

Life of Christ

Jesus is Preparing a Place for Us

John 14:1-11

Younger Verse

Jesus said "I am the way. . . to the Father." John 14:6

Older Verse

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me." John 14:6

Bible Story

The following is a summary of the Bible story to help supplement your preparation. In your personal study time, use this summary as a guide, and make notes to help you remember your plans for the lesson. Please do NOT read to the children.

Do you have a special trip that you and your family make? Maybe to Grandma's or to a certain lake where you go camping? Do you travel the same way every time? If your trip is like my trips were, there is probably more than one way to travel to wherever it is you are going, even if you do travel the same roads every time.

Do you remember that we talked about Peter last week? He and ten of Jesus' followers were still around the table with Jesus after their special supper. Jesus was trying to prepare His followers for His death and told them that where He was about to go they could not follow Him immediately. Peter asked Jesus, "Why can't I follow you?" Peter, nor the others, completely understood Jesus. They did not really understand that He wouldn't just be going to visit Mary, Martha and Lazarus or even to the Sea of Galilee. Jesus was going to heaven! But how do you get to heaven, where Jesus said He was going? In our lesson today, from the book of John, we read Jesus' explanation.

Jesus knew that His followers did not understand everything. He knew that they were a little worried and upset. Jesus shared some things with them to encourage them and make them feel better. He said, "Don't worry. You trust in God don't you? Trust me, too." When we trust in God and Jesus, there is no room for worry in our lives. God is all powerful and there isn't anything He cannot do! It's like that song that we sing, "My God is so Big."

Jesus also told His friends that in heaven, His Father's house, there are many places to live! There really are! Jesus even reminded them that He was going there. Jesus was trying to make things very clear for His disciples. He said that once He was in heaven, He would

Lesson Goals

To see that Jesus is preparing a place for those who follow Him.
To understand that there is no other way to God except through His Son, Jesus Christ.

get a place ready for them! Can you believe it! Have you ever seen your mom or grandmother preparing an extra room when they knew a guest was coming to visit them? Jesus is doing the same. He knows who is coming to visit Him and when they will arrive. And not just that. Jesus told them that if He was going to heaven to make a place ready for them, that He would come again one day and get them so that they could be where He was. Jesus told them that they already knew how to get there.

But Thomas, one of Jesus' disciples, told Jesus that they didn't know where He was going. And if they didn't know where He was going how could they know the way? Have you ever tried to go to a new place without directions? It is almost impossible! You have no idea where to even begin. Jesus answered Thomas very clearly and said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me." What did Jesus mean by that? Jesus was making sure His followers understood that He is the way to God. Do you remember that we talked about there being many different ways to go to Grandma's or to the lake? Well, many people believe that there are also many ways to get to God, or to go to heaven. But what did Jesus say? He said He was the way. Jesus is not one of the ways to get to heaven. Jesus is the only way to God, the only way to get to heaven. You cannot get to God by doing a lot of good things. You cannot get to heaven just because your family is in heaven. And you cannot get to heaven by following great teachers or world leaders. You can only get to heaven by believing in Jesus Christ. He is the One God sent so long ago to die for your sin and for my sin. Have you believed in and do you follow Jesus? Have you chosen Him as the Way to reach God? Will you be with me one day in those places Jesus is getting ready for us? If you have, are you sharing Jesus with others? If you haven't, don't wait. Choose Him today!

**Memory Verse
Activity**

Make road signs. One way signs with an arrow are a good choice. Print the memory verse on your road sign.

Prayer Time

Pray, thanking God for showing us how to be with Him! Thank Him for sending Jesus to be the way.

Preparing for Next Week

Lesson 34
Jesus Will Send Us a Helper
John 14:12-18, 25-31

Preschool Lesson

Following the Leader

Sing: “O, You Can’t Get to Heaven”

Teach: How many of you have ever gotten lost? Maybe you were in the store with your mom and you wandered away but couldn’t figure out how to get back to her. Or maybe you were at the park or the lake or on the beach and you were so busy playing in the sand that when you looked up, you were not in the same place and you couldn’t see your parents or your friends. It is pretty scary to be lost, isn’t it? Don’t you think that if you had stayed right with your mom or dad or your friends, and not wandered away, that you would not have gotten lost? I think so! Well, our lesson from the Bible tells us who to follow and why!

In our lesson, Jesus is still talking to His followers after their special supper. Jesus knows that He is about to die on the cross for each of them and for me and for you. He wants them to know that they will see Him again one day. Jesus tells them that He is about to go away, but that He will come back! Jesus was going to heaven, but He told His friends that while He was there in heaven, in His Father’s house, He would be doing something special. He would be getting a room, or house or mansion, a place ready for John and for Peter, and for Thomas and for each of them. Jesus told them that they already knew how to get to this special place, but they didn’t know that they knew how. Jesus told them that He was the way to get there. All they had to do was follow Him as their leader and one day, they would be able to be with Him in that special place He was preparing! They would one day be Jesus’ neighbor in heaven.

Do you know that you, too, can be Jesus’ neighbor in heaven. All you have to do is follow Him and trust Him. When you do, He will get a place ready for you, as well! Wouldn’t you like that? I like it very much, and I can’t wait to see what a wonderful place He has prepared. But until He is ready to show me, my responsibility is to follow Him! He is the way to God!

Pray: Thank you, Jesus, for making a way for me to be with God and thank you for getting a place ready for me!

Activities

- Provide coloring pages and word puzzles that will enhance what you have taught today.
- Construct houses or mansions to resemble those that Jesus is preparing for us. Possible materials might include straws and paper clips, craft sticks and glue, or building blocks.
- Make mini-mansions. Collect shoe boxes, one for each student. Using fabric pieces, wallpaper samples, glitter, etc. allow students to decorate their mansions. Make mini-furniture using match boxes, card stock, etc.
- Play “Road Sign Bingo.” Make Bingo cards. Use pictures of road signs in the squares.
- Play “Follow the Leader.” Explain that following our Leader, Jesus, is the right way and the only way to get to God in heaven.
- Make a poster for your class space. Using road maps, cut out large letters that spell “One Way.” Attach these to a large poster board and print out John 14:6 under the letters.
- Sing “O, You Can’t Get to Heaven,” “My God is So Big,” “Do Lord” with second verse, “For God So Loved the World,” “I’m Gonna Sing, I’m Gonna Shout,” “Following the Leader,” “Come and Go With Me, “When We All Get to Heaven.”