



LESSON 3 SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

The world's "wisdom" says that what we look at and play on our screens can't do us any harm. But what we see with our eyes goes into our hearts. And Jesus tells us that the fruit of our life is based on the condition of our hearts.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will say "God's Truth is: I should fill my heart with good things."

KEY PASSAGES:

Luke 6:43-45, Tree and Its Fruit, Philippians 4:8 & Psalm 101:3-4, Choosing Good Things

MEMORY VERSE:

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6 (NIRV)

SUMMARY:

In this four week session on "The Wrong Way," we'll be learning about how God's Truth is better in every way than the world's "wisdom." The world tells us that we should listen to and look at things that will lead us away from following God and toward serving self. God's teaching is to avoid filling our hearts with evil things and to listen to and look at things that will help us be more like Jesus.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear Heavenly Father,

We know that there are good things and bad things in the world. Help us to avoid things that are wrong and turn to things that help us be more like Your Son Jesus.

In Jesus' name we pray,

Amen



MEMORY VERSE

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6 (NIRV)

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6 (NIV)

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6 (NLT)

Jesus saith unto him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 14:6 (KJV)

LARGE GROUP:

Display the verse on the focal wall.

Leader: Jesus said He is....

Group: The way! (walk in place)

Leader: Jesus said He is.....

Group: The truth! (hold up Bibles)

Leader: Jesus said He is....

Group: The life! (put hand on heart)

Leader: How do you get to God the Father?

Group: Through Jesus!

Leader: Where does the Bible tell us this?

Group: John 14:6!

SMALL GROUP:

Ask if anyone wants to try to say the verse by themselves. Tell the children that God the Father loved us and wanted to share life with us. Because we were sinners, He had to make a way we could be saved. He sent Jesus to give His life for us. It is only through Jesus that we can know God the Father. Say the verse in unison.



SKIT

Road Closed Ahead

ITEMS NEEDED: Two chairs. The coach has a clipboard, and Walker has something to use as a “steering wheel,” perhaps a paper plate.

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

Coach Caution—male or female. Might wear a baseball cap. The coach is very nervous and often reacts in panic.

Walker—male or female. Any clothing. Walker is very enthusiastic and energetic.

(Coach Caution and Walker are sitting in two chairs facing the audience. Walker is on the coach’s left. Walker is “driving” and the coach is hiding their face behind the clipboard.)

WALKER: Hey, Coach Caution, why are you hiding behind that clipboard?

COACH: Your driving scares me very much, Walker.

WALKER: Really? Huh. I thought I was doing okay. I learned to drive on this video game I have, “Sidewalk Scramblers Speedway.”

COACH: Is that the game where you drive on the sidewalk and people have to jump out of the way?

WALKER: Oh, yeah! You have to swerve around the good guys and run over the bad guys. It’s awesome.

(The coach lowers the clipboard and looks at Walker.)

COACH: Walker, that’s a terrible video game.

WALKER: No, no, it’s great. (Walker swerves and they both lean.) Whoops! Almost hit that hot air balloon. I’ve gotten to where I can miss most of the good guys.

COACH: Walker, haven’t you heard about putting good stuff into your heart?

WALKER: Oh, yeah, like in church and stuff. But “Sidewalk Scramblers” is cool!

COACH: Ahhhh! Watch out for that library! (Walker swerves and they both lean.) You may not think that game is doing you any harm, Walker, but if you keep putting bad things into your heart you’re going to be getting bad things out.

WALKER: Huh. I do keep thinking about what it’d be like to really drive on the sidewalk, now that you mention it.



SKIT

COACH: Right! God wants us to put good things into our heart, not bad things.

WALKER: Oh, that makes sense. (Looks ahead.) Hey, coach, what does “Road Closed Ahead” mean?

COACH: That means there’s danger ahead, Walker. There may be a tree down ahead, or a wreck, or maybe construction. It wouldn’t be safe to drive past the sign.

WALKER: What should I do?

COACH: Do you remember how to make a U-turn?

WALKER: You bet! You showed me in the last lesson. (Makes a U-turn.)

COACH: Good job, Walker!

