THE WAY OF JESUS

Memory Verse**: "Jesus answered, "I am the way. And I am the truth and the life. The only way to the Father is through me." John 14: 6**
Weekly Big Idea: **How can we grow closer to God every day?**
(Answer) Jesus Connection: **We can spend time in His Word, pray to Him, and stay close to His Spirit. Jesus wants us to come to Him every day.**
Bible Story Scripture: **Abiding | Luke 2:48; Matthew 14:23, 26:44; John 15:5**

SERIES OVERVIEW

So glad you are here today in KXP! Today, we are continuing in our series called **The Way of Jesus**.
All month long we are learning about some very important things! These are things that we know to be true through our faith in God and His Word. Let's start with our memory verse before we dive into our Bible Story- ***John 14:6 "Jesus answered, "I am the way. And I am the truth and the life. The only way to the Father is through me."*** Jesus taught us who He is and how to grow closer to God every day. Jesus is our example to follow, and His ways are true.

LESSON INTRODUCTION

Our Big Idea today is, you guessed it, another question. **How can we grow closer to God every day?** I bet you all have some good ideas about how to answer this question. Would anyone like to share the things you do to grow closer to God? *(Pause for responses from the kids.)* When you do these things, do you feel like you are building a relationship with God? Let's see how Jesus stayed close to His Father.

ABIDING

During the presentation of Scripture, use a physical Bible, when possible, to model exploring God's Word together.

The best way to answer our Big Idea question is to look at the life of Jesus. He showed us ways to grow closer to God. Through His life, He always stayed connected to God, His Father. When Jesus was twelve, He traveled with His family to Jerusalem for the Feast of Passover like they did every year. But this time, Jesus stayed behind in the temple courts when His family began traveling home after the Feast. For three days, Jesus sat among the teachers, listening to them and asking questions. Everyone who heard Jesus speak was amazed at His understanding. When Mary and Joseph realized He was not with them, they turned back toward Jerusalem to find Him. They found Jesus at the temple and said…

Luke 2:48b "Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."
In verse 49, Jesus replied, "Why were you searching for me? He asked. Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?"

Jesus knew He needed to be in the temple, His Father's house, to learn and grow closer to God. So, one important thing we can do to grow closer to God is to be in His house, which is the church. In church and our House Churches, we learn about God's Word through the Bible and hear leaders teaching His truths.

As Jesus grew into a man, He showed us another way to grow closer to God. Jesus would often go off by Himself and pray. Last month, we learned how important it is to talk to God through prayer. That's exactly what Jesus did.

He would find a quiet spot and tell God about His day, His struggles, and His joy. Jesus would ask His Father for help and give praise to God. In the Book of Matthew, we see Jesus sending His disciples on their journey as He left them to go pray.

Matthew 14:23 "After He had dismissed them, He went up on a mountainside by Himself to pray."

Matthew 26:44 "So Jesus left them and went away one more time and prayed. This third time He prayed, He said the same thing."

Jesus knew that He needed to talk to God to stay close to Him. This is a powerful way for us to grow close to the heart of God too. We can find a quiet place alone to pray. We can pray out loud with family and friends. We can pray while we worship. We can pray as we wake up and pray as we fall asleep. We can pray throughout our day and trust that God hears us.

One more way to grow closer to God every day is to abide in Him. The word 'abide' means to stay or remain. In John chapter 15, verse 5, Jesus tells us …

"I am the vine, and you are the branches. If a person remains in me and I remain in him, then he produces much fruit. But without me, he can do nothing."

Jesus was teaching a group of people in Jerusalem. He told the crowd, "I am The True Vine, and my father is the Gardener." Jesus knew that the people in the crowd that day would understand all that it takes to plant, grow, and care for a fruit-bearing vine. When you hear the word "vine" in the Bible, it might help if you picture a tree instead of a climbing vine like ivy. Jesus represents the trunk and roots of the tree, and we, as believers, represent the branches connected to the trunk of the tree. Jesus continued by telling the crowd that God is the Gardener who takes care of the tree. We are God's creation, and He gives us everything we need to grow closer to Him, closer to Jesus, and closer to the Holy Spirit.

LESSON CONCLUSION

When we put our energy towards learning about God and Jesus through the Bible, we grow closer to Him.
When we commit to praying as much as we can and talking to God about everything, we grow closer to Him.
When we ask God's Spirit to stay with us, we grow closer to the One who created us.
When we follow the ways of Jesus, then we can know God's amazing love and share His love with others.

JESUS CONNECTION

How can we grow closer to God every day?
We can spend time in His Word, pray to Him, and stay close to His Spirit.
Jesus wants us to come to Him every day.

SMALL GROUP: REVIEW & DISCUSSION

This is a time to check kids' understanding of the Bible story and its Truths. These guided questions can spark minds to continue seeking understanding of God and His Son, Jesus.

Recall:

- Where did Jesus stay for three days after the Feast of Passover? *(The temple in Jerusalem)*
- What did Jesus do when He went off by Himself? *(He prayed)*
- What does the word "abide" mean? *(To stay or remain)*

Discussion & Application:

- What is your favorite way to spend time with God?
- What is one thing you learned from today's lesson?
- How will you use what you learned this week?

PRAYER

Dear Lord, we are grateful You have made ways for us to grow close to You. You have given us Your Word in the Bible so that we can know Your truth. You have given us Your Son, Jesus, to show us how to obey. You have given us Your Spirit to guide us. That gives us hope and joy. In the powerful name of Jesus, we pray—Amen.

LIVE IT OUT CHALLENGE

This challenge will prompt kids to make the KXP lesson personal. It can encourage them to live out what The Bible teaches us.

Challenge: Vine and Branches

- *(Leaders, please use this leader video to help you prepare for helping the kids complete the **Vine and Branches** diagram in class.)*
- **Leader Video**
- In class, talk through the **Vine and Branches** diagram and guide the kids as they fill in the labels on their sheets.
- Encourage kids to take their diagram home and talk it over with their family.
- Remind them to carry this illustration (picture) with them in their minds as they live out being close to God every day.