



# SALVATION

MATTHEW 7:13–14, ROMANS 10:5–13, & MATTHEW 10:26–33

## GOAL

- ▶ **To show children the entrance to the small gate—the narrow path that leads to the Kingdom of heaven, a life eternal.** Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. There is absolutely no other way to heaven except through Him. Just as Jesus warned them in His teaching on the Kingdom of God, warn them to stay clear of the wide gate that promises a full and contented life apart from Christ, because ultimately it delivers death.
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## WORDS TO KNOW

- ▶ **Salvation:** To be delivered and protected from sin and its consequences. Salvation is a work that only God can do, and it is only available through repentance and by faith in the saving work of Jesus' death on the cross.
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## MEMORY VERSES

- ▶ **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. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

**Matthew 10:39:** Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

**Acts 4:12:** And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”



## OVERVIEW

- ▶ **Read Matthew 7:13-14; Romans 10:5-13; Matthew 10:26-33:** Jesus warns, “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. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.” (Matt. 7:13-14). Both roads promise an abundant life, but only one truly delivers. The story told in this lesson is of a traveler who comes to a fork in the road. He must decide between two paths. On the one hand, there is a large gate that opens to a wide path. He sees countless people chasing after the kind of life that seems right to them, and at first it makes the most sense to him—until he is warned by a faithful evangelist who speaks truth to him.

## SUGGESTIONS

- ▶ **Compare and contrast the narrow path and the broad path:**

- 1. Large gate and wide path:** The broad road is easy to see and easy to access. It does not challenge the will of any person seeking to enter, but instead promotes many attractive paths. Whether the path chosen on the wide road is easy or filled with challenges, it always ends the same—in eternal death and destruction—because not one way on the broad path can satisfy God’s demand for perfect righteousness.
- 2. Small gate and narrow path:** While all are welcome to enter, the narrow path is the less obvious and it is much more difficult to enter. Jesus is gate that must be passed through in order to get on this one-and-only path to heaven and eternal life. The narrow path is limiting to people who don’t want to do things God’s way and come with different ideas in mind. This path will challenge the resolve of all who enter, but it ultimately leads to abundant life. This path depends on the perfect sacrifice of Jesus—He alone satisfies God’s demand for righteousness.



**PRE-LESSON  
ACTIVITY**

▶ **Big Gate, Little Gate** | **Supplies:** Cardboard building blocks (cardboard boxes will work fine, too) and a light medium-sized rubber ball.

Build two “gates” with the cardboard blocks/boxes—one with a wide opening and tunnel, and one with a narrow opening and tunnel. To play the game, divide the class into at least two teams. Give each player from each team the opportunity to toss the ball, bowling style, through each of the openings. The goal is to get the ball to pass through without hitting or knocking over any of the cardboard boxes. Each complete passage counts as one point. The team with the most points wins!

**MEMORY  
VERSE  
MEANING**

▶ **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. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

The narrow way alone leads to heaven. It is difficult to enter because it does not appeal to the masses. On the other hand, the broad way is wide with easy access, but it leads to hell.

**Matthew 10:39:** Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Apart from Christ, any attempt to preserve your life will be unsuccessful. But for those who follow Him at any cost, whatever is lost in this life will be gained beyond what can be imagined in eternity.

**Acts 4:12:** And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

Calling on any other name or looking for salvation in any other thing will result in eternal destruction. Call on Jesus—the only name that can save you!



## POST-LESSON ACTIVITY

- ▷ **The Narrow Gate | Supplies:** You will need: a bag of marbles, wooden building blocks, masking tape.

Take two pieces of masking tape, one three inches long, one 7-8 inches, and place them on the floor. Tell the students this is the width of the pathways, and have them build a "gate" around each one with the blocks. Next, give them each a marble and give them the choice to roll their marble through the wide gate or the narrow gate. Clap and cheer for each successful roll. But, after all the students have had a turn, give a prize to anyone who managed to get their marble only through the narrow gate. Verbally tie this into the lesson, and if there's time, give students a chance to try for the narrow gate again.

