter a lot. What did Jesus say about it?

TELLING THE LESSON:

When it was almost time for Jesus to die on the cross for our sins, He began to tell His disciples about what was going to happen. It would be very hard for them, and He wanted to get them ready. Jesus told them He would be going away. He said, "I go to prepare a place for you" (John 14:2).

While He was gone, He would be doing important work. He would be preparing a place for them with His Father in heaven. He promised something else too. He would come back again. Jesus said, "I will come again, and receive you unto myself" (vs. 3). Jesus promised to come again and take us to live with Him and His Father forever.

Jesus had already taught the disciples where He was going—back to His Father. He had already taught them that He was the way to get there. If they believed in Him, He would take them there someday.

Thomas did not remember or understand clearly. He asked Jesus how they could know where He was going and how they could know how to get there.

Jesus said that He was the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Jesus never said that any other person was the way to God. No one great leader is the way to heaven. Jesus is not one way out of many ways. He is the only way! He said so Himself. He said that no one can come to God the Father except through Him.

Jesus could say that because He is really God Himself, one with His Father. His Father was doing good works through Him. Those who believed in Jesus would also do great works, and God would answer their prayers when they asked in Jesus' name.

TELLING HOW TO LIVE:

You can be a good witness by making friends with children of other religions and other cultures. Show that you care for them, and never be afraid to tell them about the things you are learning in Sunday school. Maybe God will use you to win some of them to Jesus.

HELPING TO REMEMBER:

Add "Way," "Truth," and "Life" to the poster. Let the children make a collage on a poster board to remind them of the heavenly places God is preparing for them. Let each draw a house on a piece of yellow paper. They can then cut out their "homes" and glue them on the poster board to remind them of the heavenly homes God is

preparing for us. At the top or bottom of the poster, let each child write one word of the verse "I go to prepare a place for you" (John 14:2).

EXPLAINING THE GOLDEN TEXT:

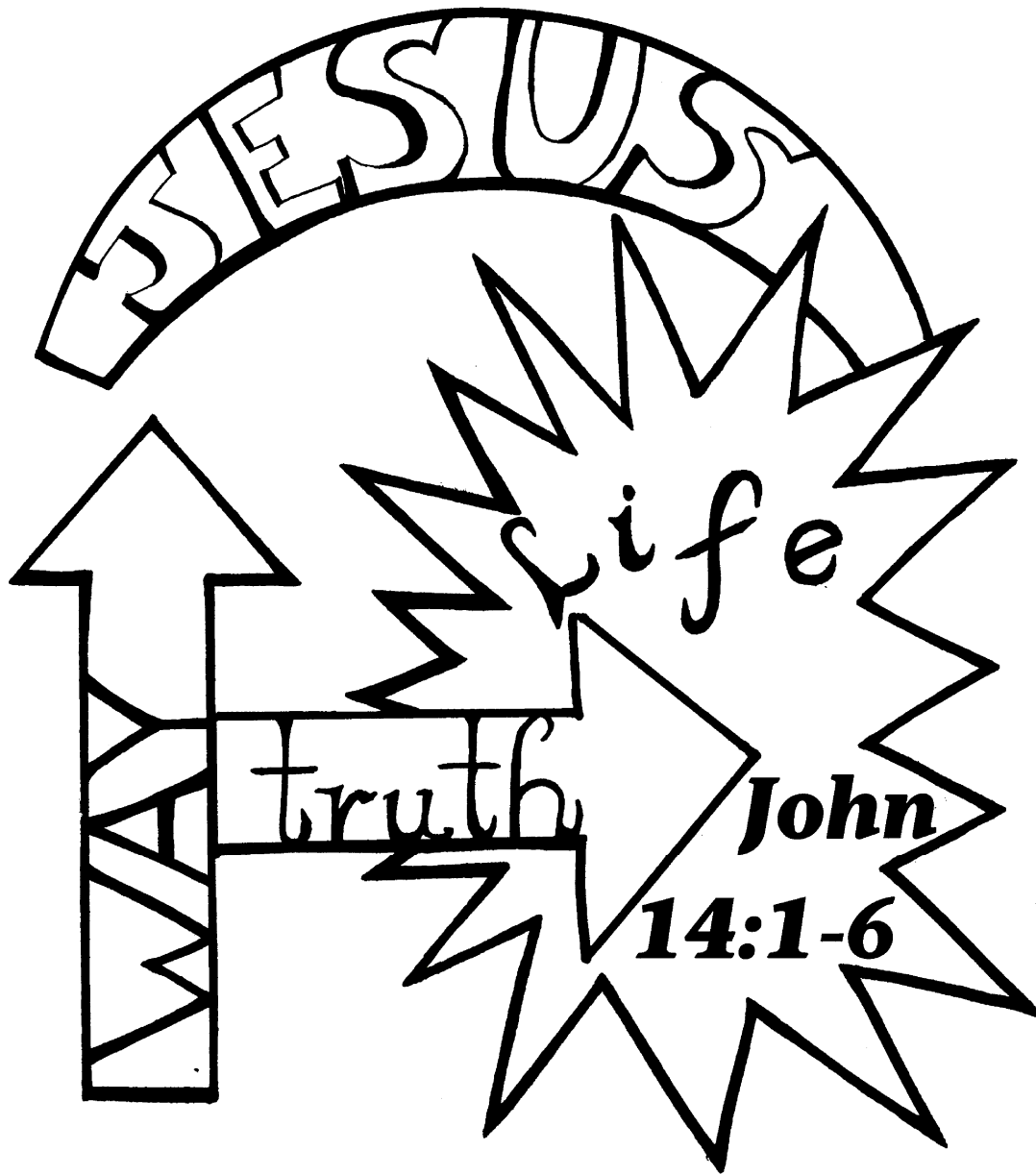
"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6 NKJV).

