

Two Gates

Introduction

We have been learning about the Way of the Wise and the Way of the Foolish. Last week our lesson was about two foundations. We learned that a wise man builds his house on a good foundation and a foolish man builds his house on bad foundation.

Ask: Are we talking about houses or something else?

We are talking about our lives. We need to build our lives on the Rock of our salvation, Jesus Christ. That means we need to know Jesus, listen to His word and follow Him. We do that by asking Him to be our Lord and Savior.

Last week we learned about two foundations; today we will learn about two gates. But let's open in prayer, before we go on...

Opening Prayer

Father, there is the *Way of the Wise* and the *Way of the Foolish*. Open our spiritual eyes and ears this morning so that we can learn how to make wise choices in life so that we might get on the path to heaven. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

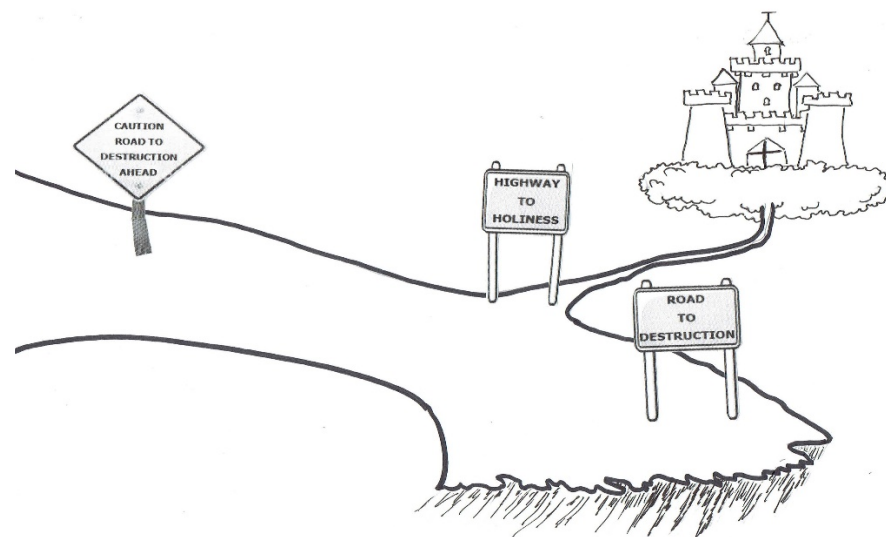
Memory Verse

I am the gate. Those who come in through me will be saved...
(John 10:9a NLT)

Lesson

[Teacher, draw a simple map on the board showing a road that splits into two paths, similar to the following. Then lead the children in a discussion:]

Look at this picture.



Ask: How many gateways are there? (Two)

As you can see in this picture there are two gateways. Each lead to a path that goes to a specific place.

Ask: Where does the narrow path go? (To Heaven and everlasting life with God.)

Ask: Where does wide path go? (To destruction.)

Ask: Can you get to heaven by way of the wide path? (No.)

Ask: Suppose you thought that that the wide path leads to heaven because so many people were on it. Would you be correct? (No! Only the narrow path goes to heaven. We can't change that.)

It doesn't make any difference if you *think* that the wide path goes to heaven; it goes to destruction no matter what you think. You could try to get to heaven by the wide path, but you would not get there.

In the same way, the Bible tells us that there is only one way to get to Heaven and that is by way of Jesus. Jesus said that He is the way and that no one can come to the Father except through Him.

[Teacher, show CROSS picture.]

Sword Drill: Matthew 7:13-14

*“Enter by the **narrow gate**. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. ¹⁴For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.*

Ask: In this verse, how many gateways are there? (Two: the narrow gate and the wide gate.)

The Bible calls the Way of the Foolish, **the highway to destruction**; and it calls the Way of the Wise, **the gateway to life**.

Ask: Describe the highway to destruction. (Vs 13, The gate is wide, the way is easy, it leads to hell, and lots of people choose that road.)

Ask: Describe the gateway to life. (Vs 14, The gate is narrow, the way is difficult, it leads to God's Kingdom, but only a few people ever find that road.)

Ask: Why is the highway to destruction so wide? (To have room for lots of people.)

Ask: Why are so many people on the highway to destruction? (They don't listen to and obey God.)

Ask: Why do you think that it says the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult? (Jesus is the *only* way to eternal life.)

Just like on our map, there are only two roads through life. Each road leads to only one place. We have to choose to live His way.

The prophet Isaiah talked about the Way of the Wise, too. He called it the **Way of Holiness**.

