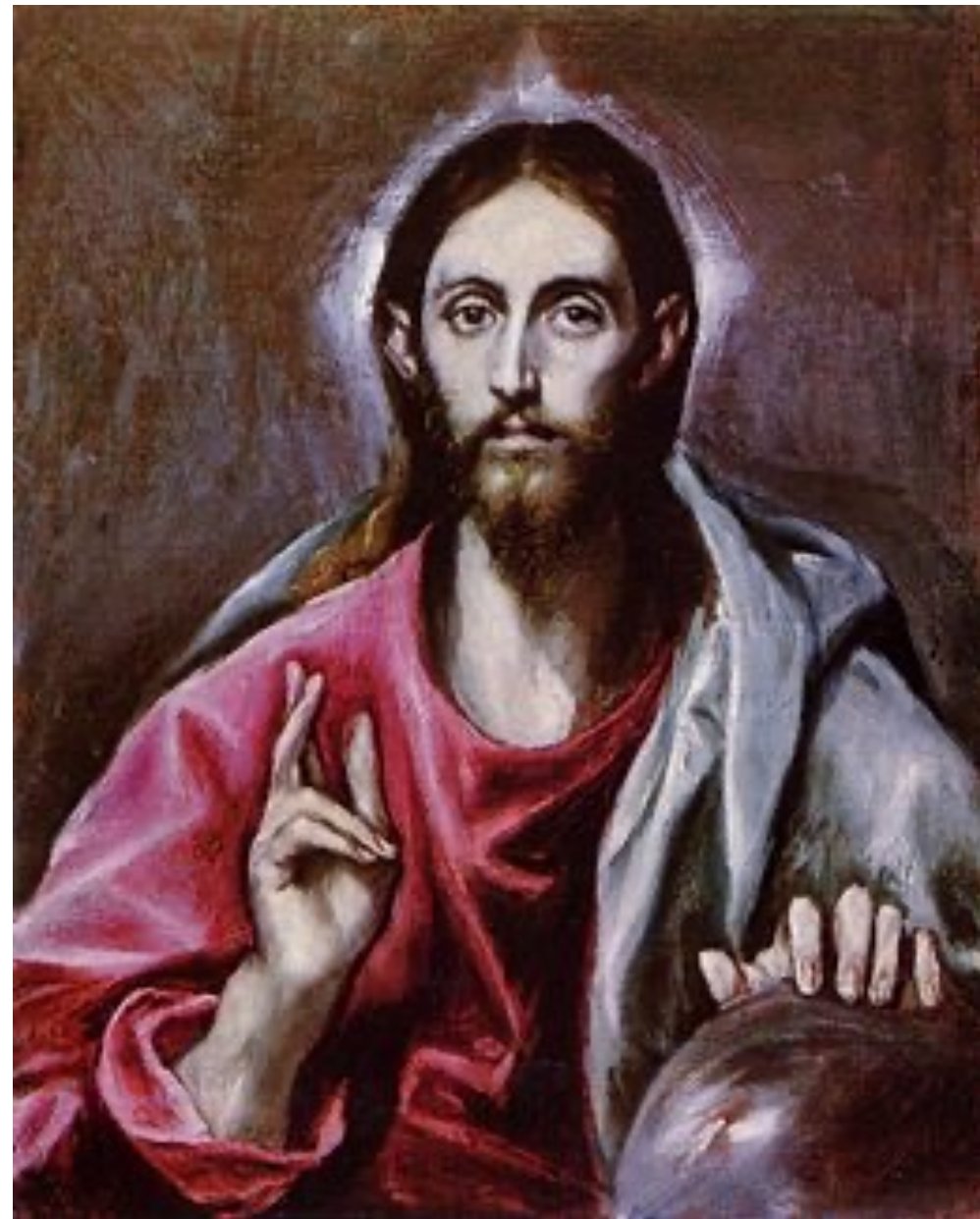


Formation Session 1: Jesus is the Way

*My dear Jesus,
you are here with us this morning.
As we come together
help us to know and to love you
as our friend
and the only way to your Father.*

*May our feet journey together.
May our hands gather in unity.
May our hearts beat as one.
May our souls be in harmony.
May our thoughts and words build up.
May our lips pray and honour you.
May our song give you praise.*

Amen.



