

JUST FOR LEADERS

Prepare

Read - John 6:1-15, 22-59

Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

John 6:35

Reflect - What can help you when you doubt or struggle with your faith?

- A. Look for answers in the Bible.
- B. Talk with a wise and godly friend.
- C. Pray and ask God to help me believe.

Pray - God, thank You for making truth something that is knowable and life changing. Help me to always know the truth, follow the truth, and share the truth with others. Amen.

Prepare - How can knowing that Jesus is the only truth motivate you to share Jesus with others?

BIBLE STORY

Jesus Is the Bread of Life
John 6:1-15, 22-59

Jesus told him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'

John 14:6

BIG TRUTH

*I AM HERE TO SHARE JESUS
BECAUSE...*
Jesus is the only truth.

OPENER

Across the Pond

WHAT YOU NEED: Construction paper

WHAT YOU DO:

- Split kids into 2-4 even-sized teams. Give each team a stack of papers equal to the number of kids on their team.
- Tell kids that they will be trying to get across the pond (the room) stepping only on paper "stones" instead of on the ground.
- To win, their entire team needs to get across the pond without stepping on the ground.
- Start with the stack of papers at the starting line. Kids will pass papers to the front of the line to lay a new "stone".
- Only 2 feet can be on a stone at a time. (One kid standing alone or kids stepping from stone to stone). If there are 0, 1, 3, or 4 feet on a stone, that stone sinks and is taken out of the game.
- The first team to get all the way across wins!

WHAT YOU SAY:

- Sometimes sharing Jesus can feel like it has a lot of obstacles! Our game today had lots of obstacles to get through.
- But, just like in our game today, we can rely on other believers to help us when we are sharing Jesus!

WORSHIP & TEACHING

The following before and after lesson scripts will be Large Group led. They are included in this curriculum for Small Group leader reference!

BEFORE THE LESSON: Do any of you like dessert or candy? Sweet treats taste great and fill us up for a little bit, but then we will be hungry again. Food doesn't last forever! What does last forever is a relationship with Jesus. The Bible, which is God's true message to us about Himself, tells us that Jesus is the Bread of Life. Let me hear you say, "Jesus is the Bread of Life!" (Jesus is the Bread of Life!) That doesn't mean that Jesus is actually bread. It means that Jesus always satisfies us. Satisfies means that He helps us feel complete and whole in Him. The truth is that when we follow Jesus, He fills us and helps us feel complete in Him more than anything or anyone else.

(Open the Bible.) The Bible contains 66 different books, and today's Bible story is from the book of John. The book of what? (John!) The book of John is in the New Testament, the second part of the Bible. John tells us lots of information about Jesus' life and ministry while He was on earth. Let's learn about how Jesus is the Bread of Life.

AFTER THE LESSON: Jesus fed thousands of people! Everyone, say, "Wow!" (Wow!) It would have been pretty amazing to be there and see that miracle! Only Jesus could do something like that—feeding so many people with just a small amount of food—because He is God. Jesus did not only perform this miracle—He told the people how they could always be spiritually satisfied, fulfilled, and have life in Him.

Jesus offers a full and whole life in Him to every person who trusts in Him! We can tell others about Jesus since He is the only truth. Everyone, say, "Jesus is the only truth!" (Jesus is the only truth!) Jesus is the only true way to have the full and complete life God made us to enjoy and the only true way to have a relationship with God.

DISCUSS

1. Who are people you like to share good news with, and how do you share it?
2. The Bible tells us we can pass on the truth about Jesus. **Let's open our Bibles to John 6:35 and read about it together.** Jesus is talking about enjoying a satisfying relationship with God. How is the bread that Jesus gives us, that lasts forever, different than the physical bread He gave the crowd in the story?
 - o Point out that Jesus satisfies forever spiritually, unlike physical bread that satisfies physical hunger for a little while.
3. Jesus said that the bread He gives will last forever. This bread is life in Him and with Him forever. How do we get this life in Him?
4. If a friend asked, "Who is Jesus?" how could this week's Bible story help you answer?
 - o Answers could include that Jesus is the One who always satisfies us because He gives us what we need most—life with Him forever.
5. The Bible tells us that we are here to share Jesus with others. We know we can trust Him because He is the only truth. We can pass this truth on to others. Who is someone in your oikos that you can share this truth with this week?