## TAKE HOME

- ▷ Present characteristics of the salvation through Jesus alone and the different ways that have been imagined by the hearts of men to gain abundant life and/or eternal salvation. Discern together whether they are found on the narrow path or the broad path:

1. If you are good enough, you will make it to heaven. **[Broad path]**. Our own righteousness can never be enough. It just takes one little sin to make us guilty of all. Jesus alone owns the righteousness we need to meet God's demand for perfect holiness.
2. Jesus' sacrifice on the cross satisfies God's requirement for righteousness. **[Narrow Path]**. If we place our trust in His righteousness, it will be seen by God as our own.
3. Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die. **[Broad path]**. This mentality of gaining a life for yourself now, with no thought for eternity is a dangerous lie. What does it profit a man if he gains the whole world now, only to lose his soul eternally? (Luke 9:24-25).
4. Jesus is the only way to salvation. **[Narrow Path]**. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6).



## QUESTION & ANSWER

### SLIDE 1



**Q1a:** Where does the narrow path lead?

**A1:** The narrow path leads to a perfect Kingdom that lasts forever.

**Q1b:** Have you ever heard the saying: Life is a journey?

**TN:** Think about the last vacation you took with your family. Maybe it was a road trip, or a camping trip, or maybe you went to an amusement park. Whatever the destination was, think about all the things your family had to do to prepare for the trip and all of the things that happened on the way to your destination, including any obstacles you may have encountered. Now consider every day of your life steps taken in a great journey. The day you were born, you began a journey to grow up. Every day you go to school, you're on a journey to becoming what you want to be when you grow up. Because you want to go to Heaven, you go to church to learn more about God and His Son, Jesus. The Bible says that the way to the Kingdom of Heaven is through the small gate and down the narrow path. Every part of your life then becomes a series of decisions keeping you on that narrow path toward Jesus and His Kingdom.

### SLIDE 2



**Q2a:** Which path did the evangelist urge the traveler to take?

**A2:** The evangelist urged the traveler to take the narrow path.

**Q2b:** Have you ever used GPS for directions on how to get somewhere you've been before?

**TN:** GPS is very helpful when we don't know how to get somewhere, but when we know where we're going, all it does is tell us to turn where we already know to turn. Often, these programs can tell us about delays caused by construction or traffic accidents. So even though we know how to get to a specific location, our usual route may be the slowest way to get to there. The evangelist stood at the fork in the road warning people of the dangers of the easy path. Unlike a GPS warning of delays and heavy traffic, the evangelist was warning people of the perils of the easy path and that it ended in death and judgement.





## QUESTION & ANSWER

### SLIDE 3



**Q3a:** Which path did the traveler think looked more attractive?

**A3:** The traveler thought the broad path looked more attractive.

**Q3b:** Someone in your class found the answers to a test. A bunch of classmates plan to use them and cheat. What do you do?

**TN:** Using the answers ensures that we get a good grade without having to study at all. Lots of our classmates are going to be cheating, so how bad could it be? Very bad! Cheating is wrong. While it may get us a good grade on this test, the next test on this same subject builds off of the knowledge we claimed to know perfectly. Cheating is a temporary fix that ultimately hurts us. The broad path, while easy, does nothing to build our character or knowledge of the world and God's will for our lives.

### SLIDE 4



**Q4a:** What was at the end of the broad path?

**A4:** Eternal judgment was at the end of the broad path.

**Q4b:** Can you just hop on any bus and get to where you want to go?

**TN:** Every bus has a very specific route. If we don't pay attention to a bus's specific route, we could end up going in the opposite direction of our destination. Like a bus, the wide path looks like a means to reach our destination, but it takes us in the opposite direction.



## QUESTION & ANSWER

### SLIDE 5

**Q5a:** After asking to be led to the path that leads to life, where was the traveler directed?

**A5:** The traveler was directed to the small gate and the narrow path.

**Q5b:** A new friend invites you over to her house. You've never been there before. Do you need directions?

**TN:** How could we ever expect to find a place we've never been before?! Even if we have GPS, we will need her address at the very least. Jesus has invited us to His home. He has given us directions on how to get there; all we need to do is follow them.