Jesus had been telling His disciples that He would soon be leaving them to go back to His Father. He was going to prepare a place for them, and for all who believe in Him. That means that we too can rejoice in knowing that we have a heavenly home to go to. And, not only that, but we can rejoice especially in knowing that we will be in Jesus' presence forever. *Hallelujah!*

Thomas wondered how they would get to that place that Jesus would prepare for them. Jesus said that He Himself was the way to get there. God will take all who believe in Jesus to that heavenly home someday.

There is only one way to get to that beautiful home. Jesus is the Way. There is only one Truth, and Jesus is it. Everything He says is truth. There is only one way to get life, and that is by believing in Jesus. He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one can come to God any other way. All must come through Jesus.

MUSTARD SEED LESSON ACTIVITIES:



"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6b).

FILL IN THE BLANKS:

1. "Let not your _____ be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me."
JOHN 14:1

2. "In My Father's house are many _____; if it were not so, I would have told you..." **JOHN 14:2**

TRUE OR FALSE:

3. "...I go to prepare a place for you." **JOHN 14:2**

TRUE OR FALSE

4. "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." **JOHN 14:3**

TRUE OR FALSE

5. And where I go you don't know, and the way you don't know. **JOHN 14:4**

TRUE OR FALSE

FILL IN THE BLANKS:

6. " _____ said to Him, 'Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?' " **JOHN 14:5**

7. "Jesus said to him, 'I am the _____, the _____, and the _____. No one comes to the _____ except through Me.' " **JOHN 14:6**

UNSCRAMBLE THESE WORDS:

- 1. liebeve _____
- 2. wokn _____
- 3. grouthh _____
- 4. refath _____
- 5. flei _____
- 6. bluedort _____
- 7. traeh _____
- 8. snamnios _____
- 9. thurt _____
- 10. sehou _____
- 11. lapce _____
- 12. losu _____
- 13. usesj _____
- 14. ereppra _____

FILL IN THE BLANKS AND TRUE OR FALSE ANSWERS:

Answers: 1) heart, 2) mansions

Answers: 3) True, 4) True, 5) False

Answers: 6) Thomas, 7) way, truth, life, Father

UNSCRAMBLE THESE WORDS ANSWERS:

Answers: 1) believe, 2) know, 3) through, 4) father, 5) life, 6) troubled, 7) heart, 8) mansions, 9) truth, 10) house, 11) place, 12) way, 13) Jesus, 14) prepare

Lesson Summarized by:

Kimbley Y. Baker-Richardson kimbley@jesusisall.com