ACTIVITY

Fishes and Loaves Bags

WHAT YOU NEED: Small paper bags, markers, printer paper

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid 2 sheets of paper. Have them fold each sheet into fourths.
- Tell them to draw 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish in the quarter sections, one item per section.
- Once they have drawn their five loaves and 2 fish, they will cut them out.
- Give them a paper bag. Tell them to write Jesus is the only truth on their bag.
- Have kids trade loaves and fishes until they all end up with 5 loaves and 2 fishes that they did not draw.
- Tell them to put their loaves and fishes in their paper bag to take home.

WHAT YOU SAY:

- Way to pass on your loaves and fish! You shared a picture of physical bread that you eat. Today we talked about how Jesus gives us bread that's even greater—Himself. Jesus is the Bread of Life.
- Since we know that He always satisfies and gives us what we need, we can share the truth about Jesus with other people, just like you shared your bread and fish.

PRAY

Jesus, thank You for being the Truth. Thank You that we can always trust You. You are the Bread of Life and give satisfying life to everyone who trusts in You. You are always with us. Help us to share the truth about You with others, so that they can have a relationship with You too. Amen.

JUST FOR LEADERS

Prepare

Read - John 10

I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

John 10:9-11

Reflect - How can knowing that Jesus is the Good Shepherd help you right now?

- A. I can be thankful knowing Jesus laid down His life for me.
- B. I can have joy knowing Jesus gives me abundant life.
- C. I can have peace knowing Jesus guards and protects me.

Pray - You are the Good Shepherd, and You care for me. Thank You! May I learn to always love and follow You. Help me to share the news of Your love and salvation with others. Amen.

Prepare - How can sharing about your relationship with Jesus help someone who is questioning or struggling with a relationship with Him?

BIBLE STORY

Jesus Is the Good Shepherd
John 10:1-18

Jesus told him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'
John 14:6

BIG TRUTH

*I AM HERE TO SHARE JESUS
BECAUSE...*
Jesus is God's only son.

OPENER

Pass On The Marker

WHAT YOU NEED: Large dry erase boards, dry erase markers, dry erasers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Split kids into 2-4 even-sized teams. Give each team a dry erase board, marker, and eraser.
- Explain to teams that they will be working together to make a drawing based on a prompt given from stage. They will each draw one line at a time. That means if they lift the marker off the board, they have to pass it to the next person in line.
- They will have 3 minutes to work as a team to create their drawing.
- At the end of the 3 minutes, stage host and a couple leaders chosen to be "judges" will pick the winning drawing. Play as many rounds as time allows.
- Drawing suggestions: An amusement park, The inside of a grocery store, A playground, A restaurant, A beach

WHAT YOU SAY:

- It's cool to see what you came up with when you were all working together! Passing the marker led to you creating some great pictures! When we pass on the truth about Jesus' love for us and the life He gives, something even greater happens. People can hear the good news and make the choice to follow Jesus themselves! Remember, we are here to share Jesus. Everyone, say, "I am here to share Jesus!"

WORSHIP & TEACHING

The following before and after lesson scripts will be Large Group led. They are included in this curriculum for Small Group leader reference!

BEFORE THE LESSON: When we think about Jesus, we can know that He is like God because He is God! Jesus is God's Son—His one and only Son. When we trust and follow Jesus, we can know that we are trusting and following God because Jesus is God's only Son.

(Open the Bible.) Today our Bible story comes from the book of John. John is in the New Testament which is the second part of the Bible. What's the name of the book of the Bible for today's story? (John!) We learn a lot about Jesus' life on earth when we read the book of John. John tells us a lot about how Jesus loved, cared for, and taught people when He was on earth. Let's learn how today's Bible story helps us know that Jesus is God's only Son.

