

Bible Lesson

8. John the Baptist Points to Jesus

Matthew 3; Mark 1; Luke 3; John 1



He will make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

Luke 1:17

John the Baptist Points to Jesus

John ate crunchy bugs for lunch. He wore an itchy shirt made out of camel's skin. Why?

John had a job to do. An important job. This job did not pay him money. So, John lived on what he could find in the wild.

John pointed the way to Jesus. He shouted from the desert, "Repent! Say you are sorry for your sins. God's kingdom is almost here."

Hundreds came. They repented. "We are sorry for our sins." John baptized them in the river. John was a burning light. He shined the way to Jesus.

"John, are you the Messiah?" the crowd asked. "Are you the Holy One we are waiting for?"

"No, it is not me. A man more powerful is coming from heaven," John said. "I am not fit to even untie his sandals."

"Who are you?" the teachers and priests asked.

John said, "I am a voice calling in the wilderness: 'Get ready for your Lord.'"

The Jewish people got ready. It was time to meet the Messiah.

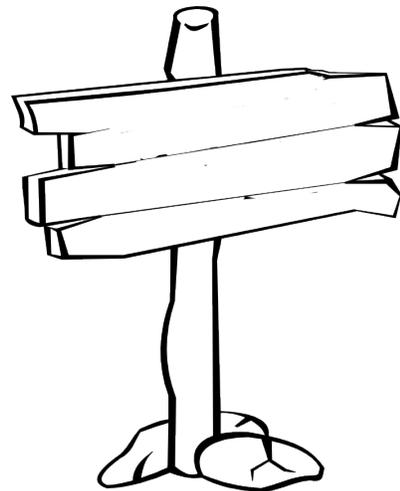
Questions

1. What important job did John the Baptist have?
2. John was like a sign pointing to Jesus. What did he tell the people they needed to do?
3. Who pointed you toward Jesus?
4. Now you can be a sign, too. Who would you like to point toward Jesus?

Pray this Prayer:

Dear Messiah Jesus,
You are the one I was waiting for.
Thank you that someone pointed
me toward you! I would like to be
a sign, too. Would you use me to
point a friend to Jesus?
Amen

If you could make a sign to tell others about Jesus,
what would it say? Write it on the sign.



Story S-t-r-e-tch-ing

8. John the Baptist Points to Jesus

Show students where the story is in the Bible. Use the Bible references above the illustration.

Before you read:

Activate Prior Knowledge

- a) What is the yuckiest thing you ever ate? Why did you eat it?
- b) If you lived in the wilderness, what would you eat and wear?
- c) Why do you think John chose to live in the wild?

After you read:

Shining Light

John was a burning light. He shined the way to Jesus. Collect a variety of light forms: a candle (be careful if you light it around children), an electric candle, a flashlight, and a lamp. Get creative: a lightning bug, a glow-in-the-dark stick, even a window. We are all different and can shine the love of Jesus into our schools and homes in many ways. Talk about ways that you can shine for Jesus. Turn out the lights. Pass around an electric candle and ask the kids to say a prayer asking God to make them a light burning bright for Jesus.

Do U U-Turn?

