

Why I Believe Jesus Is the Only Way to Heaven

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Art by Dale Oates

Teaching Schedule

Teaching Hour

Introduction
Lesson/Review
Verse Drill
Activities

Teaching Objectives

Saved: That each child will be able to state with understanding why he believes Jesus is the only way to Heaven.

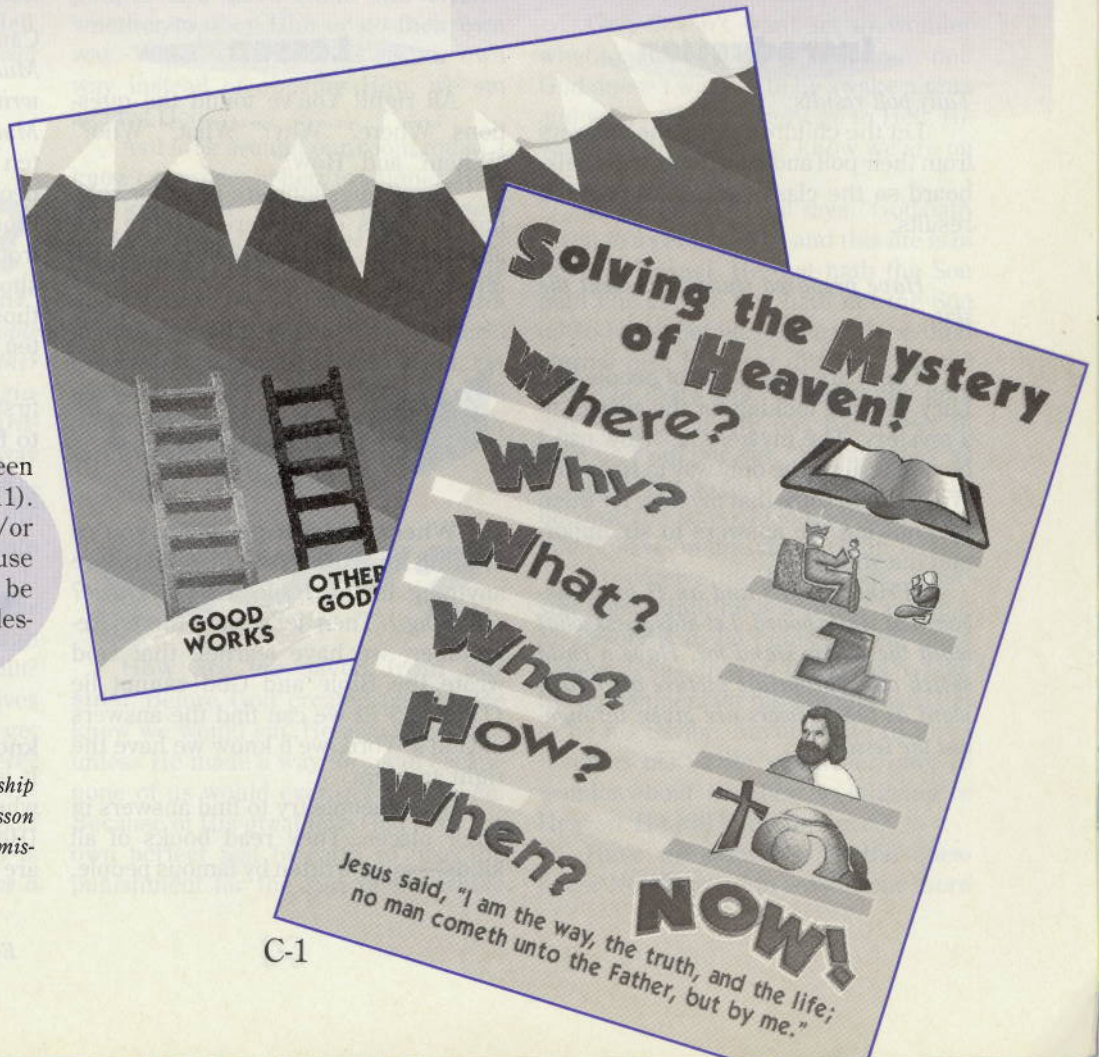
Unsaved: That any unsaved children will receive Christ as the only way to Heaven.