AFTER THE LESSON: Jesus said that He is the Good Shepherd, and His sheep will follow Him because they know His voice. Sometimes it can be hard to know who to trust and who to follow. Jesus tells us in this story that we should follow Him! He tells us that everyone who follows Him will be saved, meaning they will be able to have a relationship with God.

In the same way that a shepherd leads, protects, and cares for his sheep and the sheep know and follow their shepherd, we can trust Jesus as our Good Shepherd. Ask, "Why?" (Why?) Because Jesus is God's only Son. Say, "Jesus is God's only Son!" (Jesus is God's only Son!) This is the best news, and we can pass on this news to others!

DISCUSS

1. What do you think it is like to be a shepherd?
2. The Bible tells us that Jesus is the Good Shepherd. That means He always leads us to a forever relationship with God and helps us follow Him. **Let's open our Bibles to John 10:9-11 and read about it together.** We can trust and follow Jesus like a sheep following and trusting a shepherd. **How can we follow Jesus in our everyday lives?**
 - o Remind kids that praying, reading the Bible, and talking to others about Jesus are great ways to help us follow Him.
3. Jesus said that He sacrifices His life for the sheep. He took the punishment for our sin when He died for us and rose again. Jesus offers a relationship with God for anyone who confesses sin, repents by turning away from sin, and trusts that He is the only way to find forgiveness. What questions do you have about following Jesus?
4. Many of us come to know Jesus because someone in our life had courage and chose to share about Jesus with us. Who has shared Jesus with you?
5. Jesus is the most important person for us to know and share with others. Who is someone in your *oikos* that you can share Jesus with this week? What are some ideas for ways you can start that conversation?

ACTIVITY

Jesus is God's Son Cipher

WHAT YOU NEED: Cipher worksheet, pens or markers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Split kids into at least 2 teams.
- Give each team a cipher sheet. Tell them that they will be racing to crack the code and figure out what the phrase is.
- The first team to complete the cipher wins.

WHAT YOU SAY:

- That was great! This code might have been confusing, but something we never need to be confused about is that Jesus is the one and only son of God!

PRAY

Thank You, Jesus, for being the Good Shepherd. You laid down Your life here on earth for us so that we can have life with You forever. Thank You for being God's only Son and leading us to God. You always lead us in the best and perfect way. Help us to follow You every day and share You with others. Amen.

JUST FOR LEADERS

Prepare

Read - John 14:1-14

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

John 14:6-7

Reflect - Which statement about Jesus encourages and inspires you the most?

- A. Jesus is the way—the only way to heaven and a relationship with God.
- B. Jesus is the truth—the only truth about salvation.
- C. Jesus is the life—the only way to true life now and forever.

Pray - God, You are the only way, truth, and life. When I am tempted to doubt or go another way, bring me back to You. Help me be bold in sharing this most amazing and important truth. Amen.

Prepare - How can the truth about Jesus help someone who is confused about life and the state of the world?

BIBLE STORY

Jesus Is the Way, the Truth,
and the Life
John 14:1-14

**Jesus told him, 'I am the way,
the truth, and the life. No one
comes to the Father except
through me.'**
John 14:6

BIG TRUTH

*I AM HERE TO SHARE JESUS
BECAUSE...*
Jesus is the only way.

OPENER

Shake and Share

WHAT YOU NEED: Pom Poms, dice

WHAT YOU DO:

- Have kids circle up with their small groups.
- Each group will have a pair of dice and a pile of pom poms.
- Kids will go around the circle, rolling the dice.
- If they roll an even number, they get 1 pom pom from the middle of the circle and give it to the kid sitting to their right.
- If they roll an odd number, they get 1 pom pom from the middle and give it to the kid sitting on their left.
- If they roll doubles, they get 2 pom poms from the middle and keep both.
- The goal is to be the person with the most pom poms at the end of the game!

