

The way, The Truth, And The Life

John 14:1-6

MEMORY VERSE

JOHN 14:1

"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me."

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

As many postcard sized pieces of cardstock as the number of children in your class, pencils and crayons.

A blindfold, and some masking tape or chairs.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

The Trust Game

Ask for some volunteers from your class to play a game. Explain that you want to blindfold them and one by one, when you say, "go" they will fall backwards into your waiting arms. They must keep their bodies and legs straight and fall straight back. You can vary the distance of their falls by catching them at different heights. Just make sure to catch them every time!

Some students will have no problem trusting if the distance of their falls is close. Some that you catch at a greater "fall-distance" will bend their legs and bodies to catch their own fall.

Explain to your class that real "trust" is a total abandonment of self-preservation. When we trust Jesus, we know that He'll catch us no matter how close we come to the ground. **We can always trust Jesus.**

LESSON TIME!

Have you ever seen a tightrope walker at a circus? A tightrope walker walks across a wire that is stretched high in the air with just a pole to balance him. Well, there was once a tightrope walker that decided to go across Niagara Falls with a wheelbarrow to balance him. As he put his wire across the falls, a crowd gathered. They waited breathlessly as he walked slowly across the wire pushing the wheelbarrow. When he reached the other side, the crowd cheered.

He then turned to the crowd and asked, "Do you think I can make it back across?" They all said, "Yes!" He asked again, "Do you really believe I can?" They answered, "We just saw you go across. Of course you can!" The tightrope walker then said, "Then get into the wheelbarrow and go with me."

Our story today is about trust. Can we trust Jesus enough with our lives to "get into the wheelbarrow" and go with Him?

Jesus and His disciples were in the upper room taking part in the Passover meal. It was the night that He would be betrayed and arrested. He was giving last minute instructions to His disciples before going to the cross. He was trying to prepare them for what was coming. He was telling them not to be afraid and to trust Him no matter what happened. Even when it doesn't seem like it, Jesus is in control! **We can always trust Jesus.**

JOHN 14:1

"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me."

Jesus was telling the disciples not to be afraid, they trusted in God and now they were to trust Jesus too. These disciples had just spent the past three years living, working, and traveling with Jesus. Now, Jesus would be taken from them. He was going to die a cruel

death. What would now happen to the disciples? Jesus wanted to remind them they need to not look at their circumstances, but focus on Him.

We can also trust Jesus with every part of our lives both now and in the future. Sometimes things may happen in our lives that we don't fully understand or that frighten us. But like Jesus' disciples, we can put our eyes on Jesus and not on the problems. When we do we will find that our problems are not nearly as big and powerful as our mighty God! When you are afraid, just trust in Jesus. **We can always trust Jesus.**

JOHN 14:2

"In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you."

"In my Father's house" refers to heaven. Even when we die, Jesus will be with us. He is preparing a place made especially for each of us where we will spend eternity with Him. Jesus really cares about us.

When Jesus wanted to encourage His disciples he would tell them about heaven. Sometimes when we go through difficult times it is good to think about eternity, to think about our heavenly home and our Lord and Savior, Jesus. It helps us to see the "big picture." Even though this life may at times be tough or difficult, God is working something much greater in our lives and preparing a bright future in eternity with Him. **We can always trust Jesus.**

Isn't it good to know that we can trust Jesus? He told His disciples that if any of these things He was sharing with them weren't true He would have told them. We know that whatever Jesus tells us is true. Every promise found in His word will come to pass no matter what, because God always stands behind His word. Jesus is now preparing a place for you and for me. Isn't that exciting news?

JOHN 14:3

"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."

Jesus was making a promise to us here. Since Jesus is preparing a special place for us in heaven, He will come back to get us and personally take us there so that we can live with Him forever. Sometimes, when things seem to be going wrong, or we feel lost and confused, it's good to remember that this world is only temporary; Jesus is preparing an eternal home that will make this world seem like a memory. Jesus will keep His word. **We can always trust Jesus.**

Jesus wants us to be with Him. He is preparing a place and promises to take us there to live with Him forever. Do you remember from previous lessons what we should be doing right now? That's right! We are to be watching and waiting for Jesus' return. It could be very soon. We need to live our lives in such a way that we would be found pleasing to Him when He returns.

