

# January 18, 2026

## 1<sup>ST</sup>–3<sup>RD</sup> Grade Sunday School

### Candy Factory Week 3: Caramel Highway

#### **Video Game:**

Dance Dance Freeze 2

*It is in the "Sunday School Videos" album and the date is in the comments.*

#### **Game:** Sticky Marshmallow Madness

ITEMS NEEDED: Marshmallows

#### **INSTRUCTIONS:**

Have kids line up. Give them each a marshmallow and ask them to rip it halfway in half so there is a hole in their marshmallow but it hasn't been ripped into two pieces. Instruct them to stick the marshmallow to their nose and proceed to try to walk all the way across the room without the marshmallow falling off. Each time it falls they will have to stick it back on their nose before they can continue. When they get to the other side of the room tell them to take their marshmallow and rip it the rest of the way in half. Then put one piece on each cheek and try to walk across back to the other side of the room without it falling off. Finally, when they reach the other side, gather all of the marshmallows and throw them away. Give each kid a marshmallow (or another treat if there is an allergy/sugar limitation) and allow them to eat it as their reward for trying the stick marshmallow madness challenge!

#### **WHAT'S THE POINT?**

Just like sticky caramel, marshmallows get us into sticky situations! When we take the road less traveled, it might look more difficult, but at least it doesn't get us into a sticky mess of sin!

**Lesson:** If we go the wrong way, we will end up in some sticky situations!

We all make mistakes sometimes, and when we do, we get ourselves into sticky situations. This is because sin always leads to problems. Have you ever gotten yourself into a sticky situation? I know I have! Today we are going to listen to what Jesus said about this, and how we can avoid this problem.

Before we dive into the text, tell me...what is your most favorite sticky candy? Raise your hand if you like caramel. Raise your hand if you like taffy. Raise your hand if you like gum. Raise your hand if you like marshmallows. Yum! Let's read from Matthew chapter 7 and listen to what Jesus tells us about following Him!

READ MATTHEW 7:13-14

Jesus doesn't take long to give us this warning. It's only 2 verses long. But it is full of wisdom that leads to sweet rewards! Jesus tells us to enter through the narrow gate. The one that not many people go through. The one that isn't very popular and not everyone else is doing it. He warns that it is very easy to go the wrong way. The gate is wide and broad, which leads to destruction. This means that there are so many ways we can go that are NOT good for us. There are so many ways we can live our lives that are not healthy, not what God has designed for us, and not what God's purpose is for us. So, we should take this as a warning. To be careful where we go. Jesus tells us about two roads, one looks good and leads to some sticky situations, and the other isn't as popular, but will take us where we need to go!

Don't just follow the crowd. Don't just do whatever everyone else is doing. It's easy to just follow others but then we won't know if it is the way God is calling us to go. Jesus says small is the gate and narrow is the road that leads to life. And very few find it. You might be asking yourself...then HOW WILL I FIND IT IF IT'S HARD TO FIND?! It might not be the easiest road to travel but it's not hard to find. God gives us instructions how to find it. The only reason people don't go that way is because they decide they want to do things their way or they'd rather follow others.

We can find the road less traveled by reading God's word and praying and asking God to lead us. Sometimes God will ask you to go places that might sound strange or silly to you. But when we obey, we receive SWEET REWARDS! Because when we obey God, we are following His good and perfect will for us!

So next time you are tempted to go the wrong way, stop and pray. Ask God what you should do. Listen to his instructions through His word (the Bible) and the Holy Spirit speaking to your heart. IF WE GO THE WRONG WAY WE WILL END UP IN STICKY SITUATIONS. We will be stuck in our sin and the consequences of our sins. If we go the right way, the road won't be sticky with sin, but it will have its challenges. There will be difficult things we face, there will be challenges...but we can face them because we aren't walking it alone, we are walking it with God. As we have a close relationship with Him, we can lean on Him and ask Him for help when we find roadblocks, potholes, or what sometimes looks like a dead end. FOLLOWING JESUS ISN'T ALWAYS EASY, BUT IT'S ALWAYS WORTH IT! Because this road less traveled leads to a life with Jesus.

## **Discussion Questions:**

1. Is the road less traveled wide or narrow?
2. Why do you think it's more popular to take the wide road? (Hint: Sin leads us the wrong way.)
3. How do we get to the narrow gate? What do we do in order to have a close relationship with Jesus?

Close in prayer.

## **Memory Verse:**

THIS WEEK: "I heard a loud voice from the throne. It said, "Look! God now makes his home with the people. He will live with them. They will be his people. And God himself will be with them and be their God." Revelation 21:3 (NIRV)

If they memorize the verse, they can get a ping pong ball to put in the BLUE BOX in the hallway.