WHAT YOU SAY:

- That game was all about sharing!
- This month, we are learning that we are here to share Jesus. In the same way you shared pom poms today, you can share Jesus with the people around you!

WORSHIP & TEACHING

The following before and after lesson scripts will be Large Group led. They are included in this curriculum for Small Group leader reference!

BEFORE THE LESSON: There is only one way that we can have a relationship with God. That way is through Jesus! The Bible tells us Jesus is the only way. We can trust that Jesus is the only way and the right way because God is the One who designed the way for us to have a relationship with Him.

(Open the Bible.) We get to share and pass on the truth from the Bible, which is God's true message to us about Himself. Today's Bible story is from the book of John. The book of what? (John!) We find the book of John in the New Testament, the second part of the Bible. John wrote this a long time ago, and he's passed on the truth to us today!

AFTER THE LESSON: Do you think Jesus' disciples were confused when He told them that they knew the way to where He was going? (Allow response.) It sounds like they were! Then Jesus told them that He is the way, the truth, and the life. He is the only way to God. They knew the way because they knew Jesus! Everyone, say, "Jesus is the only way!" (Jesus is the only way!)

Jesus is the only way to have a relationship with God, and God offers this to everyone! God offers this to who? (Everyone!) This is an important truth to share so others can know how to respond and follow Jesus too!

PRESENT THE GOSPEL:

- **Circle 3-** Jesus came to earth, lived a perfect life, died on a cross, and rose from the dead to be our way—the only way—to God!
- **Circle 1-** When we have a relationship with God, He gives us a relationship with Him—one where we love and follow Him the way He created us to live. It's the way God designed from the beginning when God created the world perfectly. Everything in the world was perfect when He created it. There were no problems, no sadness, and no sickness. The people on earth had a relationship with God and spent time with Him.
- **Circle 2-** But those first people made wrong choices and changed their relationship with God and each other. The perfect creation God designed was ruined by sin. Sin is when we choose to do what we think is best rather than follow what God says is best. Sin leads to problems and brokenness. We all sin. The brokenness from sin breaks our relationship with God. Even when we try hard to be good and do what's right, we still sin and need to be rescued from sin. We need a way to fix our relationship with God.
- **Circle 3-** Jesus is the only way because He is the only One who can rescue us! Jesus took the punishment we deserved for our sin by dying on a cross. On the third day after Jesus died, He came back to life and showed that He's the King of everything—more powerful than both sin and death! Jesus gives us life now and forever with God.

Jesus said He was going to prepare a place with many rooms for His disciples, and they will be with Him in that place someday. This place that Jesus prepared is for everyone who follows Him. We can respond to Jesus when we confess our sin, ask Jesus for forgiveness, turn away from our sin, and believe that Jesus is the only way to find forgiveness and true life. When we trust and follow Jesus, He prepares a place for us with God the Father. It will be much greater than any of us can imagine, like things were before sin came into the world.

Jesus is the only way to be rescued from sin, to have a relationship with God, and to live with Him forever. Say, "Jesus is the only way!" (Jesus is the only way!) When we know this truth, we can pass this on and share the truth about Jesus with people like our friends and family so they can also know and believe that Jesus is the only way! Say, "I am here to share Jesus!" (I am here to share Jesus!) If you have questions or want to know more about trusting and following Jesus, talk with me or your Team Leader. We would love to pass on the truth about Jesus!

