
Road Trip Series (Sample Lesson)

LESSON 1: The Road Map

Key Truth: The Bible is clear to say Jesus is the only way. (salvation)
Key Verse: "Broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it...but narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it."
Matthew 7:13-14
Date:

LESSON PASSAGE: John 5:1-47 (Jesus Shows How the Bible Points to Him as the Way to Heaven)

SUMMARY: The Matthews family is headed to Splash Island for vacation. The map shows there's only one road that will take them there. This is a reminder that our road map, the Bible, says there is only one road to Heaven...and the road is Jesus. In John 5, Jesus proved He was the road to Heaven by healing a man who was paralyzed. When people who didn't believe in Him began to cast doubt, He reminded them that the Bible pointed to Him as the one and only way to Heaven.

LESSON SUPPLIES:

Pre-Service:

- Games and activities

Welcome

- Road Trip Award - inflatable tire (optional - tape candy or other prizes to it)

Icebreaker: Pack Your Suitcase

- 1 "pack your suitcase" paper per child
- Crayons, pens and colored pencils for each group

Key Verse Game: Road Runner

- 1 set of Road Runner verse papers per group (cardstock)
- Bell to ring up front

Offering:

- Offering containers up front

Road Trip Prep Activity:

- 1 road trip paper car per child (cardstock)
- 1 pair of scissors per child
- Pens / pencils for each group
- 1 Day One road map per child (cardstock)

Lesson:

- Bible for Teacher
- Flashlight for Teacher
- 1 flashlight per group
- 1 round, blue, plastic table cloth per group
- 2 steering wheels (make out of cardboard / foam or purchase cheap steering wheel covers)
- Flashing emergency light (like you find on top of police car)

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- Speeding ticket that says "\$300"
- \$300 in fake money

Prayer: Talking and Listening to God

- Cards to write down names of kids who want to attend Starting Point class.

Announcements:

- 1 envelope per child (8.5" by 11")
- 1 Road Trip Challenge paper per child

Road Trip Award Giveaway

- Road Trip Award from welcome

Activity: Decorate Your Road Trip Award Envelope

- Crayons and colored pencils available for groups

Dismissal:

- Starting Point class cards and sign-up sheets

PRE-SERVICE ACTIVITIES (25 MIN)

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Age-appropriate videos on screen (1-4)

- Games and activities
- Video games
- Volunteers spending time with kids

VIDEO COUNTDOWN (5 MIN)

Countdown with fast, energetic music (5)

- Have volunteers gather the kids to their groups and spend time talking with them during the countdown. Here are some sample discussion questions:
 - How did your week go?
 - How was school this week?
 - Did anything special happen this week?
 - What did you do fun this week?
 - What is your favorite _____? (*pick something*)
 - What's something you want to talk about?

Road Trip transition slide with fun music (6)

WELCOME (5 MIN)

FAC: Hey guys!!! Welcome!!! Today we're starting a brand-new series called "Road Trip." We're joining the Matthew's family on an awesome road trip to a super fun destination and we're going to learn some great things from God's Word along the way. How many of you are ready to go a road trip?

(Get kids excited and cheering.)

FAC: Awesome! Oh yeah...before I forget...one of your groups is going to win a very special Road Trip Award today! Here's my friend to tell you more about it!

Road Trip Award video (7)

Road Trip transition slide with fun music (8)

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FAC: (*show Road Trip award*) Okay! We'll be watching throughout the service for the group that works together to do these things. Remember, one of the key ways you can win is to say the key truth when you get the signal. Let's practice that a couple of times.

Attention grabber and key truth – The Bible is clear to say Jesus is the only way (9)

(*Have kids repeat twice.*)

Road Trip transition slide with fun music (10)

ICE BREAKER: PACK YOUR SUITCASE (8 MIN)

FAC: Awesome! So, if we're going to go on a road trip, we need to pack our suitcases. In your group, take a few minutes to pack your suitcase and share with everyone what you're bringing.

