



Younger IK Groups- PreK- 1st grade

May 7, 2025

Bible Story: The Narrow Gate- Matthew 7:13-14; John 14:6

Big Idea: Jesus is the only way to heaven.

The Win: Kids who can identify and take their next step of discipleship by embracing a preschooler's physical needs or engaging an elementary kid in things that interest them.

Wednesday Share:

Tonight during Impact Kids, we looked at Matthew 7:13-14; John 14:6. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus says there's a wide path that leads to hell but he's the only way to get to God's kingdom, heaven. Jesus is the only way, the truth, and the life! Ask everyone in your family this question: Who helped you find the way to Jesus? If it wasn't a person, what helped you believe in Jesus? How can you share with others about what Jesus has done in your life?

Leader Devo:

<https://parkwaychurch.tv/blog/2025/04/30/may-7>

Dig In to Prayer:

Ask God to open your kids' eyes to the love and grace he has treated them with, and pray that seeing how God has treated them will inspire them to treat others likewise.

Quick Tip:

Churches approach helping kids begin a friendship with Jesus differently. Some do an altar call every week; others focus on planting the truth of the gospel without an altar call. Some children's ministries encourage kids to talk with their parents about becoming a friend of Jesus so parents can be there for this big moment in kids' lives; other churches want to make sure all kids have the chance to do so in your ministry. At Parkway we want to give every chance for everyone to know and believe in Jesus when they are ready. We teach the truth of the Gospel regularly in all groups. It is very possible that each kid in your group could do this before they move to student ministry. We look forward to sharing this with kids and parents as often as possible.

Wednesday Group Schedule

Leaders Arrive: 6:15 PM
Family Dinner: 6:30 PM – 6:50 PM
K-3rd Outside Play: 6:50 PM- 7:20 PM
4th & 5th Small Group: 6:50 PM- 7:30 PM
K-3rd Small Group: 7:25 PM- 8:00 PM
4th & 5th Outside Play: 7:30 PM- 8:00 PM
Dismiss: 8:00 PM- 8:05 PM

Low Energy Game:

Supplies:

- various colors of yarn
- painter's tape
- upbeat music
- music player

Follow the Path

Say: Today we learned Jesus is the only way to God. Jesus is the greatest! Let's sing a quick song to him now! Play a familiar song, and ask one adult or teen helper to lead kids in singing and dancing along with the music. While kids sing, ask other helpers to create a maze of paths using different colors of yarn.

Start all the paths on the same side of the room, but end in different places. Paths should cross and curve so the end isn't obvious from the start. Use tape every few feet to secure yarn in place.

When the paths are set, say: "Jesus is the only way to heaven" means Jesus is like the path that leads us there. We have lots of different paths in our room today. One path leads to where I'll be waiting to give all my friends a hug or a high-five. Work together with your group to try to find the right path.

- Form leader-led groups. Encourage groups to pick a colored path to follow. It's okay if more than one group picks the same path.
- Stand at the end of one of the paths.
- Have leaders help kids stay on their chosen path all the way to the end. If it isn't the path leading to you, the group can go back to the start and pick a new path.
- Give a hug or high-five to each child as groups reach you.
- After all groups find the path to you, move to a new path and begin the game again. Continue as time allows.
- If you'd like, play upbeat music while kids play.

On the final round, ask all the leaders to direct kids to the start of the path leading to you. Say: There are lots of paths to choose from in our game, but only one path leads you to me. If you follow your leaders, they'll bring you on the right path to me. Play the game one last time, encouraging kids to follow their leader to you for a hug or a high-five. Lead kids to celebrate when everyone has reached you.

Talk About Needing Help

Say: Your leaders helped bring you on the right path to me. In our game, you might've been able to find the right path without help. But we can't always get where we want to go by ourselves. Sometimes we need help.

Share about a place you can't go by yourself. Maybe you needed a tour guide to get into certain parts of a museum or a friend to escort you around his office.

Ask: • Tell about a place you can't go alone. Kids may say they need their big brother to go with them to the park, their mom to help them find their class at church, or their dad to go with them to the store.

Say: God loves us so much. He made a way for us to be in heaven with him forever: Jesus! We can't go by ourselves. Jesus is the only way to heaven.

Talk About Video:

Discuss and Watch “Roleen’s Story”

Say: We’re learning that Jesus is the only way to heaven. Let’s think about things we can do different ways.

Ask: • How do you eat an Oreo?

- How do you tie your shoes?
- How do you choose a book to read?

Say: There’s not just one way to eat an Oreo or choose a book. But there’s only one way to heaven: Jesus! Let’s see a story about a girl who has one very long, scary way to get to school.

Watch “Roleen’s Story.”

Ask: • Which part of Roleen’s path to school seemed the scariest?