Send a Postcard

Have your children prepare a postcard, addressed to themselves (if you choose to do this activity for younger children, you will have to have their parents address them when they check their children in). On one side, prepare your postcard like any you might purchase. Leave a place for an address on the bottom right, a stamp on the top right, and a message on the left.

Have the children write (if they are able):

Dear (Child's Name),

I'm going to prepare a place for you!
Be back soon!

Love,
Jesus
John 14:3

Let your class draw and color pictures on the other side of the postcard. They can draw heaven, a mansion being built for them, or Jesus coming back. When they've completed the postcard, collect them and mail them to your children during the course of the next week.

JOHN 14:4

"And where I go you know, and the way you know."

Jesus was referring to heaven when He said, "where I go" and He said that it was the "way you know," because He had been teaching the disciples about how to get to heaven through out His ministry. But like so many things Jesus taught the disciples, they didn't fully understand. When we don't understand, we can go to Jesus and ask Him to help us. He is faithful to teach us everything He wants us to know. **We can always trust Jesus.**

JOHN 14:5

Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?"

Thomas was asking an honest question. He was saying that he didn't understand where Jesus was going or how to get there. He didn't understand that Jesus was going to die on the cross for our sins so that we could go to heaven.

We shouldn't be too hard on Thomas for asking this question. It isn't wrong to ask questions when we don't understand. This is how we learn. Jesus wants us to know and to understand that we can trust Him with our lives, with our feelings, with our problems, with anything. Nothing is too small or too big. Even when we lose our direction, He is willing to show us the way. All we have to do is ask. **We can always trust Jesus.**

JOHN 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Jesus was telling us very clearly that He is the only way to God the Father, to heaven and eternal life. He is the truth of the gospel. He is the Messiah, the Promised One. To go to heaven we have to believe and put our trust in Jesus. **We can always trust Jesus.**

We can't just say we believe in Jesus just like the crowd said they believed the tightrope walker could go back across the falls. But we have to make a decision to put our trust in Jesus and put ourselves in His hands just like the tightrope walker challenged the people to get into the wheelbarrow. We need to trust Jesus with our lives, not just our lips. We need to follow Jesus' way, the only way! **We can always trust Jesus.**

Some religions would teach that there are a lot of different ways that you can get to heaven. Or people might say that every religion has its own way to heaven, but they all get to the same place. The truth is what Jesus shared; He is the only way to heaven. There is no other way. We need to place our full trust in Jesus and then we will receive eternal life.

Faith Walk

Using masking tape or chairs set up an obstacle course for one of your student volunteers. Take your volunteer outside of the class and tell them that the class will shout directions to them to help them get through the course. While you or your aide has the volunteer outside of the class, give instruction to the class to give wrong directions. Put your volunteer at the entrance to the maze and blindfold them.

When your volunteer begins to make his way through the maze, he will undoubtedly get off course or bump into chairs. When it is obvious that he will not be successful stop the class and ask him what the problem is. He will say that he can't understand the directions to get through.

Now, start over again, but this time you take the hands of your student and walk him through the course. He will still be blindfolded and the class will still be shouting out the wrong directions, but this time he will be successful because of your direction.

