Lesson 10: Jesus Is Truth

Overview:

Key Focus: Jesus is Truth, and the truth sets us free.

Bible Story: Jesus Is the Way to Heaven

Scriptures: John 8:31–32, 14:1–6; Luke 8:22–25

Memory Verse: John 14:6 (NKJV) Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

Engage:

Have the children stand in the center of the room. Designate one wall to represent "true" and the opposite wall as "false." When you say a statement about yourself, the children move to stand by the wall what they think might be the answer. Ask someone by each wall why they thought that was the answer. Then, reveal the truth and have everyone gather back in the center for the next statement.

Statements about: your birthdate, your middle name, your favorite color, your favorite movie, your pet's name when you were a child, your first vacation, your parent's occupation

It was fun guessing which statements were the truth about me. I want you to know that this was a game, and when I tell you things about God—they are the truth! Today's Bible lesson will be about truth and why you can always trust what Jesus says.

Memory Verse Activity:
Display the verse. Explain that Jesus was talking with His disciple Thomas about Jesus being the way to a relationship with God. Have the put their chairs in a large circle. Designate one child to begin a "stadium wave" and cue the person on the child's left to be ready to stand next. As the groups say the verse, one by one, each child stands and raises their hands. Keep going around the circle. When the wave reaches the first child, that child sits down while lowering their hands. Remind them they must be saying the verse while moving. Continue this pattern several times without stopping.

Memory Verse: John 14:6 (NKJV) Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

Bible Story:

Today we are on a quest for truth. Listen and whenever you hear me say "truth" bump your elbow one time with the elbow of the person beside you. Read John 8:31–32. **Jesus wanted the people to take His words seriously and follow what He said. Then Jesus said something very powerful about truth. He said that truth would set people free. Let's figure out what that means. If someone believes lies, it is like they are in a dark room. But if someone opens the door to the room and speaks the truth, the person walks out into the light and can run around and see the colors outside. Jesus wants us to be free and live a wonderful life based on the true things He said.**

Let's see what else the Bible tells us about truth. Read John 14:1–5. **Jesus told His disciples about preparing a place for them. Where do you think the place is?** (heaven) **Jesus said that they knew how to get there, but Thomas said what all of the disciples were probably thinking. He didn't understand where Jesus was going. If the disciples didn't understand that, they certainly didn't understand how they would get there. It is like trying to tell your GPS to give you directions to a place, but you don't know what place you're going to. Jesus said many things that the disciples didn't understand yet, but they would understand later. Jesus didn't want them confused, so He gave them the answer and it is our memory verse.** Say together John 14:6. **Jesus is the Truth—that's who He is! He cannot lie. Jesus told them He is the only way to God, heaven, and eternal life. Picture the house in heaven has only one door, and it is the only way to get into the house.** Draw a simple square and a triangle roof and a door with "Jesus" written on it. **The door says "Jesus" because He is the only way to get into that house. Jesus died and rose again to pay the price for sin. When you believe that He has forgiven you for your sins and is your Savior, you open the door and get to enter the house. There are so many amazing things that are yours now that you are in the house. You have a relationship with God, you will someday be with Jesus in heaven, and you get the gift of**

eternal life. All these are yours because you believed the truth about Jesus being the only way to these wonderful things.

Jesus always tells us the truth about Himself because He is the Truth! Jesus said He is the Light of the World, the Alpha and Omega, the Good Shepherd, and the Bread of Life. Each of those true statements promises to help us and we can always believe they will happen. When we trust Jesus to be the Light, He shines His love in us and through us to help others know about Him. When we trust Jesus to be the Alpha and Omega, we are never alone because He was, and is, and always will be. When we trust Jesus to be our Good Shepherd, He will always protect and care for us. When we trust Jesus to be the Bread of Life, He is all we need every day of our life.

Jesus told His disciples many truths that are for us also. Jesus said He would never leave or abandon us. Jesus said that anything is possible with God. These are great promises to remember when life gets tough. Jesus wasn't just saying them and hoping they would be true. Jesus said it, so it is the truth!