Pack Your Suitcase with 7-minute countdown and light background music (11)

Icebreaker Instructions:

- *Each child will get a "suitcase." (piece of paper with suitcase image)*
- *They will draw or write in their suitcase one or more of the following:*
 - *favorite candy or snack*
 - *favorite video game, toy, movie or app*
 - *favorite drink*
 - *favorite shirt, shorts or shoes*
- *Give them 4-5 minutes to draw or write their items(s) then go around the group and have them share their name and one or more of the items they put in their suitcase.*

Attention grabber and key truth – The Bible is clear to say...Jesus is the only way (12)

Road Trip transition slide with fun music (13)

FAC: Does everyone have your suitcases packed now? (*let kids respond*)
Awesome! Of course, no road trip would be complete without some awesome music!
Join me down front and let's praise Jesus!

WORSHIP SONGS (10 MIN)

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WL: Today we celebrate Jesus! He is the way to eternal life and is worthy of all our praise! Let's sing to Him with all our hearts!

Song – _____ (14)

WL: Let's keep this praise party going with another song to Jesus! Let me hear you worship Him! He is our Forgiver, Leader and Friend!

Song – _____ (15)

Road Trip transition slide with fun music (16)

WL: Awesome job! There's some serious praising happening on this road trip! Let's head back to our seats for some more fun!

(Kids return to seats.)

KEY VERSE GAME: ROAD RUNNER (5 MIN)

FAC: This month we're learning that Jesus is the only road to heaven. And the Bible is the road map that tells us this. One of the Bible passages that talks about Jesus being the only road to heaven is Matthew 7:13-14. That's our key verse this month. Let's say it together a couple of times.

"Broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it...but narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it." Matthew 7:13-14 (17)

(Repeat verse with the kids two times.)

FAC: Great job! We're going to play a fun game now that will help you memorize this verse. It's called Road Runner! It's going to be a race, so get ready!!!

(Get kids excited and cheering.)

Road Runner with fun music (18)

"Broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it...but narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it." Matthew 7:13-14

Road Runner Game Instructions:

- *Have groups move into an open area with some space.*
- *Each group has a set of road runner papers. (8.5 x 11)*

- *Each road runner paper has one or more words of the verse on it.*
- *Have small group leaders mix up the papers like they are shuffling a deck of cards.*
- *On “go,” the small group leader will lay the papers down on the floor in a single stack. (fast music on go - 19)*
- *Kids must work together to lay them on the floor in the order of the verse like a straight road.*
- *As soon as the group has their verse laid out in order like a road, they must each run down the road one at a time and say the verse out loud as they step on the words.*
- *Once everyone in the group has run down the road and said the verse, they should send one person up to ring a bell that you have up front and yell out “Road Runner” while they are ringing it.*
- *The first group to ring the bell and yell “Road Runner” is the winner.*
- **If you have some groups that are different sizes, even them out or have some people in the smaller group go twice so each group sends the same amount of people down the road.*

FAC: That was so much fun! It was great seeing you run down the road saying the verse. Let’s say it one more time together!

(stop music - 20)

“Broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it...but narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.” Matthew 7:13-14

FAC: Awesome! Let’s gather back up front to worship Jesus. If you brought an offering today, you can bring it with you.

(Gather kids to front.)

OFFERING & WORSHIP SONG (5 MIN)

Offering slide with prayerful music (21)

WL: I want to show you a picture of a boy who lives in Thailand.

Picture of a child from Thailand (22)

WL: He represents many of the children all over the world who have never even heard of Jesus. If you were to ask him today, who Jesus is, he would look at you with a

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puzzled look. He has no idea that Jesus is the only road to heaven. But we can change that. When you give your tithes and offerings, the money helps kids like him, all over the world, hear about Jesus. A Bible can be printed and given to him. Missionaries can be sent there to tell him about Jesus. Let's be faithful to give our tithes and offerings so kids who have never heard about Jesus can discover His love.

(Ask a child to lead in prayer. Pray for kids all over the world who have never heard of Jesus to be able to hear about Him. Pray that God will use the offering to help reach them. Have kids place offering in containers during the song.)

Song – _____ (23)

Road Trip transition slide with medium speed music (24)

WL: Thank you. Let's head back to our seats.

(Kids return to seats.)