DISCUSS

1. **What is the difference between following directions to a new place and just trying to figure it out on your own?**
 - o Share that we may or may not find a new place by trying on our own, but Jesus is the only way to have a relationship with God.
2. **The Bible tells us we are here to share Jesus because He is the only way to God. Let's open our Bibles to John 14:6-7 and read about it together. How do these Bible verses say we come to the Father?**
 - o Talk about how we can only come to the Father through Jesus.
3. **Jesus says that He is the only way to God and that He is the way, the truth, and the life. The great news is that Jesus wants all of us to trust in Him and follow Him. We can pass on the news about Jesus being the way, the truth, and the life. Sharing that Jesus is the only way to God means passing on the best news about how we can have a relationship with God! Who is someone in your oikos that you could share this with?**
4. **In what ways do some people think they can have a relationship with God without trusting in Jesus. Why is this not true?**
 - o Examples might include being a good person, praying every day, reading the Bible, trying to not sin. Remind kids that Jesus makes it clear that the ONLY way to have a relationship with God or have eternal life is through his sacrifice for us. We will never do enough "good stuff" to be right with God.
5. **The Bible tells us we are here to share Jesus, sharing that He is the way, the truth, and the life. Everyone, say, "I am here to share Jesus!" (I am here to share Jesus!) Let's pass on the good news about Jesus so those around us can know the way to God. What is something encouraging you will remember from today? Is there anything you have questions about?**

ACTIVITY

Only One Way

WHAT YOU NEED: Construction paper, table tennis ball, pool noodle

WHAT YOU DO:

- Split kids into at least 2 teams.
- Give each team construction paper. They will be folding it and placing it on the ground to create a path for their table tennis ball to follow by rolling on the ground between the paper.
- Once their path is done, they will use the pool noodle to push the table tennis ball through the path that they created.

WHAT YOU SAY:

- Was it hard to keep your table tennis ball on the path? (Allow kids to answer.) It's not always easy to stay on a path, but it helps when you know the way you need to go. The good news is that Jesus is the only way to God. Even when it's difficult to follow Him, He keeps guiding us. Remember, Jesus is the only way to have a relationship with God—so that is good news we can pass on!

PRAY

Jesus, You are the way, the truth, and the life. Thank You that we can always trust You and that You are the only way to have a relationship with God. You invite everyone to turn from sin and find forgiveness and life in You. Help us remember to follow You every day and pass on to others the truth of the life You give. Amen.

JUST FOR LEADERS

Prepare

Read - John 15

Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

John 15:4-5

Reflect - Where would you like to see God help you grow in this season?

- A. In my relationship with Him
- B. In resting in Him and not trying to earn His love or approval
- C. In producing fruit that helps others know and grow in Him

Pray - God, You invite me to remain close to You and to produce fruit that helps other people know You. Please be my reason, purpose, and motivation in all I say and do. Amen.

Prepare - How can a relationship with Jesus give life purpose and meaning?

BIBLE STORY

Jesus Is the True Vine
John 15

Jesus told him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'

John 14:6

BIG TRUTH

*I AM HERE TO SHARE JESUS
BECAUSE...*

Jesus is the one to follow.

OPENER

Balloon Goal

WHAT YOU NEED: Hula hoop, balloons

WHAT YOU DO:

- Have kids get into 2-4 even-sized teams.
- They are going to work together to get their balloon into their hula hoop "goal".
- The catch is that they cannot use their hands and the same kid cannot hit the balloon twice in a row.
- Have kids take turns being the one holding the "goal". Here are suggestions of how the "goal" could be held:
 - Place your hula hoop on the floor.
 - Stand and hold up your hula hoop on the floor.
 - Hold your hula hoop by your side.
 - Hold your hula hoop over your head.
 - Hold your hula hoop near the floor while slowly walking around the room.

WHAT YOU SAY:

- Was it easy or hard to get your balloon into your hoop? (Allow kids to answer.) You had to work together as a team to get your balloon through the hoop without using your hands. Things are usually easier when we work together as a team. We can all use our strengths to help each other!

WORSHIP & TEACHING

The following before and after lesson scripts will be Large Group led. They are included in this curriculum for Small Group leader reference!

BEFORE THE LESSON: One of the purposes God has for you is to share Jesus with others. Jesus is the One to follow, because when we follow Him and stay connected to Him, He helps us live out our purpose by pointing other people to the truth about God and Jesus. We can pass on the truth about Jesus and help other people know and respond to Jesus by believing and trusting in Him. When we are connected with God, we live out the purpose God has given us!

