

Follow Jesus! One way

IAM06

Bible Verses: John 14:1-14

This plan will unpack why Jesus is the only way.

How Did I Get Here?

Warming Up

10 mins

Activity

Get leaders to help the children draw the route from their house to Urban Saints on the map using a highlighter pen. If you have a large group, it might be easier to have several maps on the go.

Draw the group together and look at all the different routes. Comment that everyone got here a slightly different way. Say that, in the Bible, Jesus says that he is the only way. Does anyone understand that? That's what you're going to unpack tonight.

The Point: For fun and to kick things off.


Equipment

Maps of the area showing your meeting place and where the children live, highlighter pens.

Journey To His House

Teaching Time

15 mins

 Bible Study

Before the session, print out each verse of the following passage separately and stick on them on a route around your venue. Try to make the route as long as you can - like a journey.

¹Jesus said to his disciples, "Don't be worried! Have faith in God and have faith in me.² There are many rooms in my Father's house. I wouldn't tell you this, unless it was true. I am going there to prepare a place for each of you. ³After I have done this, I will come back and take you with me. Then we will be together. ⁴You know the way to where I am going." ⁵Thomas said, "Lord, we don't even know where you are going! How can we know the way?"

⁶"I am the way, the truth, and the life!" Jesus answered. "Without me, no one can go to the Father.

Take the children on a journey, visiting each of the verses you've stuck up. At each verse, use the questions provided to help the children unpack what the passage is saying. It would be really good if you have done the maps activity in the warm up section.

Questions for discussion:

1. Say that Jesus had just been telling his disciples what was going to happen to him and they were scared and worried. What do we worry about? What does Jesus say to do when we are worried?
2. Who is Jesus' father? What sort of rooms do you think there are in God's house? What does the end of this verse say? There's a place for all of us in his house!
3. Can we get to God's house on our own? Who has to take us there?
4. Where do you know the way to? School, the shops? How do you feel when you know the way? Safe!
5. Say that Thomas didn't really get what Jesus was saying so Jesus makes it really obvious in the next verse.
6. When you go on long journeys, who knows the way? Usually the grown ups you're with - this means we don't have to worry because they will take us there. Where is Jesus going to take us? Do we have to worry about how to get there on our own?

The Point: To help the children to understand this key scripture.


Equipment

Verses printed out separately.

One Way.

Take Away

10 mins

 Craft Ideas

This item can be shared with your group using the QR code:

This activity will work well with the following Teaching Time activities: all.

Give everyone a piece of blue paper and some strips of white paper. Show them a picture of a one way sign and help them to use the white strips to create an arrow on the blue background. Write JESUS on the arrow.



The Point: A teaching reminder.


Equipment

Blue paper, white paper, glue, scissors, pictures of one way signs, felt tips.

In My Father's House

Warming Up

15 mins

 Craft Ideas

This activity will work well with the following Teaching Time activities: all

See separate instruction sheet.

The Point: To give the children something to take away to remind them that they can be in their Father's house too.


Equipment

Squares of paper – about 20cm along each side, landscape photo of each child (or digital camera/printer), felt tips/pencil crayons, glue sticks

Follow, Follow.

Take Away

10 mins

 Craft Ideas

This item can be shared with your group using the QR code:

This activity will work well with the following Teaching Time activities: all, but especially Following Him.



Let the children make painty footprints on a piece of paper. NB, have them sitting down, not standing as paint can be extremely slippery! Clean their feet! They can write "I follow Jesus because he is the way" on their picture.

The Point: A teaching reminder.


Equipment

Thick paper, paint, baby wipes, felt tips.

The Way

Response

10 mins

 Prayer

This activity fits onto the ongoing response wall you may have been creating. Ask the children to think quietly for a minute about what it means for Jesus to be the way. They can draw a picture that sums up what they've thought and learned about today.

When they are ready, they can stick their picture to the wall and thank Jesus that He is the way.

The Point: To respond to Jesus.


Equipment

Paper, colouring pens or pencils.

Way To Go

Response

10 mins

 Memory Verse

“I am the way, the truth and the life!” Jesus answered. “Without me, no one can go to the Father.” John 14:6

Before the session, hide the verse somewhere in the room and make up a series of clues to find it - hide the clues in the appropriate places too. Have 4 or 5 clues before the verse. For younger children, simple clues like “Go to the radiator under the window” will be enough. Older children might enjoy more cryptic clues “Keeping you warm where the sun shines in”. Have the next clue at each place they arrive at.

Learn the final verse together. Or you could have a part of the verse written on each new clue so that they build it up gradually.

The Point: To learn scripture.

Equipment

Pens, paper.