Proof Verse

“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6).

One-session training for Christian children ages 9-11.

Note to Teacher: This lesson has been written for the junior-age child (9-11). Poster B can be used for review and/or a wall poster. For primaries (6-8) use only the visuals. These charts can be presented as two different Gospel lessons with any curriculum.



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Visual Aids and Other Teaching Helps

Supplies

- Bible
- Poster from center of magazine
- Chalk or marker for white board
- One sheet red construction paper
- Small piece Plasti-Tak
- One Tootsie-Roll Pop per child, paper and pencil
- One Way to Heaven Guide (page C-5) for each student
- Match 'Em sheet (page 26) for each child
- 3 copies skit (page 25)
- Glue and pencils for children to place One Way to Heaven guide in their Bible
- Witnessing tool (page 27) for each child

Preparation

1. Open staples in center of magazine and carefully remove poster. Reclose staples.
2. Cut a cross from red construction paper, 4" x 12".
3. On a sheet of paper write the Tootsie-Roll Pop flavors and assign a point value to each: cherry—100, chocolate—200, grape—300, etc. Place candy in an opaque bag.
4. Optional: Print John 14:6 on a large sheet of paper.
5. Photocopy pages C-5, 25-27. The witnessing tool should be copied on card stock.

The week before teaching this lesson...

1. Challenge your students to take a poll. Have them ask three kids (not part of your church): "How does a person get to Heaven?" Give each child a large P for *poll*. They can use this as a reminder of the assignment and also write the answers on it and return the P to you. Offer a small prize and use the "prayer chain" telephone method to remind kids to do this.
2. Give copies of the skit (page 25) to two children who live near each other and can practice reading the skit with enthusiasm and feeling. Or, involve more kids by having early arrivals practice the skit and use different kids for starred (*) lines.

Introduction

Tally poll results

Let the children share the answers from their poll and tally them on a chalkboard so the class can see the overall results.

Have prepared students present the skit.

There are thousands of people like Lucy who are looking for the answer to a mystery. The mystery is, "How can I be *sure* Jesus is the only way to Heaven?" We can help solve that mystery for them by knowing the answers to six important questions.

(Print five W's and an H on chalkboard or white board. Let kids guess what word the letters stand for. Have a child sketch an appropriate picture after each word as the answers are given throughout the lesson.)

Lesson

All right! You've found the questions. "Where?" "Why?" "What?" "Who?" "When?" and "How?"

These questions are good for solving all kinds of mysteries. If we can answer them, we'll have solved the mystery for Lucy.

Where?

Where do you go when you're looking for truth? (The Bible!) Is there anything in the Bible that isn't true? (Nothing.) Then let's start there. Remember, we have learned that God wrote the Bible and God cannot lie (Titus 1:2). If we can find the answers in God's Word, we'll know we have the right answers.

Some people try to find answers in other places. They read books of all kinds—some written by famous people.

Can you name some? (Could include Muhammad, Buddha, and contemporary writers such as Shirley MacLaine and Muhammad Ali.) Some books are written by movie stars and scientists. But people can lie and make mistakes. So, if those books tell us something different from what we find in the Bible, what should we believe? (The Bible.) Even if those books are best-sellers and written by famous people? (Yes!)

OK, we know the answer to the first question—**Where should we go to find the truth?** The Bible.

The next question we must answer for people like Lucy is "Why?"

Why?

"Why is it important for you to know for sure the way to Heaven?" It is important because the Bible says when we die, we will all face judgment (Heb. 9:27). After that judgment, there are only two places you and I can go.

We will either go to Heaven or to Hell. Both are real places. But they are very, very different.