WALKER: Well, you taught me, Coach. You know, you don’t learn to make U-turns in “Sidewalk Scramblers Speedway.”

COACH: No, I guess not.

WALKER: Hey, coach, maybe the Bible is like a “Road Closed Ahead” sign.

COACH: What do you mean?

WALKER: Well, maybe when it warns us about danger, we should listen to it, and not keep going. You know, like the way we’re going is a bad way and it’s not safe to stay on it.

COACH: That’s a very good point, Walker.

WALKER: Thanks, Coach. So, can I drive on the sidewalk now?

COACH: No, Walker, that would be a bad idea. Don’t let video games teach you how to drive. Or how to live.

WALKER: Right. Hey, do you know that you get extra points in “Sidewalk Scramblers” for driving through churches?

COACH: It doesn’t sound like a game Jesus would like, Walker.

WALKER: No, I guess not, coach.

(The actors exit.)



OBJECT LESSON

ITEMS NEEDED:

A smartphone or tablet.

Good morning, boys or girls. We live in an amazing time of technology. Many of you or your families have something like this (indicate device). I can use this to talk to people, send messages, watch videos, learn about things, play games, listen to music, download directions, and check on the weather. And it has a flashlight!

But you know, even with all these amazing devices and gadgets we have now, people are still the same as we've always been. We have a sin problem, and that problem can only be fixed by following Jesus. Nobody follows God perfectly, but there are many people in the world who don't even try to. And sometimes these people make videos and music and games that won't help you follow God. There is bad stuff out there.

You know that sometimes your families won't let you watch some things or play some games? You need to listen to them. They know more than you do right now, and they're trying to help you, even if it doesn't seem like it all the time. The more you watch or listen to bad stuff, the easier it is to do bad stuff.

We're not going to talk about anybody specific today, but there are people out there who don't want you following God. And they make content we could watch on this. (Indicate device.) There are videos and music and games that make violence or cursing seem cool, or that make crime seem like a good idea. The Bible says that we're supposed to love others and do good to them, but there's stuff out there in the world that says just take care of yourself and your friends and don't worry about anyone else.

We have a choice about what we watch and listen to. Before we play any games or read or watch anything, it's a very good idea to pray and ask God to help us make good choices about what we put in our hearts.



LARGE GROUP GAME

Jesus Is The Way to God

ITEMS NEEDED: Masking tape or something to mark “bases” on the floor of the playing area.

INSTRUCTIONS: Set up a start and finish line. Between the start and finish mark out two parallel courses of ten bases each so that the children can either jump or step from one base to the next, depending on your available space and how strenuous you want the game to be. The bases can be simple x’s on the floor.

Divide into two teams. When the leader says “go,” the first child in each team will step or jump to each base in turn. As they step to the bases they will call out:

“J-E-S-U-S Is The Way to God.”

That is, a child will jump to the first base, say “J,” then to the second, say “E,” then to the third, say “S” and so on.

When they jump or step across the finish line at the end, the next child will start the course. The winning team is the one to get all their players across the finish line first.

Depending on your time and number of children, kids can run back around to the start and go again if you want to do a few rounds.

VARIATION: Children with mobility issues can move from base to base with an able-bodied helper, but should still call out “J-E-S-U-S Is The Way to God.”

WHAT’S THE POINT: Following Jesus is the only way to get to God the Father. (Even though this lesson is about “avoiding bad things,” the best way to do that is by filling our hearts with good things, like thinking about Jesus.)



LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

The world's "wisdom" says that what we look at and play on our screens can't do us any harm. But what we see with our eyes goes into our hearts. And Jesus tells us that the fruit of our life is based on the condition of our hearts.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will say "God's Truth is: I should fill my heart with good things."

KEY PASSAGES:

Luke 6:43-45, Philippians 4:8 & Psalm 101:3-4

A note to teachers: Please try to avoid mentioning specific musicians, movies, books, video games, and so forth. Children can very quickly become defensive or withdrawn if one of their "favorites" is challenged, and neither attitude is conducive to learning. Try to focus on the "positives" instead, the good things that we can fill our hearts with that are pleasing to God.