Jesus is the way: Who do you say I am?

- **AIM OF THIS FORMATION SESSION:** To allow children to reflect on who Jesus is and to help them to find ways to express this.
- Give the children their stick on name tags. An opportunity to reflect on the importance of our names in getting to know someone?
- As this is an introductory session formation guides should spend some time introducing themselves and allow the children to introduce themselves to you (e.g. what is their name (do they know if their name has a special meaning or were they named after somebody special?), their favourite film or sport (what team do they support?), etc
- The more time we spend getting to know someone, the deeper our friendship will become. This is also true when spend time getting to know Jesus. The more we come to know Jesus, the more we can come to know his is our friend and we come to love him.

Activity: True or False?

Three statements are made about Jesus. The children (divided into smaller groups of 3 or 4 to allow fuller participation of all the children) must decide which is the false statement and which are the true statements. Then, they must explain why they believe this to be the case:

The name Jesus means "the one who saves"

Jesus' surname was Christ: Jesus Christ

An angel appeared to Joseph instructing him "to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins".

Jesus is the Son of the Living God

Jesus was a political leader and a celebrity

Jesus is truly God and truly human

Jesus came to give us the fullness of life

Jesus came to show us how to be truly happy

Jesus came to give us everything we want

Jesus was a real Jewish man who came from a town called Nazareth.

Jesus is dead. He is now just a skeleton.

Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life. He is one with His Father and the Holy Spirit.

Jesus is the Way

Jesus is the Truth

Jesus is the Life

Scripture: What does Jesus say about himself? John

14

This could be given to each child and for them to take home with them.

Context: This is what Jesus said to his closest friends, the disciples, just before he was taken outside the city of Jerusalem to the place called Calvary where he would be crucified

"Do not be worried and upset," Jesus told them. "Believe in God and believe also in me.

There are many rooms in my Father's house and I am going to prepare a place for you. I would not tell you this if it were not so.

And after I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you with me, so that you will be where I am.

You know the way that leads to the place where I am going."

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going; so how can we know the way to get there?"

Jesus answered him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one goes to the Father except by me."

from The Gospel of John, chapter 14

Reflecting on John 14

- Read the Scripture passage once so the children get a sense of its meaning. Read it very slowly a second time but explain to the children that this time they are not only going to listen with their ears but with their hearts. Invite them to close their eyes and listen attentively.
- Reflecting on the passage:
- How do you think Jesus felt before he was going to die?
- How do you think his disciples felt? What does Jesus say to them?
- “There are many rooms in my Father's house, and I am going to prepare a place for you.” Who is the Father that Jesus is talking about? Does this Father live in a huge house like Buckingham Palace? What is the Father's house? Where is the Father's house?
- Why does Jesus say he is going to prepare a place for us?
- How do we get to the Father's house? Do we use a map, satnav or google maps? How do we find our way to the Father's house? How do we travel there? By bus, train or airplane?

The children are given a copy of the maze and a pen

They are told to follow the instructions that they hear “go straight ahead”, “go right”, “go left” or “stop”.

The children are asked to put their pen at the start point and told to close their eyes. They have to listen to the instructions to get through the maze,