What do you know about Heaven? (Allow children to share what they know. Correct any misconceptions. Add to their knowledge: gates of pearl, no sin, no crying, no pain, we'll see loved ones who have gone there before us, angels and best of all, seeing the face of our loving Lord Jesus who we will be with forever.) Heaven is a beautiful, happy, loving place—Revelation 21-22.

But what about Hell? The Bible talks about it, too. Do you know anything about Hell? (Allow children to share their thoughts. Correct misconceptions. Add to their knowledge: fire that doesn't go out, place of darkness, separation from God, pain that is so bad it causes crying and grinding of teeth—Matthew 13:49-50; Revelation 20:11-15. The worst part is, there is no end to it. Hell, like Heaven, goes on forever. There is no hope of changing this awful, painful future.)

Why is it important for you to know for sure the way to Heaven? Because Hell is such a horrible place. Every person is going to Heaven or Hell.

The next question we must answer for people like Lucy is "What?"

What?

"What is the way to Heaven?" (Show poster A and discuss ways people try to reach Heaven: good works, other gods, church—include baptism and giving money—being a member of a Christian family.) The Bible tells us the way very clearly. Let's look at John 14:6—"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

Jesus says in this verse that *no one* comes to the Father except through Him. What "Father" is He talking about? That's right, God the Father, who lives in Heaven. So if someone wants to get to Heaven, how does he get there? Through Jesus.

(Read the verse again, injecting, "I am one of many ways to the Father.") Is that what Jesus said? No way! (Have a

child draw large number one after the question.)

When people tell you there are many different ways of getting to Heaven, are they right or wrong? (They are wrong.) Why do you believe that? (Jesus said He is the only way.)

Some people may really believe there are many ways to Heaven because no one has told them about Jesus or because they haven't read and believed the Bible.

Who?

Who is the Lord Jesus? (Have teams of two or more search John 1:1-4 and Colossians 1:15-20 and see how many things they can list about Jesus. Offer a small incentive for all who find six or more. Let team with largest list share and have other team check their list.)

The Lord Jesus is God's Son. He created the heavens and the earth. He is God in a human body. He created people and gave them the choice whether to obey Him or go their own way. When we choose to go our own way instead of obeying Him, we sin against God.

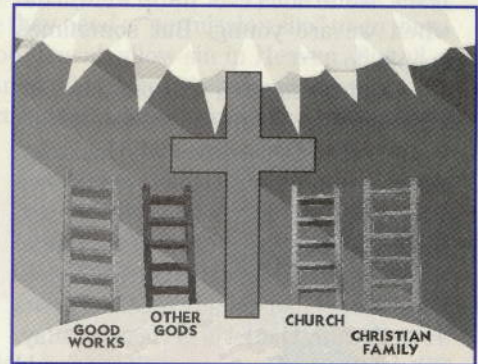
As I look around our room today, I know every person here is a sinner. How do I know that? (Because the Bible says all have sinned and come short of His glory—Rom. 3:23.) God is perfectly good but we are not. We have all broken His rules. Every person in this world deserves to be punished for his sin. Every person has been God's enemy and needs to be made His friend through forgiveness of sin.

How?

How are we saved from our sins? Before God created people, He knew we would sin. He also knew that unless He made a way for us to escape none of us would ever get to Heaven. Because of His great love God sent His own perfect Son to earth to take the punishment for the sins of the whole

world. God punished His own Son for your sins.

The Bible says that without the shedding (pouring out) of blood, there is no forgiveness of sin (Heb. 9:22). Jesus shed His blood and died on the cross so we could have our sins forgiven. Jesus was buried and after three days God raised Him from the grave. When Jesus was made alive again it was as if God was saying, "The price is paid. The punishment is enough." Jesus has made a way—one way—for sinners to get to Heaven. (With Plasti-Tak add to poster A a construction paper cross that reaches to Heaven.)