INTRO:

Everyone in the world is a sinner who needs a Savior. God sent Jesus into the world so that we could be saved from our sins, and the Bible tells us that story. But God also tells us in His Word a lot about how He wants us to live. He wants us to be joyful and loving and patient. He wants us to enjoy being with Him and to enjoy being with others. We can learn a lot from the Bible about behaving like God's people.

Sadly, the "wisdom of the world" is often very much against God's Truth. We're not going to name any names today, but there are movies and music and video games out there that glorify all kinds of bad things. You know, things that God's Word teaches aren't good for us. Bad language isn't good for us. People showing their bodies isn't good for us. Violence isn't good for us. Having lots of different boyfriends or girlfriends isn't good for us.

Let's read some of the things in God's Word about what is good and bad for us.

READ LUKE 6:43-45, PHILIPPIANS 4:8 & PSALM 101:3-4

MAIN POINT:

The story from Luke is part of Jesus' famous "Sermon on the Mount." Our Lord talked about how we can live as people who belong in the Kingdom of Heaven. Here He says that if we're going to be good then we're going to store up lots of good things in our heart, and then we'll say and do good things. If we choose to be bad then we'll put bad things in our heart and we'll say and do bad things.



LARGE GROUP LESSON

The apostle Paul writes in Philippians that it is better to think about good and beautiful things. That means that the things we read and watch and listen to should be things that we know God is going to be happy with. And King David wrote in Psalm 101 that he had decided that he was going to be careful about what he looked at. He wasn't going to choose evil or bad things.

What this means is that what you put into your mind and heart is going to determine what kind of person you're going to be. God wants us to look at and listen to things that are going to make us more like Jesus. The evil in the world wants us to look at and listen to things that are going to make us less like our Lord and Savior Jesus.

DRIVE IT HOME:

Today's lesson is called "Road Closed Ahead." When you're out driving and there's some kind of danger in the way you're going, you'll see a "Road Closed" sign. That way you know it isn't safe to go that way. The Bible gives us warnings that it's dangerous to go certain ways.

Most people who make bad music or movies or video games don't mean any harm. They're just thinking with the world's wisdom and not with God's. And you might think that you can watch or listen to bad stuff and it won't do you any harm. I'm sorry, but that just means that you're probably thinking with the world's wisdom, too. And the world isn't always very wise.

The Bible is clear. If we want to have good stuff come out of our hearts, then we have to put good stuff into our hearts. Your families will tell you they don't want you playing some games or watching some things, because they're trying to protect you from bad stuff. I want to challenge you to pray and ask God for His wisdom before you read or watch things that might be bad. God wants us to fill our hearts with good things.

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear Heavenly Father,

We know that there are good things and bad things in the world. Help us to avoid things that are wrong and turn to things that help us be more like Your Son Jesus.

In Jesus' name we pray,

Amen



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION K-2ND

ICEBREAKER:

Share about something wholesome you enjoy doing, like playing with animals or walking in nature, and how it helps you feel better. Invite the children to tell about some pleasure they have that makes them feel good.

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Ask if anyone wants to try to say the verse by themselves. Tell the children that God the Father loved us and wanted to share life with us. Because we were sinners, He had to make a way we could be saved. He sent Jesus to give His life for us. It is only through Jesus that we can know God the Father. Say the verse in unison.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Have the children play a quick game of “follow the leader.” When you call out “Road Closed Ahead” everyone should shout “Aaaaahhhhh! Turn around!” They’ll then reverse and the end of the line will become the leader. Mix up the children’s order and play a few rounds as your time allows.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Why should we listen to our families, teachers, and the Bible? (Because God wants us to.)
2. What happens if you put bad things into your heart and mind? (You get bad things out.)
3. What does the Bible say we should put into our hearts and minds? (Good things, things that are pleasing to God. NOTE TO TEACHERS: this doesn’t mean everything has to be Bible or “church stuff.” God has given us many good and beautiful things in the world.)

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear Holy Spirit,

We know that what we put into our hearts is important. Please help us to put things in that will help us become more like Jesus in our lives. Help us to turn away from things that do us harm.

