

The “I am....” Statements of Jesus

Lesson 7

“I am the way, and the truth, and the life.”

Jesus Christ: the Only Way to the Father

Learning Outcomes:

- Request, give and follow directions to familiar places
- Listen to and identify true and false statements about people and places
- Understand that Jesus is the only way to God the Father
- Understand that Jesus Christ is the source of all truth
- Understand that without Jesus we are spiritually dead, but with Jesus we have new, eternal life and a place in heaven
- Recognise that Jesus is God Himself, who always was, is, and will be. When we know Jesus, we know God the Father.

Session length: 2 hours

Stage One: Lead-in/language activities

Activity	Resources
Welcome the students and open in prayer.	
<p>Draw a very simple map on the whiteboard, marking a ‘you are here’ spot and labelling familiar places: school, college, Post Office, bus station, café, supermarket, hospital, park, railway station, church.</p> <p>Check students’ understanding of useful phrases (select according to the level of the students): ‘Turn right/left (at the junction/roundabout/traffic lights/shop)’, ‘Go straight on’, ‘Take the first/second/third left/right’, ‘Cross the road’, ‘It’s on your right/left/opposite the bank/next to the café.’</p> <p>Tell the students that you are going to give directions to the places on the map without saying the place names. Direct the students to listen carefully as you read the directions out twice. Tell the students to write down the places in the order that they hear them. If necessary, practise as a group first.</p> <p>Elicit group feedback by asking different students to mark each route and destination on the map on the whiteboard as you read out the directions again.</p>	<p>Whiteboard and pens (prepared map)</p> <p>Prepared directions Paper and pens</p>
<p>Draw out from the students the following simple dialogue to use when asking for directions. Put it on the whiteboard:</p> <p>Excuse me. Can you tell me the way to the Post Office, please?</p> <p>- Yes, of course. Turn left. Cross the road. Go straight on. It’s on your right/left.</p>	Whiteboard and pens

<p>- No, I'm sorry. I'm not from around here. Thank you (anyway).</p> <p>Read the dialogue as a group, check the students' understanding, and drill pronunciation where necessary.</p> <p>Divide the group into pairs. Give two place names to each student (include their own homes). Tell the students to take it in turns to ask for directions to the places on their slips of paper (without reading from the whiteboard).</p> <p>Ask the group if any pair would like to show the whole class their conversation. Praise students for good language use and improvisation.</p> <p>Ask the group if it is easier to listen and follow directions or to be <i>taken</i> there by someone who knows the place well (e.g. their home).</p>	<p>Local place names on slips of paper</p>
<p>Stick up 'True' and 'False' signs at either end of the classroom. Instruct the students to stand in the middle of the room.</p> <p>Make true and false statements about people and places (examples below). Direct the students to listen and decide whether each statement is true or false, running to the appropriate sign. Instruct any students who run to the wrong sign to sit down. The 'winner' or 'winners' are those who remain standing when all the sentences have been read out.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>London is north of Leeds.</i> - <i>To reach Tesco, go out of the Centre, cross the road and turn right.</i> - <i>The Post Office is opposite the bus station</i> - <i>Ali's house is near the Centre.</i> - <i>Nelson Mandela is alive.</i> - <i>A baby's life starts after it has been born.</i> - <i>I have lived in Yorkshire all my life.</i> - <i>Sara shares a house with Rebekah.</i> - <i>Cardiff is in Scotland.</i> - <i>There is one room in God's house.</i> - <i>We can know God.</i> - <i>Jesus is alive.</i> - <i>Jesus is coming back one day.</i> 	<p>True and false signs</p>
<p>Tea/coffee break</p>	

Stage Two: Bible Study

Activity	Resources
<p>Introduce the Bible passages by setting the two contexts: Jesus talking to His followers <i>before</i> His death (John 14); Jesus had been put on a cross to die, even though He has done nothing wrong (Matthew 27).</p> <p>Show the class where the passages are in the Bible.</p>	Bible
<p>Read the passages, with the learners following on their sheet, marking any new words.</p> <p>Ask the students what the passages are about.</p> <p>Elicit new/difficult words from the students and put them on the whiteboard. Ask if anyone can explain the words, one at a time. If not, provide an explanation with examples/pictures/mime/ sound effects.</p> <p>When all the new words have been put on the board and the meanings are clear, elicit the syllable and stress pattern of each word and drill it chorally and individually as appropriate.</p> <p>The passages can then be read again by the students.</p> <p>Remind the students that we are looking at the name of God. Elicit what that is: I AM WHO I AM. Ensure that the students understand the meaning: the God who always lives and is always with His people; the One who was, is, and will be forever.</p> <p>Ask the students to identify all the ‘I am’ phrases in John 14.</p>	Bible passage: John 14 v.1-7 Matthew 27 v.50-54 Whiteboard and pens
<p>Divide the class into two groups, each led by a support assistant. Direct the small two groups to discuss some or all of the following questions (written on the board):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. (a) Which place is Jesus speaking about in John 14 v.2-4? (b) What does Jesus tell His followers about that place? 2. Look at v.4. What is the way to that place? 3. Why did Jesus say “<i>I am</i> the way, and the truth, and the life.”? Why didn’t he say, “I <i>have</i> the way....”? 4. (a) What happened when Jesus died? (b) Why did these things happen? 5. How can we know God? 6. What is Jesus like? 7. What do we need to do to have a place in God’s family and in God’s house? Read John 14 v.1. <p>Elicit whole-group feedback and clarify any issues.</p>	Whiteboard and pens

The notes below are to help you explain the Gospel to the learners, but they are not a script that you must stick to. You know your own learners' needs and levels. Ensure that one way or another, the Gospel is clearly communicated.