God doesn't want us to wonder whether we're going to Heaven or not. God doesn't want us to lie awake nights and worry that we might go to Hell. He wants us to be sure we know we are on our way to Heaven.

In 1 John 5:11-12, it says, "God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son [Jesus]. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." Where do we find eternal life? In many different places? (Only in God's Son.) Jesus is the only way to Heaven. He has the power to save us from our sin. "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name" (John 1:12).

To receive the Lord Jesus, a person must admit he is a sinner and that he deserves to be punished. He must believe Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for his sins and ask Him to be his Savior. Anyone who receives Jesus as his Savior will never have to wonder about whether he is going to Heaven. He will know for sure.

Have we answered all the questions? No. We need to answer one more

to solve this mystery for Lucy. What is our last question?

When?

“When is the best time to receive Jesus as Savior?” The answer is, “Right now!” The Bible says, “Behold, *now* is the day of salvation” (2 Cor. 6:2).

If a person knows he needs to receive Jesus, he must not wait. As soon as someone dies, it is too late to receive Jesus. None of us ever think we will die when we are young. But sometimes people do.

Daniel was a ten-year-old boy who was sleeping in the back seat of his family’s van when a driver who had been drinking ran into it. Daniel was thrown out of the van and killed. No one expected Daniel to die. Most of all, Daniel didn’t expect to die that night. But thankfully, Daniel had already received Jesus as his Savior. Daniel is in Heaven today. What if that had been you? Where would you be?

Maybe there is someone here who still doesn’t know for sure you are going to Heaven. Don’t wait!

“When is the best time to receive Jesus as your Savior?” Right now! (*Give children opportunity to pray and receive Christ. Offer counseling after class.*)

Review

1. How many questions does it take to solve a mystery? (*Six.*)
2. What are the five “W” questions? (*Where? Why? What? Who? When?*)
3. What is the “H” question? (*How?*)
4. Where do you go when looking for truth? (*The Bible.*)
5. Why is it important to know the way to Heaven? (*Because there are only two places you can go—Heaven or Hell.*)
6. What is the one way to Heaven? (*Through Jesus.*)
7. Who is the Lord Jesus? (*God’s Son.*)
8. How can a person be saved from the punishment of his sin? (*Believe on Jesus and receive Him as Savior.*)

Verse Drill

John 14:6—“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” Show printed verse. Repeat the verse four to five times then explain the game to the class.

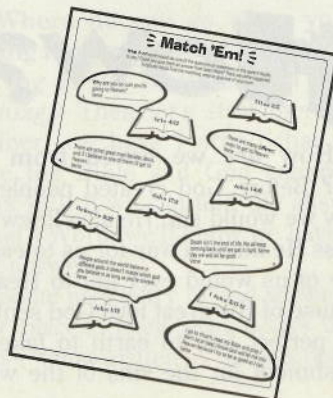
Game rules: Divide the group into two teams. The first child on team one will choose a sucker from the bag. The color will determine the number of points he is eligible to try for. If he chooses to read the verse, he earns the point value for the color he has chosen. If he can say the verse from memory, he can double the number of points. After the first two children have a turn, drill the verse again, encouraging children to work on memorizing it. Alternate teams until each child has had an opportunity to say or read the verse. Drill the verse after each team has taken a turn. The team with the most points wins. Give out flavored suckers at end of class, letting the winning team choose first.

Activities

Match ‘Em

You may have a friend like Lucy who doesn’t believe Jesus is the only way to Heaven. Here are some ideas other people have about how to get to Heaven and some Bible verses you can use to prove to them Jesus is the only way.

