WEEK 3: JESUS IS …. THE WAY

AIM: To teach children that there is only one way to know God and it is through Jesus Christ.

OPENING IDEA: Ask the children if they have ever been lost. Discuss the reasons why and how they found their way again. Ask one child to tell you the name of their street and how you could get there. However, after the child has given you the directions, continue to appear puzzled and confused. Ask the children to give you ways of solving the problem, hopefully one will suggest using a street directory, at which point you produce yours. Show the procedure of finding exact locations of streets through using the proper means. Explain that people use all sorts of things to get to God, eg, good works, nature, eastern religions, meditation, etc., but God says there is only one way to get to know God - through Jesus …. He is the Way!

MEMORY VERSE: JOHN 14:6 “Jesus said, ‘I am the Way and the Truth and the Life; no one comes to the Father except through me’.”

STORY: THE RICH YOUNG RULER (Matthew 19:16-26)
The story of the rich young ruler is often taught with the emphasis on the danger of valuing possessions to the extreme, but in fact, the real thrust of the story is the issue of following. Therefore, when telling this story for today's lesson, try to put the emphasis on following.

MAIN POINTS:
(a) The young man wanted to get to God. Notice he asks Jesus what he had to do to have eternal life (v.16). This indicates that it was his heart’s desire to know God and eventually get to heaven.
(b) The young man had lived a 'good' life in that he had obeyed all the commandments. He thought that doing good things in the eyes of others was possibly the way to God.
(c) He was unwilling to change his way of life, preferring to continue living in luxury, rather than truly following Jesus. He loved his possessions more than wanting to get to God.
(d) Following Jesus means being willing to live each day of our lives as Jesus did—loving and obeying God, loving and caring for others more than ourselves. Encourage the children to read the New Testament, so they know how Jesus lived and what He requires from us.

GAME: Play ‘Follow the Leader’. You may be able to take the children outside if the room is rather small, or set the room up as an obstacle course. Keep changing the leader so that a number of children have the opportunity of leading.

ACTIVITIES:
1. ‘Jesus is The Way’ card — photocopy pages 3 and 4 back to back, fold on dotted line. Discuss the lesson, read page 4 together and complete the sentences. Colour the front cover.
2. God's Way/My Way - photocopy pages 6 and 7, glue them back to back. Read page 7 together. Discuss.
There is only ___ way to know God - through J ___ C ___.

Following Jesus' way leads us to h ____. When we follow Jesus, we must turn a ___ from our own way and o ___ Him. The rich young ruler wanted to know G ___, but he was not willing to ch ____ his old way of life to truly f _____.

Jesus. The rich young ruler found there is nothing we can do to earn our way to heaven. Eternal life is a g ____ from the Lord. We can receive that gift by living e ____ day in a way that pleases Him.
I am the Way, the Truth and the Life,” Jesus said. (Jn 14:6)
When I do things my way I .....


When I do things JESUS’ way I .....


JESUS is ... The WAY
(Matthew 19:16-26, Mark 10:17-22)

CROSSWORD

Across
2. Opposite of father. Mark 10:19
4. "tho father and mother."
5. Having much wealth.
8. To get down on one's knees.
9. To take what is not yours.

Down
1. "What shall I do that I may inherit life?" Mark 10:17
3. To move faster than a walk; rhymes with "fun."
6. Jesus died on this.
7. To give something in exchange for money.
THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

† You shall have no other gods but me. Believe in the one and only God.
† You must not make for yourselves any idols. Nothing is more important than God.
† You must not use the name of the lord in vain. God deserves our respect.
† Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy. Celebrate God's special day.
† Honour your father and your mother. Show your parents how much they mean to you.
† Do not murder. All life is precious to God who created it.
† Do not commit adultery. Keep your love true and pure.
† Do not steal. Let other people enjoy the gifts God has given them.
† Do not tell lies. The truth turns wrong into right.
† Do not covet your neighbour’s possessions. Be happy with the things God has given you.

He wanted to be perfect. He thought he could buy his way into heaven, so he asked Jesus, “What must I do to live forever?” Jesus answered, “Obey the commands.”

The young man said, “I do. What else?” Jesus said, “Sell what you have and give it to the poor.”

The young man went away sad because he could not give up his great wealth.

Although he had lived a good life, he had made an idol of his riches and had not observed the spirit of the commandments. He had lived his way, not God’s Way.

JESUS said, “I am the WAY, the TRUTH, and the LIFE. No one comes to the Father, except by Me.” (John 14:6)