

Sunday Teacher's Lesson for Children

Life of Christ

The Narrow Door

Luke 13:22-30

Younger Verse

Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. Revelation 3:20

Older Verse

Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him and he with me. Revelation 3:20

Welcome Time

Have you ever noticed how many kinds of doors there are? (Let the kids name things like dutch doors, revolving doors, car doors, little dog doors, etc.) Share that today's lesson is about a special kind of door.

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Jesus and His friends walked to many towns and villages telling people about God's love. As they went to the towns, they were getting closer and closer to the big city of Jerusalem.

As Jesus was talking, someone in the crowd asked Jesus a question. The man wondered how many people were going to Heaven.

Instead of answering the man, Jesus shared a picture story to help people see the right way to go.

Jesus told the crowd to be sure to enter through the narrow door. A narrow door is a very thin, little door. Unlike a big, huge door, a person has to squeeze through a narrow door. Most likely a person cannot be carrying anything to get through the door.

Jesus' answer may have sounded like a puzzle. What does a door have to do with heaven? Jesus was trying to help the people see the way to heaven. Some people wrongly thought that ALL people or ALL ways go to heaven. That would be like a big, wide door that lets everyone in.

Jesus helped the people see that the way to heaven is like a narrow door because there is only ONE way to get to heaven—by believing in Jesus. It is also narrow because only one person can go through the door at a time. That means that we cannot rely on someone else to get us in to heaven. If our mom,

Lesson Goals

Tell the difference between the narrow door and the wide door
Share why we must follow God and not do things our own selfish way

sister, aunt, or friend believes in Jesus, that will not help us get in.

Also, we cannot take anything with us through the narrow door. That means we must love God above all things. If we love something more than God it would be like trying to carry it through the narrow door. It simply won't fit. God tells us that he must be the most important thing in our lives.

Jesus goes on to tell the crowd some shocking news. One day the door will close. It will longer be open when people want to come in. That means one day Jesus will come back. If a person has chosen the narrow door, they are going to heaven. If someone never chose Jesus or chose the wide, big door or selfishness, they will not be going to heaven. No one will be able to change their decision once Jesus comes.

That sounds so harsh. Why won't God let people in the door when they are trying so desperately to get in. There is a reason. God has given us all chances or opportunities to trust in Jesus. We all must make a decision to follow Jesus and enter the narrow door, or do things ourselves and enter the wide, big door.

One day Jesus promises that He will come back. When that time comes, it will be an amazingly, wonderful time where all who believe in Jesus will see Him face to face and thank Him for what He did for us. You see, Jesus is the One who made a way for us to have a door to heaven. Jesus died on a cross to pay the price for all the wrong things we have done (sin). If you believe and trust in Jesus and tell Him you are sorry for all your sin, Jesus will forgive your sin and come into your life. He will stay with you and help you through all the difficult times in your life. Do you want to know more about Jesus? Talk to us about it anytime.

Learning Activities

Be sensitive to the children. There may be some who have never thought about their future and want to choose the narrow door. Be careful not to scare kids into making a decision. They should choose Jesus out of love, not out of fright.

Memory Verse Activities

This is a great verse to use with charades. Help the kids remember the verse by using all kinds of motions. Or, let them help you make them up!

Prayer Time

Share prayer requests and pray. You may want to hold hands, huddle, or pray silently. Make sure the kids see the importance of prayer and how God answers prayers.

Snack Time/CleanUp

As you eat together, there are often opportunities to learn more and ask questions. Look for those teachable moments to help the kids learn.

Planning for Sept. 5th
The Lost Sheep and Coin
Luke 15:1-10

Preschool Lesson
For
The Narrow Door

(Teachers: this is an important story with a meaning. Unfortunately, small children only can think in concrete terms and will not comprehend all that is being said. Be sensitive to help the kids see that we should love Jesus and follow Him.)

Once, while Jesus was talking to a crowd, a man asked Jesus a question. He wanted to know how many people would go to heaven.

Jesus answered him by telling a little picture story about a door. He helped the crowd see that going to heaven was like going through a little, narrow door.

Narrow is a word that means small, or little. If you think about a narrow door, it would be a door that a person would have to SQUEEZE through. All kids are very small and can get through all kinds of doors. Grown ups are much bigger. It is hard to squeeze through some doors!

When we believe and trust in Jesus, we are telling Him that we want to do things God's way instead of our way. We are choosing the narrow door—God's door.

Jesus was telling the crowd how important it was to love Jesus and do things God's way. He was helping them see that the only way to heaven was by believing in Jesus.

Jesus loves us so much. He cares for us and wants us to care for others. He wants us to love Him and help others know who He is.

Pray and thank Jesus for caring for us.

Hands-on Activities for The Narrow Door

Make “Door” snacks. Bring graham crackers, frosting and small M & M’s. Frost the graham cracker “door” with frosting and add an M & M for the door knob. Enjoy!

Our lesson today doesn’t mention anything about a key to the door. We can remember the Jesus is the key to get us through the door. Bring old keys for the kids to see. Let them keep one to remember the lesson. Another idea is to make rubbings of the keys by placing paper over the key and rubbing it with a crayon.

Let the kids draw a picture of a Narrow Door and a Wide Door. Let them make their own maze and the end result should be the narrow door!

Let’s make a deal was an old show where a person got to pick 1 of 3 doors. Make up a version of the show by having 3 “doors” (possibly pieces of paper) to choose from. You may have questions about the story to answer or fun things to do. Bring silly prizes for all.

Sometimes people have secret knocks to get into doors. Have fun making up a secret knock together.

Set up a fun Door obstacle course. One way will be wide and easy. The other way narrow. Talk about what it was like going through the narrow space. Talk about how sometimes choosing Jesus means we cannot participate in things that others do. Share how important it is to choose Jesus and the narrow door.

One person wrote that there are no big heads or broad shoulders that can go through the narrow door. Talk about what that means. Share how big egos or pride make people want to get attention instead of Jesus. Things like this cause people to choose the wide door where THEY become more important than Jesus.

Some people may laugh at us for choosing the narrow way because it is harder. Remember that you know where the narrow door (and the wide door) leads. The narrow door leads to heaven! That’s the best door to choose!