One day Jesus told His disciples something but it looked like what Jesus said couldn't be true. Let's read about it in the Bible. Read Luke 8:22. **What did Jesus tell His disciples?** (Jesus said they would cross over to the other side of the lake.) **Does that sound like Jesus is not quite sure, or does Jesus sound positively sure?** Let children respond. Read Luke 8:23–24a. **What happened as they sailed?** (Jesus fell asleep and a storm came.) **How do the disciples show that they didn't believe that Jesus was telling the truth?** (They woke up Jesus and said they were going to perish, or die.) **If the disciples had believed what Jesus said, would they have panicked? Why or why not?** (No, if they had believed Jesus, they would know that they would reach the other side of the lake.) Read Luke 8:24b–25. **What did Jesus do?** (Jesus calmed the wind and waves.) H**ow do you think they answered Jesus' question asking where their faith was?** Answers will vary. **How would they have responded if they had faith that Jesus spoke the truth to them?** (Possible answers: They would have waited patiently; they wouldn't have panicked and woken up Jesus.) **Verse 25 mentions that the disciples were afraid and marveled at the same time. It is like when you are on a roller coaster or something is scary but yet exciting at the same time. They understood that Jesus was not an ordinary man because no ordinary man could command the weather—and it obeys. Jesus was the miracle worker who was the Son of God and the Son of Man.**

We have already learned that Jesus is Eternal, so whatever He says is the truth and will be true forever. Which of Jesus' promises are you glad are true for you? (Possible answers: salvation, being with me always, preparing a place for me in heaven)

Bible Story Questions:

- **What promise about preparing something did Jesus tell His disciples?** (Jesus said that He was going to prepare a place for them in heaven.)
- **How did Jesus say that they would get to heaven?** (Jesus said that the only way was through Him.)
- **What did Jesus mean by saying they had to go through Him to reach the Father?** (People have to believe that Jesus died and paid for their sins in order to enter heaven.)
- **What are some of the true statements Jesus said about Himself?** (He said He was the Light of the World, the Alpha and Omega, the Good Shepherd, and the Bread of Life.)
- **What caused the disciples not to believe Jesus' statement that they would go to the other side of the lake?** (A storm came up and the disciples panicked.)
- **What truth about Jesus will you this week?** (Answers will vary.)

Bible Story Activities:

Games:

- Divide the class into two teams and form two lines. Draw lines to play tic-tac-toe on the board. Read a false statement and have the first child on one team restate it as a true statement. If the child is successful, the child may draw a circle on the tic-tac-toe game. Then, read another false statement and have the first child on the other team correctly makes a true statement and mark an x. If a child is incorrect or can't make a statement, play passes to the other team. If the game doesn't produce a winner, erase it and play again. Continue playing as time allows and make up more statements.

  False Statements:
  Jesus is true most of the time. (Jesus is true all of the time.)
  The Bible is made up stories. (The Bible is true stories.)
  The Bible explains how God hates everyone. (The Bible explains how God loves everyone.)
  Jesus caused storms. (Jesus calmed storms.)
  Jesus took away people's bread. (Jesus did a miracle and fed 5,000 people from 5 loaves.)
  Jesus hates the light. (Jesus is the Light of the World.) **Jesus does not understand me.** (Jesus understands me.)
  Jesus was a shepherd who lost many sheep. (Jesus is the Good Shepherd.)
  Jesus was only for a short time in the past. (Jesus is eternal, the Alpha and Omega.)
  Jesus was the "wolf of God." (Jesus was the Lamb of God.)
  Jesus only healed a couple of people. (Jesus healed all.)
  Jesus was only the Son of God. (Jesus was the Son of God and the Son of Man.)

- Ideas for Working with Younger Kids:
  Play music and have the children dance or walk around in a large circle. When the music stops, everyone freezes and you say, “Jesus is the Truth, and the truth is…” all the children say, “Jesus loves me!” Repeat several times.

Craft Idea:

- Ideas for Working with Older Kids:
  Jesus made seven “I am” statements. Divide into 7 small groups or assign one to each child. Have the children look up their “I am” statement and draw an illustration or turn it into an advertisement for why people should believe in Jesus.

  I Am Statements:
  the Bread of Life (John 6:35)
  Light of the World (John 8:12)
  the Door (John 10:7)
  the Good Shepherd (John 10:11)
  the Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25)
  the Way and the Truth and the Life (John 14:6)
  the True Vine (John 15:1).