(*Divide group into pairs. Give each pair a Match ‘Em sheet. Have the children use their Bibles to match verses to the situation or find their own verse. Key: 1-Jn. 1:12, 2-Jn. 14:6, 3-1 Jn. 5:11-12, 4-Acts 4:12, 5-Heb. 9:27, 6-Titus 3:5.*)



Role Plays

You can glue this One Way to Heaven Guide into the back of your Bible and put the page number of the verse beside each point. Underline the verses in your Bible so you can find them quickly when someone has questions about how to get to Heaven. (*Encourage children to use their One Way to Heaven Guide and Bible to answer the questions through the following role plays.*)

1

First child: **You cannot be sure you’re going to Heaven.**

Second child: The Bible clearly says the person who has God’s Son (Jesus) has life. I’ve received Jesus as my Savior, so I know for sure I’ll live in Heaven forever with Him.

1 John 5:11-12—“God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. *He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.*”

2

First child: **There are many different ways to get to Heaven.**

Second child: Jesus said no one comes to the Father [goes to Heaven] except through Him. Jesus is the only way!

John 14:6—“Jesus saith unto him, *I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*”

3

First child: **There are other great men besides Jesus, and if you believe in them, you’ll get to Heaven.**

Second child: There is no other name but Jesus to believe in for salvation. Every other person on earth has died or will die. Dead men can’t save you. But because Jesus was raised from the dead, He has the power to save us.

Acts 4:12—“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is *none other name* under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

4

First child: **I go to church, read my Bible and pray. I don’t lie or steal. I know God will let me into Heaven because I’m so good.**

Second child: No matter how many righteous (or good) works we do, our goodness can never outweigh our sin. Only Jesus can save us by His mercy.

Titus 3:5—"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us."

5

First child: **My family is one of the most important in our church. Of course I'll go to Heaven.**

Second child: It doesn't matter what your earthly father is or does. The only way to be a part of God's family is to receive Jesus as your Savior.

John 1:12—"As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name."

6

First child: **People around the world believe in different gods. It doesn't matter which god you believe in, as long as you're sincere.**

Second child: There is only one living and true God and that is the God of the Bible. Eternal life is found only in Him and in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. No other gods can save you.

John 17:3—"And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the *only true God*, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent."

7

First child: **Death isn't the end. We all keep coming back until we get it right. Eventually we will all be gods.**

Second child: People don't like to think they will never get another chance. But the Bible says we die only once. Once we die, we never get a second chance to do anything different. What we do with the Lord Jesus in this life will determine whether we go to Heaven or to Hell.

Hebrews 9:27—"And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment."

Extra Discussion Starters

- A. With the strong emphasis on *tolerance* in our society today it is especially important to consider the attitudes a Christian should have when witnessing to those of other faiths. Guide your students in a discussion of these attitudes found in 1 Peter 3:15: "Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear [*gentleness and respect*]."
- B. Are there any other situations in life where there is only one way?
1. When God sent the flood what was the only decision that led to life? (*Get on the boat.*)
 2. In the laws of nature there is only one way things fall on earth. How? (*Down.*) It is the law of gravity that is supreme in nature.
 3. If you want to get an answer correct on a test that has multiple choice questions, there is only one true correct answer. You might guess the other answers but what happens? (*You miss the question and get points taken off on your test.*) So you must choose the *one* correct answer to get it right.

One Way to Heaven Guide

If someone says the statement in dark letters you can give them the Bible answer.

1. You cannot be sure you're going to Heaven.

1 John 5:11-12—"God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. *He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.*"

2. There are many different ways to get to Heaven.

John 14:6—"Jesus saith unto him, *I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*"

3. There are other great men besides Jesus, and if you believe in them, you'll get to Heaven.

Acts 4:12—"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is *none other name* under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

4. I go to church, read my Bible and pray. I don't lie or steal. I know God will let me into Heaven because I'm so good.

Titus 3:5—"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us."

5. My family is one of the most important in our church. Of course I'll go to Heaven.

John 1:12—"As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name."

6. People around the world believe in different gods. It doesn't matter which god you believe in, as long as you're sincere.

John 17:3—"And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the *only true God*, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent."

7. Death isn't the end. We all keep coming back until we get it right. Eventually we will all be gods.

Hebrews 9:27—"And it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." cef

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