



Date: _____
Series: We Are In God's Family (Spring)
Year 2, Lesson 56

Jesus is the Way Into God's Family

Bible Event: John 14:5-7

Take Home Point: *JESUS IS THE WAY – *I belong to God's family.*

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. The leader will say the first part of the phrase (CAPS). The children respond with the second part of the phrase (*italics*).

Jesus Link: When I believe Jesus died for me, I am a part of his family.

What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:

- Kids will learn that Jesus is our “ticket” to heaven. Because Jesus paid the debt of our sin by giving his life on the cross, we get to belong to God's family here on earth and eventually in heaven. When we love and trust Jesus, we will get to see him face to face in heaven some day. Kids will take home the point: ***JESUS IS THE WAY – *I belong to God's family.***
- Children will respond to God's love as they pray to him, thanking him for loving them and giving them Jesus. They will offer him their songs of worship, their offerings, and their actions of love as they actively learn God's word.



Welcome Zone: (15-20 minutes)

Purpose: While kids arrive, give them a simple learning readiness activity that requires minimal supervision. This might include a video, games, blocks, or puzzles.

Video Suggestion: List a video, if available.

Activity Suggestion: Blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons.



Opening Worship: (10-15 minutes)

Children can bring forward the cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box. The treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event. Open with a simple prayer, having the children repeat after you. Collect offering and talk about how God will use it.

Praise Songs:

Choose two or three songs and list them here.

Bible Event: Illustrating a Concept

Using objects or props, a concept is illustrated that presents to the children a vivid image of God's truth.

Set up a movie theater in a separate section of the room from where the Bible event would normally take place. If possible, make the "theater" as realistic as possible. For example: set up chairs in rows, rope off the "theater" section of the room, project the movie onto a screen or wall if possible, and set up a concession stand with small cups of popcorn for the children. Show any short video of your choice. Recommendations include any video from the Veggie Tales series or the Beginner's Bible series.

The most important part of this scenario is that the children must receive a ticket as they enter Kids Church that is their ticket into the movie theater. The ticket (purchased or cut out of construction paper) should have a simple cross drawn on one side. An adult or helper should stand at the entrance to the theater and collect tickets as children are admitted into the theater. Remind the children that no one will be admitted into the movie without a ticket.

Once all children are admitted and seated in the theater, show the video of your choice. (Show as much as time permits to finish the rest of the lesson. Use your discretion.) Once the video has ended, move children back to the normal teaching area and explain as follows.

Did you have fun watching that movie? It was like going to a real movie theater. You needed a ticket and everything. That reminds me

about something very important from the Bible. You see, you each had a ticket to get into the movie. It was your way in. Jesus once said that he is our way into God's family. He said, *"I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except by me."* Jesus is just like a ticket. He is our way into God's family and into heaven to be with God and Jesus some day.

How did Jesus become the Way? Does anybody know? (Give the kids a hint. Show them a ticket with a cross on it.) **These tickets that we used for the movie remind us of something very special. They remind us that Jesus became our Way into God's family by giving his life for our sins when he died on the cross. When we receive this gift – Jesus – by believing in him, then we get to be part of Jesus' family forever. Someday we will be in heaven with him, too. Today, let's remember that Jesus is just like a ticket – he is our way into God's family when we love and trust him. Remember: *JESUS IS THE WAY – I belong to God's family.**



Action Zones: (20-30 minutes)

Purpose: Children move at their leisure to the activities according to their interest. Adults are assigned to oversee each of the zones, watching for safety, assisting any activity, and helping the children connect to the lesson of the day. All zones are introduced at the beginning of Zone Time. Some suggested zones are included below. It is usually best to have all children go to the Snack Zone first. Sing a blessing song or say a snack prayer together before dismissing to the zones.

During the Zone Time, children may arrive from mid-service dismissal. If this is an option at your church, be prepared to welcome the children and invite them to choose a zone.

Snack Zone: Give each child a fourth of a graham cracker (a rectangle.) Help them use white (or any other color) tube icing and draw a cross on the cracker to resemble the “Jesus” ticket from the Bible event. Provide each child an additional graham cracker or two to eat, if desired.

Drama Zone: Give children flashlights and hats and let them act as “workers” and moviegoers in the theater.

Puppet Zone: Let the children use puppets to explain to each other how Jesus is the way.

Craft Zone: Have children color and decorate the Jesus ticket template copied onto cardstock.

Play Zone: Hand out tickets and set up a variety of carnival games for kids to play. Have each game require a ticket and let them choose what they want to play. Examples of games: ring toss onto bowling pins or two liter bottles, throwing balls or bean bags to knock down stacked cans, throwing bean bags into buckets or hula hoops, duck pond, etc. Award small prizes or candy, if desired.

Quiet Reading Zone: Basket of books.

Music Zone: Your choice of music.

Coloring Zone: “Jesus is the Way” coloring page.



Closing Worship: (20 minutes)

Purpose: As you empty the zones and clean up, begin the music so the children can start wandering over.

Worship Songs:

Choose one or two songs and list them here.