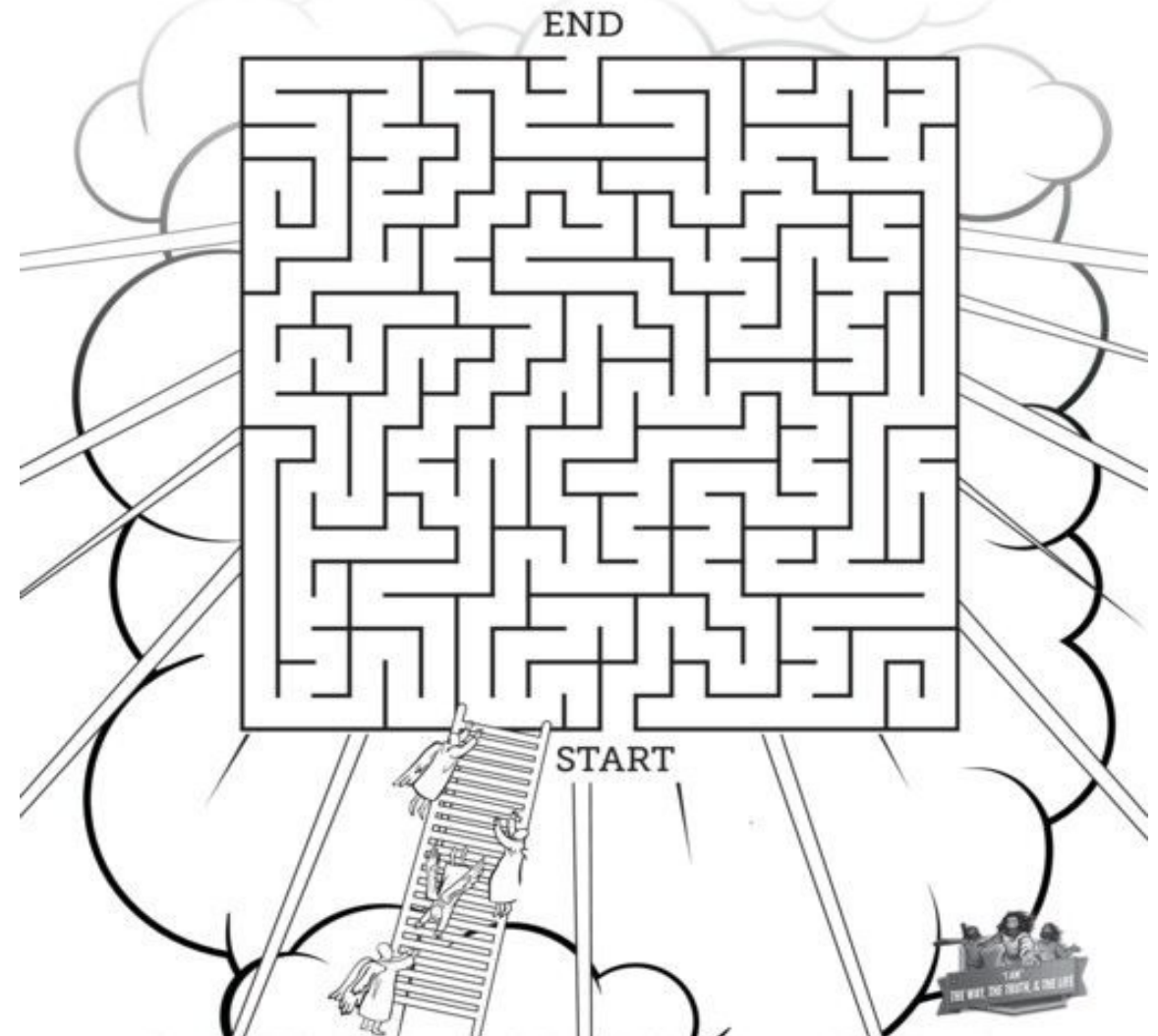
The formations guides give instructions to get through the maze but the instructions are given all at the same time so that it is not clear to the children which voice to follow. When this point is made...

...the activity is repeated with a new copy of the same maze but this time just one formation guide gives the instructions (they will need to work out a path through the maze), slowly and clearly.

If we listen to lots of voices telling us what to do and where to go, we can get confused and do not find our way. We might even get completely lost. But if we listen carefully to the one voice, the voice of Jesus, we can find our way to the Father. Jesus is the way. His voice is clear and trustworthy.

“I AM” THE WAY, TRUTH, & THE LIFE

Guide the angels to heaven.



Time of Prayer

Let us be still and speak to Jesus in our hearts.

Silence

The framed picture is passed around. The children reads the scripture passage and pass the image on to the child beside them. They close their eyes and contemplate the words.

**Jesus, Son of the Living God,
you are the way, truth, and life.
Please help us to know how to follow you.
Thank you for guiding us through this life
to our heavenly home in heaven where we will be with you and with all the saints
forever.
Thank you for your friendship.
Thank you for your love.
We love you, Jesus!**

Amen

**MASS OF WELCOME FOR HOLY COMMUNION CHILDREN AND FAMILIES TOMORROW
AT SUNDAY MASS 9.30 a.m.**

WAY, TRUTH,
AND LIFE