We are all born with hearts full of *sin* (badness), but God is 100% good. Because of this sin, we cannot come close to God and have a place in His house (heaven). (*You could illustrate this sin blockage by resting a book on your hand, and pointing to the ceiling. The book represents all your sin, the hand represents you, and the ceiling represents God in heaven.*) Only perfect Jesus, God Himself, could be the way for us to come to God: Jesus took away *all* sin. (*Show your other 'clean' hand, which represents Jesus who can come close to the Father because He is free from sin.*) All sin was put on Jesus at the cross. (*Illustrate our sin blockage being removed by passing the book from one hand, you, to the other hand, Jesus. Show that we are now free from sin and can come close to God the Father, because of God the Son, Jesus.*) Jesus gives us new, good, clean hearts, free from the power of sin. Jesus died so that we could be forgiven (have sin removed), if we believe and receive God's gift of forgiveness.

When Jesus died, **God** opened the curtain which had kept people away from Him. (*Demonstrate this by tearing a piece of paper from top to bottom.*) Jesus' body was torn open, the earth opened and the graves opened. All this showed that the way to God was now open, and that way is Jesus Christ. The soldiers at the cross saw Jesus' true identity: the Son of God. **He** is the only way to God the Father for all people; through Jesus, everyone can know God as Father. Only He could be the way to God by taking away the power of sin. We cannot make our own way to God and to heaven because we are not perfect. No religion is the way to God. **The way is the perfect person of Christ, God's Son.** Jesus does not *show* us the way to God: He *is* the way to God.

After Jesus died, the graves were opened and many of God's people came back to life! Jesus died so that we could have life in Him. He *is* the life. We can have life, a place in God's family, and a place in His house when we **trust** in Him. Without Him, we are dead spiritually (inside). He gives us new life forever that starts now and continues in heaven. Jesus took away the power of death because He lived, died and came alive again.

Jesus is the truth: the true way that leads to life. Our own way leads to death. (*Draw on the whiteboard two paths: 'Jesus' who leads to the Father/heaven/life, and 'my way' which leads to separation from God/hell/death.*) We have to choose: Jesus or my own way. We must **repent**, which means changing direction, walking in Jesus, the way, not going in my own way which leads away from God.

We can know God, not just know *about* Him. We have a way to know Him as the Father who is life and truth. He is full of power and love. We can know Him because Jesus is the way: Jesus is

Book

Sheet of paper

Whiteboard and pens

<p>100% the same as God the Father. Jesus showed God’s love by giving His life (dying) for all people. He showed God’s power by coming alive again three days later. He promised that He would die and come alive again. Everything that He says is truth. Jesus came to show us the Father and He came to be the way to the Father. Jesus is God. If we know Jesus, we know the Father.</p> <p>Jesus says “<i>I am</i>” not “<i>I have</i>” because Jesus <i>Himself</i> is the way to God, the truth, the life. He shows that He is God by using God’s name for Himself (which God told Moses). God’s Name means He always lives with His people. Jesus is Immanuel, God <i>with</i> us. He was there before the world was made, He is alive now and He will be with His people forever.</p> <p><u>(Read also John 8 v.23-30. Notice Jesus’ repeated use of ‘I am’ in reference to His identity and mission.)</u></p> <p>Summarise (putting these points on the whiteboard):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jesus Christ is God Himself. - Jesus is the only way for us to know God the Father. - He is the only truth. There is no other. - He is the life. Without Him, we are dead in our sins. 	
<p>Put students into pairs, labelling them as ‘A’ and ‘B’. Give all the ‘A’s directions to different places in the building. Tell the ‘A’s to read the directions and to lead the ‘B’s to the different places where two words from the John 14 v.6 have been placed.</p> <p>Instruct the students to work as a whole group. Tell them to put their words into the correct order and then read the verse as a group.</p> <p>Highlight that when someone (who knows the way) <i>takes</i> you to the place, it is much easier than following the directions that someone <i>tells</i> you. This is the difference between Jesus and religion: Jesus does not <i>tell</i> us the way to go. He IS the true way that leads to life. Following religion or living any other way is the <i>wrong</i> (false) way and we will get lost. Only when we go with Jesus, trusting in Him and repenting (changing direction), do we have 100% certainty that we will arrive at His home, heaven.</p>	<p>John 14 v.6 chopped up into separate words, sets of directions to places in the building</p>
<p>Pray to close.</p> <p>Introduce the topic of the next sessions: other characteristics of God that Jesus shows us.</p>	

True

False