Sword Drill: Isaiah 35:8-10

*And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the **Way of Holiness**; the **unclean** shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. ⁹No **lion** shall be there, nor shall any **ravenous beast** come up on it; they shall not be*

*found there, but **the redeemed shall walk there**. ¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion **with singing; everlasting joy** shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.*

Ask: Who will walk on the Way of Holiness? (Vs 9, the “redeemed”.)

Ask: Who are the “redeemed”? (Those who have had their sins forgiven; they are those who are saved from the penalty of their sin.)

The only way to get on the Way of Holiness is through Jesus.

Ask: Who will NOT be walking on the Way of Holiness? (Vs 8, the “unclean”. Vs 9, “Lions” will not lurk along its course, nor any other “ravenous (hungry) beasts”.)

Ask: Who are the “unclean” mentioned in vs 8? (Those who have not had their sin forgiven.)

The people on the Way of the Foolish are not trusting in Jesus. They have built their lives on a bad foundation.

[Teacher, show HOUSE ON SAND picture.]

Only the children of God will walk on the Way of the Wise and they will be protected along the way from evil people and ferocious lions.

[Teacher, show LION (or ferocious beast) picture.]

Just like lions can attack and destroy our physical bodies, there are things that can attack and destroy our souls—our spiritual life—too.

Ask: What are the “lions” and “ravenous beasts” in our lives?

Evil things like drugs or alcohol. Even some movies, television programs, and video games can turn us away from God. Sometimes our friends try to pull us into sin with them. So, the wrong kind of friends can be like lions or ravenous beasts, too.

Ask: Did you know that bad heart attitudes can hurt us? They can be like lions and ravenous beasts.

Ask: What are some bad heart attitudes? (Pride, jealousy, and selfishness.)

When you are full of pride you become selfish, jealous, and mean.

Ask: How will the “redeemed” enter Jerusalem? (Vs 10, with joyful singing.)

Arriving in Heaven is going to be the most exciting thing you have ever experienced in life. God tells us in His Word what eternal life with Him will be like:

Sword Drill: Revelation 21:4

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.

There will not be any sadness or crying in heaven.

Heaven will be a place of great joy and happiness.

Ask: How long will the joy last? (Forever!)

Ask: Will everyone receive this? (No.)

Ask: Who is this for? (Only the “redeemed”.)

Ask: How does someone become one of the “redeemed”? (By trusting in Jesus; by making Jesus the foundation of your life.)

Ask: Is there any hope for someone who is not trusting in Jesus to get on the Way of the Wise? (Yes, if they ask Jesus to forgive them.)

Ask: Are you one of the “redeemed”?

The Bible has good advice and a warning for us about the two paths of life.

Sword Drill: Proverbs 4:14-15

¹⁴Do not enter the path of the wicked, and do not walk in the way of the evil. ¹⁵Avoid it; do not go on it; turn away from it and pass on.

The Bible warns us to stay on the Way of the Wise and to avoid the Way of the Foolish.

You must choose which path you want to walk on in life!

Closing Prayer

Father, we have learned today that there are two gateways in life. Each gate leads to a path that goes to a specific place. One gate opens to a wide path that leads to destruction. The other gate opens to a narrow path that leads to eternal life with You. Please help us not to be foolish, but to listen to Your Word and to obey it. We want to make wise choices in our life so that we might stay on the Highway to Heaven. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Learning Activities

Activity Center

Show Me the Way

Have the children draw a map from their home to church. Discuss how the road you go on determines where you go.

Game Center

Use the following questions in a discussion or game of your choice:

1. Why is the highway to hell so wide? (Many choose that Way.)
2. What does it mean in Proverbs when it tells us not to even set our foot on the path of the wicked? (Don't give in to sin.)

3. If you know you've been walking on the Way of the Foolish, how can you turn around and get back on the right path in life? (Confess your sins.)
4. Can you give any examples in your life where you needed to turn from the path of the wicked but didn't? That is, where you were tempted to sin.
5. Is there anything in your life that is tempting you away from the Way of the Wise? Do you have any friends that try to turn your heart away from God?
6. What do wise people do with warnings from the Bible? (They listen to and obey the Word of God.)
7. What keeps us from obeying God? (Pride, laziness, not caring about consequences.)
8. What would keep you on the Way of the Foolish? (The love of the world, pride, not knowing Jesus, wanting to be popular with the wrong type of friends.)
9. What is the good advice and the warning we learned from Proverbs 4:10-15? (Hold on to God's teachings and don't be a fool.)
10. What does it mean to hold on to God's teaching? (Listen and obey.)

[For more expositional lessons for children, visit
<https://www.FreeChildrensMinistryLessons.com>]