ROAD TRIP PREP ACTIVITY (5 MIN)

FAC: Since you're going on this road trip with the Matthew's family, you need to get in the car with them. You may be wondering how that's possible? Guess what? We've shrunk and duplicated them.

Matthews family in the car with fun music (25)

Car Instructions:

- Give each child a car.
- Have a pair of scissors for each child.
- Have pens/pencils available for each child.
- Have kids cut out the car and draw their face or write their name in the back window.

3-minute timer (26)

Attention grabber and key truth – The Bible is clear to say Jesus is the only way (27)

Road Trip transition slide (28)

FAC: Now you're going to need a road map to follow along. I've got that for you as well. You can move your car along the road during the trip.

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(Give each child a Road Trip Day 1 map.)

FAC: The Matthews family is at their house packing up and getting ready to go. Go ahead and put your car on the map at their house and let's join them.

Matthews' house on the road map (29)

ROAD TRIP VIDEO (5 MIN)

Road Trip Video Week 1 (30)

Road Trip transition slide (31)

LESSON (15 MIN)

FAC: Wow!!! Day one was quite an experience!!!

Road Map Day 1 (32)

FAC: Let's talk about what happened. Mr. Matthews announced that we're heading to a cool water park called Splash Island. So off they went. If you haven't done so yet, go ahead and drive the car down Splash Island road for a little ways.

Video of car driving down road a little ways on the map (33)

FAC: Charlie's sister, Alex, doesn't seem too excited about going, does she? Especially after Charlie pulled a prank on her and put shaving cream on her face.

Picture of Alex with shaving cream on her face (34)

FAC: How many of you would be mad if your brother or sister did that to you?
(let kids respond) How many of you would like to do that to your brother or sister?
(let kids respond)

FAC: They stopped to eat dinner at a diner. Drive the car over to the diner on your map.

Video of car driving down road to diner on the map (35)

Picture of Matthews family sitting at table in diner (36)

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FAC: The diner had a food challenge. If you ate a huge plate of wings in 30 minutes or less, they were free. Mr. Matthews decided to try the challenge. Did he complete it?
(let kids respond)

Picture of Mr. Matthews full of wings (37)

FAC: He did...and boy did he feel full! Everyone let out a loud burp!

(Let kids have fun burping for a few seconds.)

Attention grabber and key truth – The Bible is clear to say Jesus is the only way (38)

FAC: They ended up at Silver Creek Campground where they set up a tent for the night. Go ahead and drive the car over to the campground on the map.

Video of car driving to the campground on the map (39)

Picture of family in tent (40)

FAC: In the tent, they talked about how Jesus is the only road to heaven. Let's dive into that a little deeper. I want you to imagine you are in the tent. It's nighttime.

(Dim the lights.)

Night sky on screen with sound of crickets (41)

(Take out flashlight and turn it on. Have small group leaders do the same.)

FAC: They read a verse from the Bible. It's our key verse for this month. Read that verse again in your group and talk together about these questions for a few minutes.

"Broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it...but narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it." Matthew 7:13-14 with 2-minute timer and music (42)

- How many roads are there to heaven? *(one)*
- Who is the only road to heaven? *(Jesus)*

Attention grabber and key truth – The Bible is clear to say Jesus is the only way (43)

Road trip transition slide (44)

FAC: So what did you talk about? How many roads are there to heaven?
(let kids respond) That's right...only one. And who is the only road to heaven?

(let kids respond) That's right...Jesus is the only road to heaven.

FAC: Just like the Matthews' family has a road map to Splash Island...we've been given a road map to heaven. Who knows what that road map is? *(let kids respond)*

FAC: *(hold up Bible)* That's right! The Bible is a map that shows us Jesus is the only road to heaven!

Picture of Bible on screen (45)

FAC: There's a great example of this in the Bible. Let's bring the lights back up for a minute and go there.

(Bring lights back up.)

FAC: *(hold Bible up)* It's found in John 5 in the Bible. I'm going to need your help with this so I need everyone to get up and move to an open space with some room.

(Have kids get up and move to open areas so they can act out the passage.)