- Which part seemed the most interesting?
- Why do you think it’s worth it to Roleen to take that hard path to school and back?
- Why is it worth it to turn to Jesus?

Say: Roleen had one way to get to school, but it was worth it! Jesus is the only way to heaven, and following him is totally worth it!

Deeper Bible:

Supplies

- Bible
- painter’s tape
- blocks

Easy Prep: Tape a line on the floor, allowing about a foot per child. Add a second line, parallel to the first. Make the lines far enough apart that preschoolers will be unable to jump from one line to the other on their own but close enough together that a leader can help kids jump across, approximately 4 to 5 feet.

Tip: If some leaders are unable to lift kids across to the other side, encourage them to place a step stool or carpet square in the middle and help kids hop to that and then the rest of the way across.

Share What We Can Do

Say: We’re all growing and learning new things every day. It’s fun to learn how to do something all by yourself.

Ask: • What’s something you can do all by yourself? Kids may say they’ve learned to ride their bike, put together a puzzle, or write their names.

Say: We can do lots of things on our own. But there are still things we can’t do without help.

Find a Way Across

Form leader-led groups, and have kids line up with their leaders along one tape line.

Say: Let’s pretend that we have to get across this river to the other side without touching the water. I wonder if we can do it on our own. Encourage kids to try a few times to jump across the “river.” With each try, point out that they didn’t quite make it, and encourage them to try again.

Say: It looks like we can’t make it across on our own. Maybe these will help. Give each group a handful of blocks. Encourage groups to try to build a bridge with their blocks. For safety reasons, don’t allow kids to jump onto or off the blocks.

Say: Wow, the blocks didn’t work either. There’s only one way we can get across. Our leaders are big enough to stand in the middle of the river. They can help us get across. Ask leaders to help kids across, one at a time, by holding on to the child under the arms as he or she jumps and lifting him or her across. After everyone has made it to the other side, lead kids to cheer.

Deeper Bible: cont

Talk About Needing Help

Say: In our game, we couldn't get across on our own. We tried to use other things to help us, but we still couldn't get across. We can't get to heaven by ourselves either. Lead kids to shake their heads "no." Listen to this. **Read John 14:6 aloud.** Like the leaders helped you over the river, we need Jesus to take us to heaven to be with God. Jesus is the only way to heaven. He died on the cross and came back to life to forgive us of all the wrong things we've done.

Lead kids to pray and thank Jesus that he came to take us to heaven to be with God.

Life Application:

Supplies

- small cross

Pass and Share

Have kids sit in a circle. **Say:** Today we found out Jesus is the only way to heaven. He makes a way for us to go to heaven by forgiving us of all the wrong things we've ever done.

Show the cross. Jesus died on the cross so we can be forgiven of all the things we've ever done, like...

Say: I can tell Jesus when I do a wrong thing, and he'll forgive me. Hold up the cross and pray:

Jesus, I am sorry for [something common you have done that you know is wrong, such as being impatient in the car, saying unkind words, or saying something that is untrue].

Say: You can say sorry, too. Have kids pass the cross and pray as you did.

Allow them to pray silently if they do not want to pray aloud.

Thank Jesus

Say: Jesus hears you and forgives you for the wrong things you do. Because we're forgiven, we can be friends with God and live in heaven with him! Jesus is the only way to heaven. Let's thank Jesus for making a way for us to be friends with God.

Lead kids in a brief prayer.

Thank kids for coming, and let them know they can talk to Jesus anytime.

Invite them to come back to church next week.

Activity Page with a Point:

Younger Kids: Color a Coloring Page

Distribute the coloring pages and crayons.

Say: We're learning about a time Jesus stood up on a hill to teach a big crowd of people! He taught that Jesus is the only way to heaven. He talked about a path that leads to a narrow gate—that's like following Jesus! Let's color that path.

Allow time for kids to color. Optionally, they can color the gate with a highlighter.

Older Kids: Do an Activity Page

Say: Today we learned from the Sermon on the Mount that Jesus is the only way to heaven. Some people might think there are different ways to get there, but there's only one way. Let's do some riddles where there's only one right answer.

Distribute the activity pages and pencils. Kids will try to solve all the riddles.

Ask: • Did you have a hard time finding the right answer to any of these?

Tell more about that.

• Why do you think it's hard for some people to know that Jesus is the one and only way to heaven?

Say: Following Jesus isn't a riddle or puzzle—Jesus loves and welcomes everyone. But Jesus said not everyone will find him, because the path is narrow. But we can trust that Jesus is the only way to heaven, so we follow him.

ANSWER KEY: 1) Frank; 2) your breath; 3) 14 (count yourself); 4) coin; 5) silence; 6) embarrassing; 7) 11 (mathematical order of operations tells you to multiply first, then add); 8) Your answer!