Bible Application with Puppet Presentation:

Purpose: The puppet demonstrates the need that will be met in today's lesson. The scripts are not written verbatim, but give a story line in which the group leader can interact with the puppet.

Bubba comes onto stage with several tickets in his hand. The presenter wants to know what Bubba has tickets for. Is he going to a show after church, maybe Sesame Street Live? No, Bubba is selling the tickets. He's selling tickets for people to get into church. For five dollars, anyone can come! The presenter tells Bubba that he can't sell tickets to church. Anyone can come without any tickets.

Bubba thinks quickly. He decides the tickets he's selling are for heaven. He bets people would pay a lot of money for those. The presenter explains that Bubba can't sell tickets to heaven, either. That's not how you get to heaven. You don't need a ticket for heaven. Bubba asks the presenter, "Doesn't it cost anything to get into heaven?"

The presenter explains that it actually costs a great deal to get into heaven, but we don't have to pay for it. Someone already did. He asks the children if they know who. He explains that Jesus paid the price for us by dying on the cross. Our sins would keep us out of heaven, but Jesus took all the punishment of our sin for us and paid the way for us to get into heaven. All we have to do is love and trust Jesus, and we get to be part of his family and eventually go to heaven. Jesus is the ticket. Remember: ***JESUS IS THE WAY – I belong to God's family.**

Prayer Time:

Purpose: Allow children to contribute their own prayers. This will teach them to turn to God in both good times and in times of trouble. End with the Lord's Prayer.

"Children Pray" Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Train Option:** Children line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone and speak their brief prayers of thanksgiving.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Children stand in a circle around one child sitting on a chair in the middle. All children in the circle will lay a hand on the child sitting in the chair as they say a prayer together.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and taps children on the head to stand and speak their prayer.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire prayer along with you.

Blessing:

May God, who is all around you,
pour his love upon you.

(Beginning at the bottom of the circle, slowly make a large circle with your hands. Finish by bringing your hands down and wiggling your fingers to resemble rain.)

And Jesus, his life a sacrifice,
walk right there beside you.

(Slowly make a large sign of the cross. Then move your hands out to the sides.)

And may God's Holy Spirit,
the one who lives inside you,

(Cross hands over your heart.)

keep you strong,
comfort, lead and guide you!

(Move to a "strong man" position. Then cross your arms with your hands on corresponding upper arms to communicate comfort. Bring one hand forward with "lead" and the other with "guide" to complete the blessing.)

Song of Sending:

Choose one song and list it here.



Closing Zones:

Purpose: Children go to an activity zone, such as the coloring zone, quiet reading zone, and children's Christian music video zone, as they wait for their parents.

Supplies:

Welcome Zone:

- blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons

Opening Worship:

- Bible
- tickets with cross drawn on one side (could be purchased or cut out of construction paper)
- video of your choice and player
- chairs
- screen for projecting
- ropes or streamers
- paper cups filled with popcorn
- any additional “movie theater” props available to you

Action Zones:

Snack:

- graham crackers
- white tube frosting

Drama:

- flashlights
- hats

Craft:

- Jesus ticket template copied onto cardstock
- crayons and markers
- glitter glue
- stickers

Play:

- ring toss rings
- bowling pins or two-liter bottles
- small balls or bean bags
- cans to stack
- buckets or hula hoops
- rubber ducks in a water pond
- small prizes or candy

Quiet Reading:

- basket of books

Music:

- your choice of music

Puppet:

- various puppets

Color:

- coloring page
- crayons and markers
- plain paper

Closing Worship:

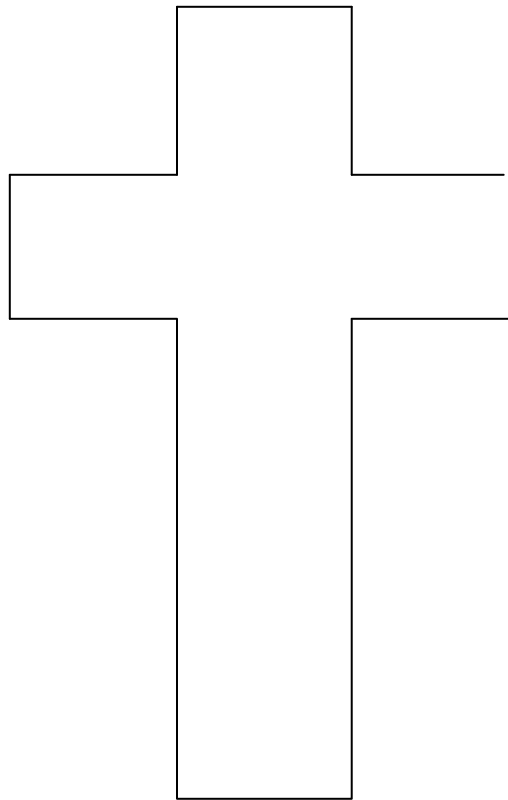
- Bubba, the puppet
- tickets

Closing Zones:

- colored pencils
- paper
- basket of books

Template:

**My Ticket
Into God's Family**



Jesus is the Way