FAC: The Bible tells us there was a small pool called Bethesda.

Picture of small pool on screen (46)

(Have each small group leader make a small pool for their group by spreading a small, round, blue, plastic table cover on the ground.)

FAC: There were a lot of sick people who stayed near this pool. Some were blind, some couldn't walk, some were paralyzed, some couldn't hear, etc.

(Have kids lay down around their "pool" like they are sick.)

FAC: One of the men who was there had been sick for a long time. How many years do you think he'd been sick? Look on the screen and guess how long?

The man had been sick for...(47)

15 years

38 years

26 years

(Let kids guess.)

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FAC: The answer is...

38 years (48)

FAC: Wow!!! That's a long time to be sick. Pick someone in your group to be this man.

(Small group leader picks someone to play the role of the man.)

FAC: Now there's a reason why this man and the other people stayed near this pool of water.

Picture of pool (49)

FAC: You see, once a year an angel would come down and stir the water.

Video of water stirring with bubbling sound (50)

FAC: The first person that got into the water when it started stirring was healed! No wonder they stayed near that pool!!!

Healed (51)

FAC: So Jesus comes by the pool and sees the man lying there. The man said he's still sick because every time the water starts stirring someone else beats him into it.

FAC: Let's act that out...

Into the Water Activity:

- *In the groups, kids are still lying down next to their pool acting like they are sick.*
- *Each time the video of the water stirs, have the kids go into the pool.*
- *Tell the child who is playing the man to always be last.*
- *Each time, the first child in the water will be healed, get up and go back to their seat.*
- *Keep repeating this until the sick man is the only one left.*

Video of water stirring with bubbling sound (52)

Healed (53) *(Keep going back and forth between these slides.)*

FAC: The man never could be the first one in the water. But Jesus asked the man if wanted to be healed. The man said yes. So right then and there, Jesus instantly healed him. Isn't that awesome?!

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FAC: Now let's go back to our tents and dim the lights.

(Have rest of kids return to their groups and put away the "pools.")

Attention grabber and key truth – The Bible is clear to say Jesus is the only way (54)

(Dim the lights again, but leave enough light so kids can see to write.)

Night sky on screen with sound of crickets (55)

FAC: Guess what??? Some men who didn't like Jesus got upset because He had healed the man. And they got even more upset when Jesus told them He was the only road to heaven!

FAC: When the men begin saying Jesus wasn't the road to heaven, He pointed them to the Bible. Drive your car down to the area of your map where John 5:39 is and let's read it together.

Video of car driving down to John 5:39 (56)

(Have kids read this verse out loud with you.)

You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me! John 5:39 (57)

FAC: What was Jesus saying? He was saying the Bible is a road map that shows I am the road to eternal life! There is no other way to heaven except through Me.

FAC: Fill in the blank in the box with this.

The Bible points to Jesus as the only way to eternal life. (58)

(Have kids fill in the blank.)

FAC: Now drive the car up to the area under Splash Island Road.

Video of car driving up to Splash Island Road (59)

FAC: Again, just like the road map shows Splash Island Road is the way to Splash Island, the Bible clearly shows that Jesus is the only way to eternal life. Write Jesus' name in the box.

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Name of Jesus in box on road map (60)

Attention grabber and key truth – The Bible is clear to say Jesus is the only way (61)

The Bible points to Jesus as the only way to eternal life. (62)

FAC: The Bible points to Jesus as the only way to eternal life. It tells us He never sinned which enabled Him to take our sins and pay for them on the cross.

FAC: Check out this amazing verse.

For God made Jesus, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:21 (63)

FAC: Let me help you understand this verse with an illustration.