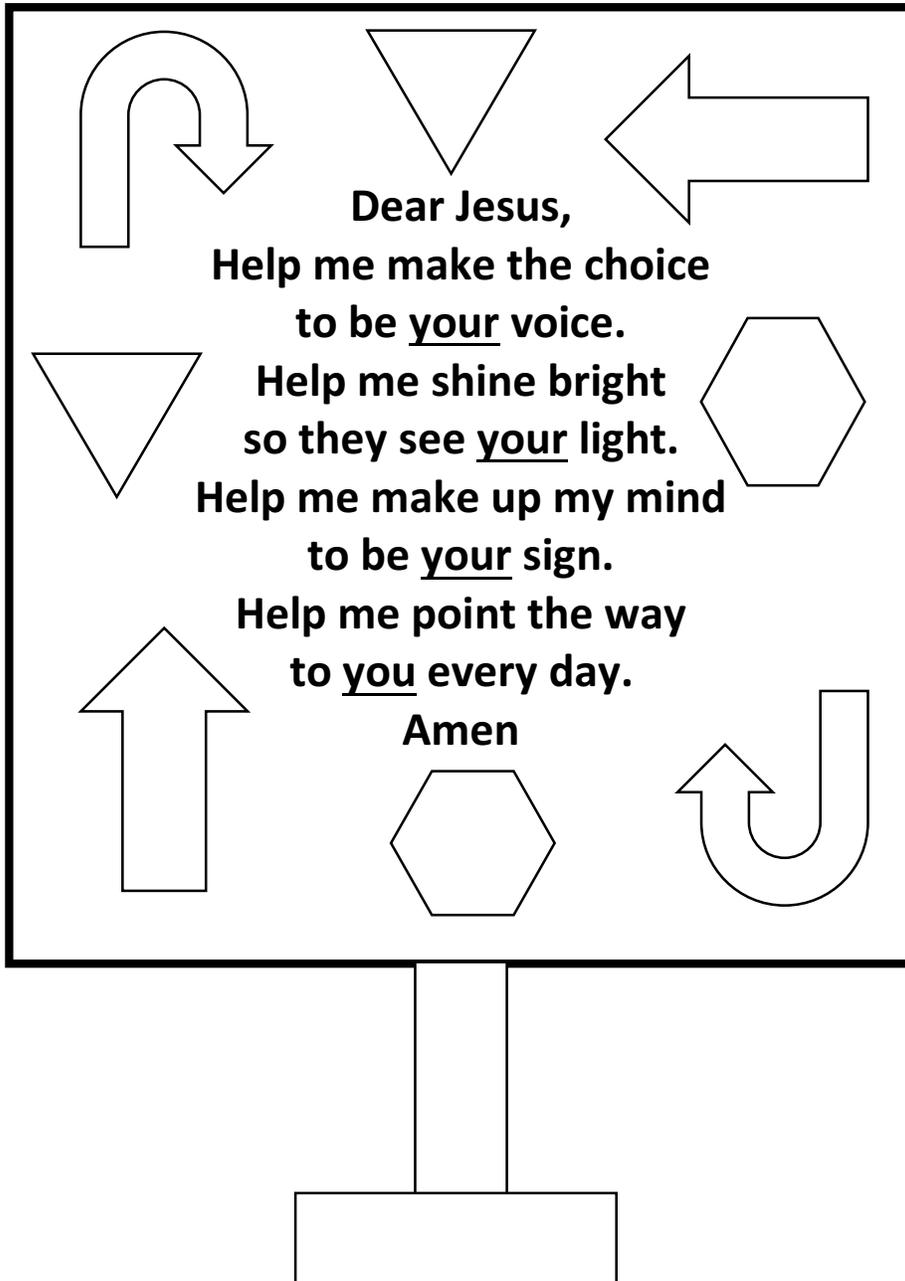
Write on a marker board common goals of this world: popularity, riches, comfort, being right and first in everything. On the opposite side of the room, write Christian goals: following Jesus, obeying God, going to church, telling others about Jesus, not insisting on our own way, etc. Take a journey toward worldly goals, but then take a u-turn (repent) and decide to pursue to God's ways.

Signs to Salvation

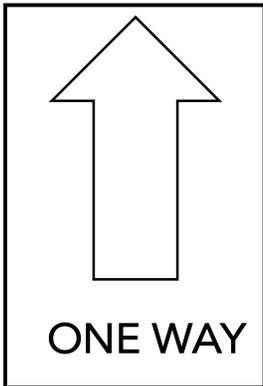
Learn to point your friends to Jesus. Make signs like the ones on page 6. Cut them out of manila file folders and tape a pencil behind them to use as a handle. Play a game where kids have to stop, yield, u turn, etc. to cross the room. Now, choose five people to hold each sign. One friend can lead a "lost" person from sign to sign while reading the words on page 6. At the end, say a prayer of salvation. Print, keep, learn, and practice the signs with the Bible verses so you can lead a friend to Christ. You can use the page or draw your own signs as you explain the road to salvation. See the verses on page 7.

Get Ready

John was a sign helping people get ready to meet Jesus. Look in the mirror. Who are YOU? Are you a voice calling the way to God? Are you a sign? Do you point to Jesus? Are you a light? You can be. As you prepare for church, school, sports, family events, clubs, or to play with friends, say the prayer. Cut, color, and post it on your mirror.

