



Older IK Groups- 2nd - 5th Grades

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 help kids in your ministry who haven't yet found Jesus, the narrow path to heaven. Ask him to open those kids' hearts to following him.

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:

- Hershey's Kisses (2 per child)
- playing cards (1 deck for every 15 kids)

Easy Prep: Create stacks of 10 random cards—1 for each trio of kids.

Flip Cards and Pick Up Candy

Say: Today we're talking about how Jesus is the only way to heaven. A quick game of Candy Card will help us explore that truth!

- Form trios, and ask trios to sit on the floor.
- Give each trio a stack of 10 random playing cards and six pieces of candy.
- In trios, have kids each select a playing card. Whoever picked the lowest card will be the trio's first Card Commander.
- Have Card Commanders collect cards and then show one card to the trio's other two players.
- Card Commanders will then insert the selected card back into the deck and shuffle the deck.
- Card Commanders will place one candy kiss on the floor in front of the trio's two players. The Card Commander will then toss cards, one at a time, face up on the floor. When the previously selected card appears, players will attempt to be first to grab the candy kiss.
- After the first round, one of the two players will then become Card Commander and will repeat showing a card and then shuffling the deck before tossing cards one at a time.
- Everyone in each trio will get to be Card Commander twice.
- At the end of six rounds, give a candy kiss to any player who hasn't yet scooped up one or more pieces.
- Invite kids to eat their candies while talking about what they experienced.

Talk About It

Gather kids together for a discussion.

Ask: • How did you feel when you saw the wrong card flipped? the right card?

• How did you know for sure it was time to grab the candy?

• How do you know for sure Jesus is the only way to heaven?

Say: Ten cards, but only one got you the prize. It's the same way with Jesus: Jesus is the only way to heaven. And heaven is an amazing prize!

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

- Bibles
- playing cards (1 deck for every 13 kids)
- index cards (several per child)
- pens

Easy Prep: Write “life in heaven” on an index card for each child.

Set It Up

Say: We’re learning that Jesus is the only way to heaven. Jesus said he’s like a path that leads to heaven. But there’s something strange Jesus said about the kind of path he is.

Read Matthew 7:14.

Ask: • What do you think Jesus meant when he said the gateway to life (or God) is difficult?

• What are some things that are hard about being a Christian? Share your own example first, such as following God’s way when you want to go your own or being teased for being a Christian.

Say: Jesus is the only way to heaven. God made a way for us to be with him in heaven by sending Jesus to die for our sins and come back to life. But following Jesus isn’t always easy! Sometimes we’d rather do something wrong, but Jesus wants us to choose the right thing. Or people might make fun of us for being Christians. Maybe we’ll even lose some friends!

Let’s dig in to one reason it can be hard to follow Jesus. But first let’s play a game.

Play a Trading Game

Deal each child four cards.

Say: We’re going to play a trading game. Your goal is to have two matching pairs in your hand. For example, two 3’s and two jacks. In order to accomplish that, you’ll walk around the room and trade cards with each other. But you can’t see or ask what you’re trading for or tell anyone what you’re giving away. You have to just give up something you have and hope you’re trading for what you want. If not, trade that card, too!

Play for two to three minutes. It may be very challenging for anyone to win, and that’s okay!

Ask: • What was it like trading for something when you didn’t know if it was better than what you had?

• What would have made this game easier?

Say: In this game, you had to trade for something you couldn’t see in hopes it would be better than what you had. Let’s see how this is like following Jesus.

Deeper Bible: cont

Dig Deeper

Say: Jesus talked about giving up—or trading—things, too!

Read Mark 8:35-36.

Ask: • Jesus said to give up our lives for him. What are some things we give up when we love Jesus? Have kids write their answers on index cards, then share them aloud. Examples might include our own desires, friends, popularity, or reputation.

• How do you know giving up all those things is worth it?

Say: Jesus said the trade is definitely worth it. In fact, hanging on to what we have but losing our souls is a bad deal for us! Let's look at a guy who was faced with a trade. He was really rich, and he came to Jesus to find out how to get to heaven. Here's what Jesus said.

Read Matthew 19:21.

Ask: • Do you think this trade is worth it? Explain.

Invite kids to make the trade by exchanging all their index cards for the ones you wrote "life in heaven" on. Kids can also add to the cards other things they gain, such as joy, peace, and forgiveness.

Say: The rich man walked away. He didn't take Jesus' trade. He must not have thought it was a good one—after all, he couldn't see what he was trading for. But here's how we know the trade is worthwhile.

Read 2 Corinthians 4:17-18.

Ask: • How does this help you understand what you're trading for?

Say: Being a Christian can be hard when we fix our eyes on the things we can see...the things we're giving up. But making that trade is so worth it! We're trading for a glory that vastly outweighs anything we can have on earth. Trading something we can see for something we can't may not always be a good deal—but when it comes to Jesus, it is! Jesus' deal is so much better than anything we might already have. Jesus is the only way to heaven, and being with God forever in heaven will be better than we can imagine!

Life Application:

Repeat a Prayer

Pray the following prayer, and allow time for kids to repeat each line. Kids will point up when they repeat each line.

- *Pray:* Jesus, thank you that you are the only way to God. Pause for kids to repeat the prayer.
- *Pray:* Jesus, thank you that you are the only way to hope. Pause for kids to repeat the prayer.
- *Pray:* Jesus, thank you that you are the only way to heaven. Pause for kids to repeat the prayer.
- *Pray:* Jesus, thank you that you are the only way to peace. Pause for kids to repeat the prayer.
- *Pray:* Jesus, thank you that you are the only way to joy. Pause for kids to repeat the prayer.
- *Pray:* Jesus, thank you that you are the only way to love. Pause for kids to repeat the prayer.
- *Pray:* Jesus, thank you for making a way. In your name, amen. Pause for kids to repeat the prayer.
- Thank kids for coming, and encourage them to come back 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!