Illustration Instructions:

- *Bring 3 kids on stage.*
- *1 will be the driver – give steering wheel prop*
- *1 will be police officer – give steering wheel, flashing light, speeding ticket*
- *1 will be friend – give \$300 fake money*
- *Have kids act out this scenario as you share it:*
 - *driver is speeding on a road trip*
 - *police officer pulls over and gives \$300 speeding ticket*
 - *driver doesn't have money for ticket and has to go to jail*
 - *driver can't get out because can't pay bill he owes*
 - *friend comes and pays ticket for him and gets him out of jail*
- *Application:*
 - *driver represents us – we have broken God's laws and sinned*
 - *we can't pay our own bill because we have sinned*
 - *Jesus came, did nothing wrong, paid our sin bill by dying on the cross*
 - *He will be the only way we can be set free from the penalty of our sin*
 - *When we invite Him into our life to be our Forgiver, Leader and Friend, He forgives our sins and gives us eternal life (illustrate with another ticket that says "sin ticket")*

PRAYER...TALKING AND LISTENING TO GOD (2 MIN)

Prayer...talking and listening to God with prayerful music (64)

FAC: Let's bow our heads and close our eyes. Today, you've heard that the Bible clearly says Jesus is the only way to eternal life. You've heard that Jesus came and died on the cross to pay the sin bill you owe.

FAC: How many people can raise their hand and say, "Yes. I have already asked Jesus to come into my life and forgive my sins." If you've done that in the past, just raise your hand right now in thanksgiving to God.

(Give kids time to respond.)

FAC: That's wonderful. If you just raised your hand, you don't need to raise it again. Once Jesus comes into your life, He will always be with you. You only have to invite Him into your life one time.

FAC: But if you didn't raise your hand because you've never invited Jesus to come into your life and you'd like to...then I'm going to ask you to raise your hand right now so we can pray for you. No one looking around. This is between you and God.

(Give kids time to respond and have small group leaders write down their names.)

FAC: If you raised your hand just now, we have a class called Starting Point that we're going to invite you and your parents to. In this class, you'll learn more about what it means to invite Jesus into your life. We'll talk about this with you and your parents when they come to pick you up in a few minutes.

FAC: Let's pray. Dear Jesus, thank You for giving us the Bible so we could know that You are the way to eternal life. Thank You for coming to pay our sin bill so we could be forgiven. Help those who raised their hand to make the decision to invite You into their life. In Your name we pray, Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (2 MIN)

- **Picture of Matthews family afraid in tent with suspenseful music (65)**
 - Next weekend
 - Cliffhanger – What is going to happen to them? What kind of animal is attacking them? Will they survive? Come back next week to find out.
 - Give each child an envelope. Have them place the following items inside their envelope.
 - paper car
 - Day 1 map

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- Road Trip Challenge 1 (*pass out now and do overview*)
 - complete the challenges this week
- Bring back the envelope next weekend with all items inside and receive a special prize.

ROAD TRIP GROUP AWARD (1 MIN)

Road Trip Award with fun music (66)

FAC: Okay! It's time to give away the Road Trip Award for Day 1! Everyone did a great job singing, talking, playing and having fun. We're almost ready to give away the award. It's very close right now, so I need to hear everyone say the key truth a few more times to finalize whom the winning group is.

Attention grabber and key truth – The Bible is clear to say Jesus is the only way (67)

(Have kids repeat 2-3 times.)

(Build excitement and give away award to winning group.)

FAC: We'll be giving away another award next week so be ready!!!

ACTIVITY: DECORATE YOUR ROAD TRIP ENVELOPE (through end of pick-up)

Road Trip transition slide with fun music (68)

Instructions:

- *Each child will have an envelope that they have put their car, Day 1 map, and Road Trip Challenge inside.*
- *Have crayons and colored pencils available.*
- *Have each child start by writing his or her name on their envelope.*
- *They can then decorate their envelope while they are waiting for parent pick-up.*
- *Some ideas are:*
 - *draw the Road Trip logo*
 - *draw a picture of the Matthews' family car with everyone inside*
 - *draw a picture of something they saw or experienced on Day 1*
 - *write down or draw out some things they learned from Day 1*

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PARENT PICK-UP/CONNECT

Slide that reads, "Parents ask your child what they learned on Day 1 of the Road Trip" with fun music (69)

- Small group leaders connect briefly with each parent.
- Talk to parents whose kids raised their hand about Starting Point and sign them up for the class.
- Make sure kids take their envelopes home and remind them to bring it back next week for a special prize.
- Thank for coming.
- Invite the child to come back to your group next week.

Slide that stops music (70)