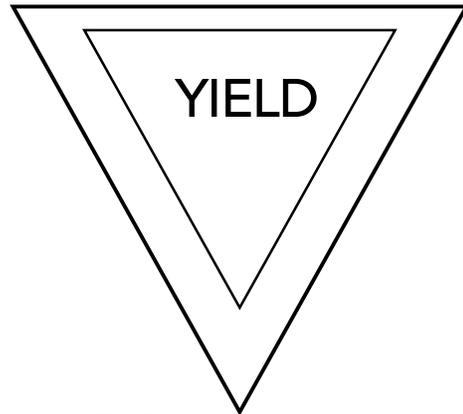


Follow the Signs to Jesus



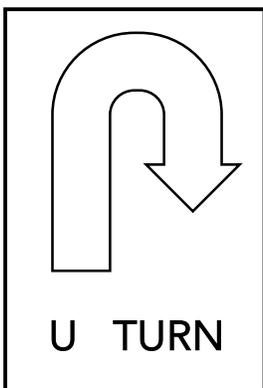
1. ONE WAY

Jesus is not just one way to heaven. He is the only way.
(John 14:6)



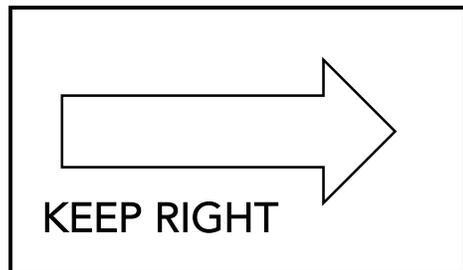
4. YIELD

To yield means give up your own way. Ask Jesus to be your Savior and Lord.
(Romans 10:9-10)



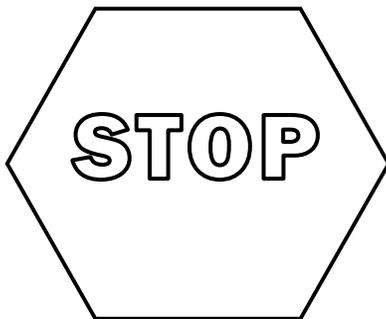
2. U TURN

God allows U-turns! You must repent of your sins. This means that you turn around your mind and your life to follow Jesus.
(Mark 1:15)



5. KEEP RIGHT

Now, keep going the right way! Decide to follow Jesus every day for the rest of your life.
(1 John 2:28-29)

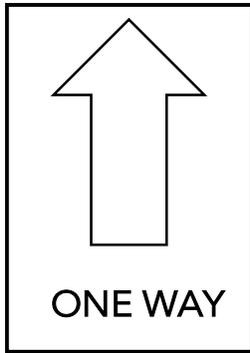


3. STOP

Stop ignoring God. Agree that Jesus died for your sins, and rose from the dead. Thank him!
(1 Peter 3:18)

Do you want to become a Christian? Make sure you understand the signs above and **say this prayer**: Dear Jesus, You are the one way to heaven. I am sorry for my sins. I want to stop living for myself and turn my life around so that I now live for you. Thank you for dying for my sins. I give up my way and ask you to be my Lord and Savior. Help me to stay on the right path by following you for the rest of my life. Amen

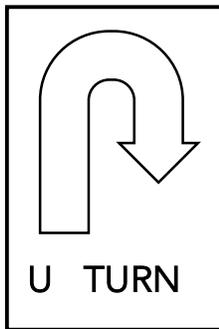
VERSES: Follow the Signs to Jesus



1. ONE WAY

Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father but through me."

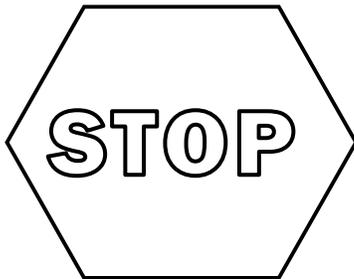
John 14:6



2. U TURN

"The time has come," Jesus said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

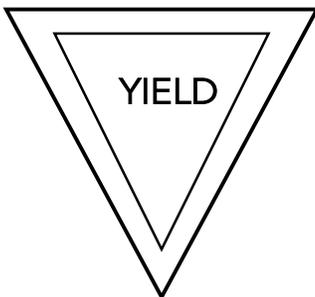
Mark 1:15



3. STOP

Christ suffered once for sins. The one who did what is right suffered for those who don't do right. He suffered to bring you to God. His body was put to death. But the Holy Spirit brought him back to life.

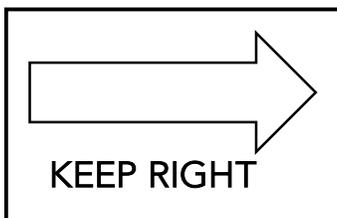
1 Peter 3:18 NIV



4. YIELD

Say with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord." Believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead. Then you will be saved.

Romans 10:9-10



5. KEEP RIGHT

Dear children, remain joined to Christ. Then when he comes, we can be bold. We will not be ashamed to meet him when he comes. You know that God is right and always does what is right. And you know that everyone who does what is right is God's child.

1 John 2:28-29 NIV