



Monday 11th May

Afternoon Activity RE

I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE LESSON

Lesson linked to the Gospel from Sunday 10th May.

Introduction:

Show Slide 2: There was a time when a person going on a trip wouldn't think of beginning their journey without a road map. Today we seldom ever use a road map. Do you know why? Most of us who own a car also have a GPS in our car. How does the GPS work? When you are ready to go somewhere, you type in the address where you want to go and the GPS connects to a satellite up above the earth and computes the path to your destination. As soon as you start driving, a voice from the GPS gives you exact directions. What happens if you miss your turn? The GPS says, "Recalculating" and immediately computes a new route to get you back on the right path to your destination.

Introduction Activity:

Have your child/children close their eyes.

While the eyes are closed take an object and hide it.

Have the children open their eyes and tell them about the object that you have hidden.

Explain to the children that you are going to give them directions to find the object. However, you are going to give the children the wrong directions, you are going to lead them away from the object.

After a minute or two, have the children come back and ask: Have you been given the wrong directions?

What happened? Has someone ever told you a lie? Why is telling the truth so important? Explain to them that there is only one true way to find the object. Give the correct directions. Was it easier to find the object when I told you the truth?

Share the scripture reading below (slide 3) and then discuss the meaning with the children (see below).

John 14:2-6 – words from the Last Supper.

In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

The disciples were sad Jesus was going away Jesus told them about His Father's house. Jesus told them the way to Heaven, Jesus is the Way. To know Jesus is to know the Way. The disciples were sad that Jesus was going away. Have you ever gone on a trip? Where did you go? Before you left, what did you do? Discuss.

At the Last Supper, Jesus told His friends that He was going away. His friends were very sad. Why do you think they were sad? Jesus knew that His friends couldn't go with Him right then, and He told them so. That made them even sadder. Then Jesus told them something to make them feel better. Jesus told them about His Father's house. Jesus said, "In my Father's house there are many rooms." Where is God's house? What do you think it means that there are many rooms in God's house? Jesus also said, "I am going there to prepare a place for you..." There are lots of rooms in God's house, and Jesus Himself is getting a place ready for us.

Then Jesus said something else... Jesus said "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." Then Jesus told them the way to Heaven. Jesus said, "You know the way to the place I am going." One of Jesus' disciples (Thomas) pointed that they didn't even know where Jesus was going so, how could they know the way. Jesus said, "I am the way." Jesus is the Way to God the Father. Jesus is the Way to God's house, Jesus is the Way to Heaven.

Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." That means that Jesus is the way, and that He is the only way. To know Jesus is to know the Way. Jesus wanted us to know that He had to leave, but that He is coming back. Jesus also wanted us to know that there is room for any of us who want to come, in Heaven with God the Father. Jesus wanted us to know that He is the Way to the Father.

When we are trying to follow Jesus in our daily life, it would be nice to have a GPS to lead us in the right direction, wouldn't it? It would be nice to have something to keep us on the right path and keep us from getting lost...something that would help us get back on the right track when we made a wrong decision.

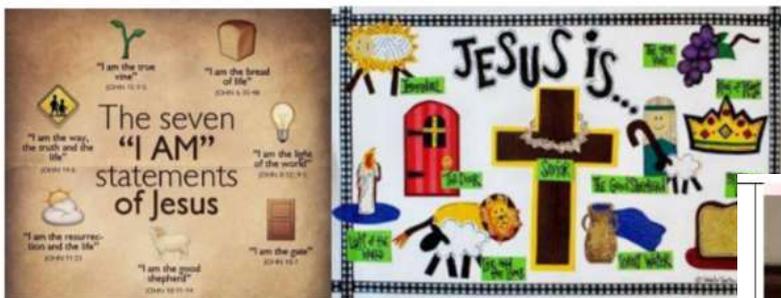
The seven 'I am..' statements - Jesus said seven 'I am...' statements about himself – look at the seven statements on slide 5 and discuss their meaning with an adult.

Finish with the prayer on slide

Lesson Activities:

KS1 - Holy Word Path: Give children paper and crayons and pencils to write today's Bible verse (Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.") in a path around their sheet of paper - as in a circle or a squiggly path, etc. Tell children the words have to be in the right order but the path can go anywhere on the paper. Then you can decorate it.

KS2 - The seven 'I am..' statements - Create their own poster in the style of the ones below and on show slide 5. For older children, you may wish to give them the Bible references and have them look them up for themselves.



Additional activities for your family, if required:
 I am the Way code breaker – see attached sheet.
 Children to write their own "I am..." statements and record in their own way be as creative as possible.