In our Savior Jesus’ name we pray,

Amen



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION 3RD-5TH

ICEBREAKER:

Share about a time in your life when you acted selfishly and you realized that it made you unhappy and just caused trouble, OR share about a time when you had a chance to help someone else and how good it made you feel. Invite the group to do the same.

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Ask if anyone wants to try to say the verse by themselves. Tell the children that God the Father loved us and wanted to share life with us. Because we were sinners, He had to make a way we could be saved. He sent Jesus to give His life for us. It is only through Jesus that we can know God the Father. Say the verse in unison.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Have the children play a quick game of “follow the leader.” When you call out “Road Closed Ahead” everyone should shout “Aaaaahhhhh! Turn around!” They’ll then reverse and the end of the line will become the leader. Mix up the children’s order and play a few rounds as your time allows.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How can what we watch or listen to change our behavior? (Answers will vary.)
2. Why do people think it’s “cool” to do “bad guy” things? (Answers will vary.)
3. If God is going to forgive our sins anyway, why does it matter how we behave? (Answers will vary.)
4. What are some ways we can fill our hearts with good things? (Answers will vary. NOTE TO TEACHERS: this doesn’t mean everything has to be Bible or “church stuff.” God has given us many good and beautiful things in the world.)

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear Holy Spirit,

We know that what we put into our hearts is important. Please help us to put things in that will help us become more like Jesus in our lives. Help us to turn away from things that do us harm.

In our Savior Jesus’ name we pray,

Amen



POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

1. Since God forgives us, it doesn't matter if we sin. (False)
2. It's important to God what we look at and listen to. (True)
3. A good tree bears bad fruit and a bad tree bears good fruit. (False)
4. Jesus taught people what living in the Kingdom of Heaven was like. (True)
5. Paul wrote that we should think about false and bad and ugly things. (False)
6. King David wrote that he tried to do lots of evil things. (False)
7. Our families tell us not to watch or listen to some things to spoil our fun. (False)
8. Some movies and games have a lot of violence and bad language. (True)
9. The world's wisdom and God's wisdom are the same thing. (False)
10. God gave us the Bible because He wants what's best for us. (True)
11. It can be hard to live for Jesus, but praying to God will help. (True)
12. God's Truth is that I should fill my heart with good things. (True.)

MAKE IT STICK

WRONG WAY LESSON 3

5 SIMPLE WAYS
YOU CAN MAKE
THIS LESSON STICK
WITH YOUR KIDS

THIS WEEK'S LESSON

5 Simple Ways to Make This Week's Lesson Stick



IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

The world's "wisdom" says that what we look at and play on our screens can't do us any harm. But what we see with our eyes goes into our hearts. And Jesus tells us that the fruit of our life is based on the condition of our hearts. Luke 6:43-45, Tree and Its Fruit, Philip-pians 4:8 & Psalm 101:3-4, Choosing Good Things



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real: Exodus 2:1-10, The Birth of Moses

What did Jesus say about good trees and bad trees?

Does it matter what kind of movies we watch or games we play?

What did the apostle Paul and King David say about how we should think?



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

Can what you watch on TV or read in a book change who you are?

How can movies or games or music make bad ideas seem like good ideas?

Think of a video game you like. What if the real world was really like that?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this series' memory verse, John 14:6. Talk to them about what it means to have things in our lives (sin) that don't please God and don't help us live like Jesus. It would be better to have the parent suggest general sins rather than the child's specific ones.



PARENT TIME:

What you need to know:

In this lesson series we've been talking about knowing God's truth to help us avoid the dangers in the "world's wisdom." Today we learned that what we put into our minds and hearts is important, and it's better if we put in good things.



TAKE HOME

Items needed:

Paper, markers, crayons.

At the top of a piece of paper, have the children write “I will fill my heart with good things.”

Have them draw a large heart on the piece of paper.

Inside the heart, let them draw “good things.” Suggestions: The Bible, friends, family, animals, flowers, helping others.



Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”
John 14:6 (NIRV)



Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”
John 14:6 (NIRV)



Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”
John 14:6 (NIRV)



Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”
John 14:6 (NIRV)