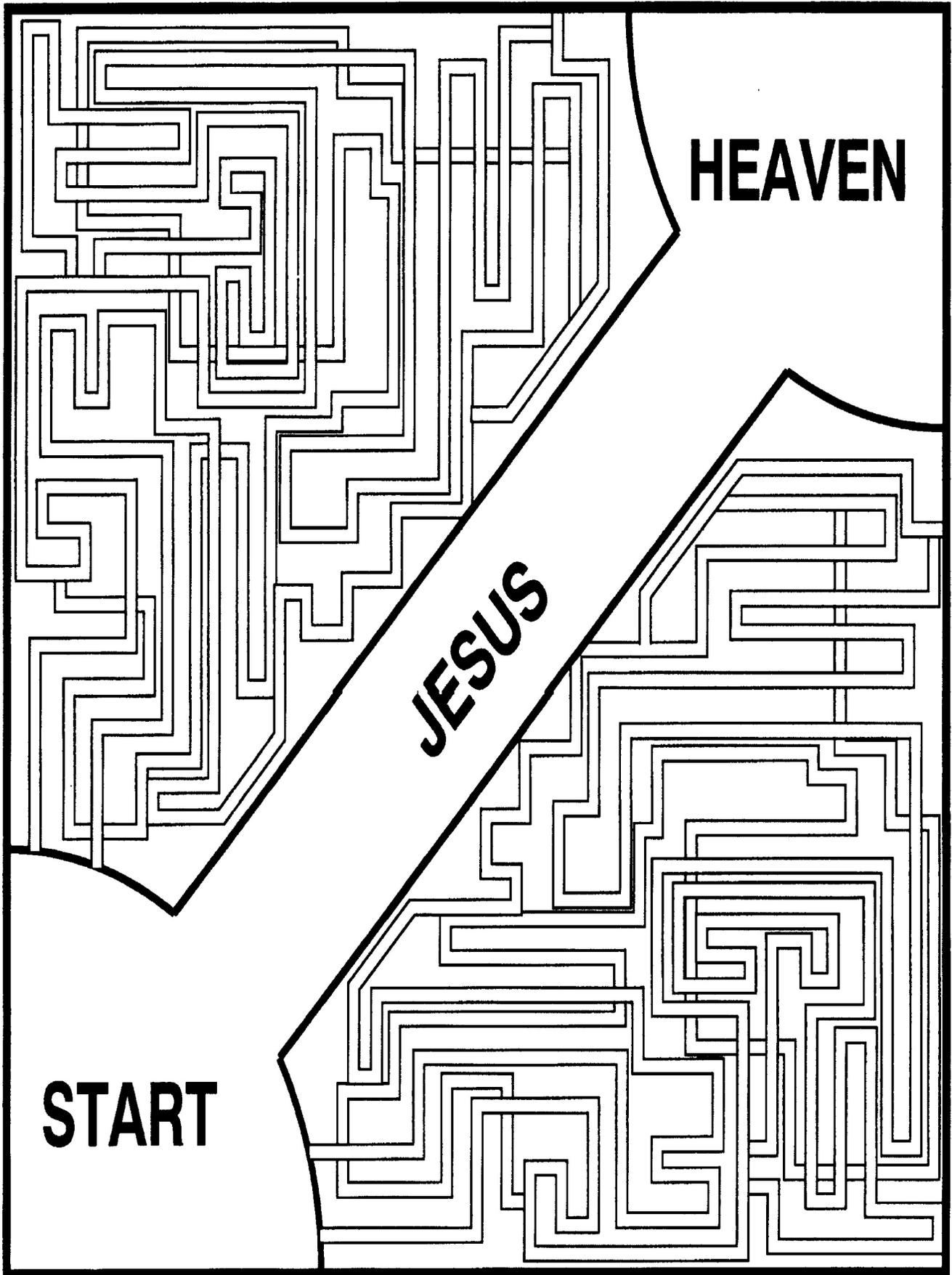
Explain to your class that this is what Jesus does for us. The world shouts the wrong directions to us and when we follow them, we get tripped up and off course. When we follow Jesus, we get through fine, because He can see what we can't, and He desires for us to make it through unharmed.

ACTIVITY OPTIONS

Pass out the prepared "Maze" worksheet for your class to work through.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to trust Jesus with our lives. If any children have not yet responded to the gospel, give them an opportunity to do so.



START

JESUS

HEAVEN