Worksheet:
Read together the Word Box and false statements. Guide the children to find the word in the Word Box that turns the false statement into a true statement. Direct the children to take the letters in each gray box and put them in the statement at the bottom of the page. On the back of their papers, have them draw the scene of Jesus calming the storm or write what one of the disciples might have written in his journal about it.

Affirmation/Declaration:
I know that Jesus is the Truth.
All God's promises are true, and they are for me.

Make Connections:

Biblical Worldview Connection:
Often, it is difficult to know whether politicians or leaders are being truthful. We can believe the Bible, because we know Jesus is the Truth. The world needs to know the truth that will set them free. As the children learn what God’s Word says, they know the truth. Encourage the children to live the truth and share the truth.

Missions Connections:
Many people believe there are multiple ways to God (Buddha, karma, Allah), but we know that Jesus is the only way. People need to hear the truth so they can be set free from sin. Pray for your church missionaries to speak the truth in love to the people around them. Invite missionaries to come and tell the children testimonies of what God is doing around the world.

Family Connection:
This week's focus on truth can be examined throughout the week in the home. Many books and movies portray children being heroic by lying to adults. Stress that truth is God's plan for us and we want to be like Jesus. Children are watching and copying what they hear, so ensure that your children are hearing you speak the truth at all times and not broken promises, partial truths, or exaggerations. Congratulate your child for speaking truthfully and challenge them to model truthfulness at home, school, and everywhere, every day.

Prayer Points:
Model prayer focused on thankfulness for the things being learned about Jesus. Have the children repeat the prayer or divide into small groups with a helper guiding the prayers.

Dear God,
Thank You for sending Jesus to the earth. Thank You Jesus for being the Truth. I'm thankful that Jesus is my healer and my light. I'm thankful Jesus is eternal and understands me. Help me always be truthful, like Jesus.
In Jesus' name, amen.

Name _____

Lesson 10: Jesus Is the Truth

Choose words from the Word Box to make each sentence the truth about Jesus.

Word Box:
sin, people, Good, disciples, Son of Man, born, love, World, wind, Peter, Son of God, waves, Bible, Bread, Christian

1. Jesus died in Bethlehem.
Jesus was _ _ _ _ in Bethlehem.

2. Jesus was an orphan.
Jesus was the _ _ _ _ _ _ o _ and the _ _ _ _ _ _ _ a _.

3. Jesus calmed Himself down.
Jesus calmed the _ _ _ _ and _ _ _ _ _ .

4. Jesus is the Dessert of Life.
Jesus is the _ _ _ _ _ of Life.

5. Jesus healed all angels.
Jesus healed all _ _ _ _ _ _ .

6. Jesus is the Light of the City.
Jesus is the Light of the _ _ _ _ _.

7. Jesus is the Youngest Shepherd.
Jesus is the _ _ _ _ Shepherd.

Unscramble the shaded letters above to complete the sentence.

I love _ _ _' _ _ _ _ _ because it is true, and Jesus is the Truth!

BONUS: *On the back of this page, draw the scene of Jesus calming the storm or write what one of the disciples might have written in his journal about it.*

ANSWERS

Lesson 10: Jesus Is the Truth

Choose words from the Word Box to make each sentence the truth about Jesus.

Word Box:
sin, ~~people~~, ~~Good~~, disciples, ~~Son of Man~~, ~~born~~, love, ~~World~~, ~~wind~~, Peter, ~~Son of God~~, ~~waves~~, Bible, Bread, Christian

1. Jesus died in Bethlehem.
Jesus was **born** in Bethlehem.

2. Jesus was an orphan.
Jesus was the **Son of God** and the **Son of Man**.

3. Jesus calmed Himself down.
Jesus calmed the **wind** and **waves**.

4. Jesus is the Dessert of Life.
Jesus is the **Bread** of Life.

5. Jesus healed all angels.
Jesus healed all **people**.

6. Jesus is the Light of the City.
Jesus is the Light of the **World**.

7. Jesus is the Youngest Shepherd.
Jesus is the **Good** Shepherd.

Unscramble the shaded letters above to complete the sentence.

I love **God's Word** because it is true, and Jesus is the Truth!

BONUS: *On the back of this page, draw the scene of Jesus calming the storm or write what one of the disciples might have written in his journal about it.*

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