(Open the Bible.) Today we are going to look in the Bible, God's true message to us about Himself. In our Bible story, we are going to learn more about Jesus. More about who? (Jesus!) Yes! And the more we know about Jesus, the more we can pass on to others.

AFTER THE LESSON: Jesus said that He is the vine, and we are the branches. Point up, and say, "Jesus is the vine!" (Jesus is the vine!) Point to yourself, and say, "We are the branches!" (We are the branches!) The vine is what makes leaves and fruit grow on the branches. Jesus told His disciples that He would remain connected to them if they remained in Him.

The great news is that Jesus remains connected to all people who put their trust in Him! It is only when we are connected to Jesus that we find lasting joy and true purpose. Jesus has a great plan and purpose for all of us, just like He had for His disciples—to follow Him and help other people follow Him too! He wants all of us to have a personal connection with Him and to trust Him with our lives.

Jesus invites everyone to respond to Him by trusting and believing in Him, turning away from sin, and following Him. We can follow Jesus when we obey Him, talk with Him by praying, love others, and "produce fruit"—which means we live lives that point others to Him. We can tell others about who Jesus is, how great His love is for them, and how He is the only reason they can have a relationship with God. He is the One to follow. Everyone, say, "Jesus is the One to follow!" (Jesus is the One to follow!)

DISCUSS

1. **How many items can you list that have to be connected to something else to work?**
 - o Share that, when we trust and follow Jesus, we stay connected with Him, and He helps us live our His purpose for our lives.
2. **The Bible tells us we can share Jesus and share the truth that following Him is the way to have a relationship with God. Let's open our Bibles to John 15:4-5 and read about it together. Jesus said He is the True Vine, and following Him is the only way we can have a relationship with God. What does it mean to bear fruit like this Bible verse says?**
 - o Remind kids that fruit trees are fulfilling their purpose when they have fruit growing on them (when they "bear fruit"). Jesus is saying we are like branches, and when we are connected to Him as the vine, we will be fulfilling our purpose and showing our fruit to our oikos.
3. **What kind of fruit is Jesus talking about? Let's open our Bibles to Galatians 5:22-23. If you follow Jesus, do you see these fruits in your own life? If you haven't made that decision yet, think about someone in your life who follows Jesus. Do you see fruit in their life?**
4. **How can we remain in Jesus?**
 - o We can trust and follow Jesus. We can spend time reading the Bible and praying. We can turn to Him when we need to make decisions or want direction. We can obey Him even when it is difficult.
5. **The Bible tells us that the only way we can have a relationship with God is by following Jesus. He took the punishment for our sin and forgives all people who confess and turn away from sin and follow Him instead. What is something encouraging you will remember from today? Is there anything you have questions about?**

ACTIVITY

Bear Fruit

WHAT YOU NEED: Citrus-colored paper circles (8 per kid), glue sticks, green straw piece, pens

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid 8 circles. Tell them to write one of the fruits of the spirit on each circle.
- They will then fold each circle in half.
- Have them grab 2 of their circles and set them next to each other on the table. Using the glue stick, they will glue the left side of one circle to the right side of the next one and continue adding circles in this way until all circles are glued together.
- Then have them glue the left side of the first circle and the right side of the last circle together to bring their circles into a sphere shape.
- They will then put the green straw piece on the top of the sphere to look like a stem.

WHAT YOU SAY:

- Remember, Jesus is the One to follow, and when we do, He helps us bear fruit by pointing to Him and sharing His love. He works through us when we trust in Him, and He uses us to show His love to others and point them to Him. We can pass on the truth about His love to others because Jesus is the One to follow. Through Jesus, we can have forever life and a relationship with God!

PRAY

God, thank You for sending Jesus so we can follow Him and have a relationship with You. Thank You for working through us so that we can bear fruit when we trust in You. Help us pass on the message of Your love and truth to others. Amen.