### SLIDE 6



**Q6a:** What belonged to the traveler now that he was on the narrow path?

**A6:** The Kingdom of Heaven belonged to the traveler.

**Q6b:** What are some ways a person could travel from one side of the United States to the other?

**TN:** A nonstop flight would be the fastest way, but there are lots of other ways: train, bus, car, motorcycle, bicycle, and even by foot. The best method of transportation really depends on the goal of the journey. If just getting there is the goal, one of the faster methods would be the best choice; but if taking advantage of the opportunity to see the entire country is the goal, then one of the slower, ground methods would be better. The narrow path to the Kingdom of God is not fast. It is not easy; however, the narrow path will allow us to experience a relationship God. On the narrow path, we will be able to see God in our lives every step of the way.



## QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 7



**Q7a:** What does Jesus say He is?

**A7:** Jesus says He is the gate, and whoever enters through Him will be saved.

**Q7b:** To get home, you need to take two rights and a left. If you make a third right instead of a left, will you make it home?

**TN:** No, we've made a wrong turn; however, that does not mean we are lost and will never find our way home. We can ask for directions. As we walk the narrow path with God on our way to the Kingdom of Heaven, we may make some wrong turns and find ourselves far away from the path. God will always help us find our way back to the path; all we have to do is ask for Him for directions.





**MEMORY  
VERSES**

▷ **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. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

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**BIG IDEA**

▷ God has shown us the way to Heaven and eternal life with Him.

**CLOSING  
PRAYER**

▷ Dear Jesus, thank You for making a way for us to be forgiven and changed—that if we trust in You, we will be saved. I pray that each of us places our trust in Your sacrifice on the cross for salvation. I pray that we would not be distracted by the dangerous lies of the broad path that leads to destruction, but would be focused on the abundant and eternal life offered on the narrow path. We ask these things in Jesus' name, Amen.



## LESSON TRANSCRIPT

### SLIDE 1



There is a large gate that opens to a wide road; just inside this gate is a view of all that the heart desires. It boasts of many paths so that it appeals to all—but the way, however attractive, is the way of death. There is another gate that is smaller and far less appealing. The path is sometimes lonely and often challenging, but it leads to a perfect Kingdom—one that lasts forever. Jesus warns, “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow is the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.”

### SLIDE 2



It is at this fork in the road that the traveler must decide his path. At first glance, the wide road is the most promising. He is comforted by the masses who have chosen it; “After all,” he thinks to himself, “What bad can happen in the company of so many?” But as he moves towards what seems to be the better path, his attention is drawn to an evangelist pointing the way toward the road less traveled. The messenger cries out to him in urgency: “Jesus said, ‘I am the way the truth and the life. No man can come to the Father except through me!’ Then in further warning, he adds, “The way of life and the way of death are before you. Choose wisely!”



## LESSON TRANSCRIPT

### SLIDE 3



From where the traveler stands, the broader road appears far more attractive because of its many self-indulgent options; but he cannot shake the evangelist's invitation and warning. If the evangelist's words are true, by surrendering to the lesser path—the way of the cross, the way of self-denial—the traveler will find his life; but if he chooses to trust the vain promises offered by the greater path, he will, in the end, lose it.

### SLIDE 4



The truth of the evangelist's message continues to affect the traveler and all at once his eyes are opened. Far off in the distance he can now see that the broad path leads to destruction. The life that seemed right to so many, in fact, ended in eternal judgment. And not one man, woman, or child on this path could avoid its disaster.

### SLIDE 5



No longer deceived by the false claims of the broad path, the traveler falls to his knees in repentance. "Show me the path that leads to life," he pleads. Again he is directed to the small gate, the narrow path.

### SLIDE 6



The traveler eagerly begins his new adventure toward the eternal kingdom. On this path he will experience sorrow, but he will be comforted; he may not be rich, but his expectation is in an eternal treasure; he will experience injustice and be affected by immorality, but his hunger for God's righteousness will be satisfied; he will practice mercy and likewise be shown mercy. Along the narrow path, the traveler will be changed. His heart will be made pure and his eyes will see God. And even though he will be misunderstood and persecuted, the Kingdom of heaven is his!



## LESSON TRANSCRIPT

### SLIDE 7



Jesus says, "I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved!" The narrow way alone carries the treasure of the Gospel, and the Gospel is this, "That Jesus died for our sins according to the scriptures, that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day, according to scripture." Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved!