



KINGDOM OF THE NARROW WAY

Drivers Wanted

March 29, 2025

1 PREPARING

A. THE SOURCE

Deuteronomy 30:15 • “See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil.”

Joshua 24:15 • “And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

Jeremiah 21:8 • “Now you shall say to this people, ‘Thus says the LORD: “Behold, I set before you the way of life and the way of death.” ’ ”

1 Kings 18:21 • “And Elijah came to all the people, and said, ‘How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.’ But the people answered him not a word.”

Zephaniah 1:4-6 • “I will stretch out My hand against Judah, and against all the inhabitants of Jerusalem. I will cut off every trace of Baal from this place, the names of the idolatrous priests with the pagan priests—those who worship the host of heaven on the housetops; those who worship and swear oaths by the LORD, but who also swear by Milcom; those who have turned back from following the LORD,

and have not sought the LORD, nor inquired of Him.”

Isaiah 30:19-21 • “For the people shall dwell in Zion at Jerusalem; you shall weep no more. He will be very gracious to you at the sound of your cry; when He hears it, He will answer you. And though the LORD gives you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your teachers will not be moved into a corner any more, but your eyes shall see your teachers. Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, ‘This is the way, walk in it.’ ”

Isaiah 35:8-10 • “A highway shall be there, and a road, and it shall be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean shall not pass over it, but it shall be for others. Whoever walks the road, although a fool, shall not go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast go up on it; it shall not be found there. But the redeemed shall walk there, and the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing, with everlasting joy on their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.”

Jeremiah 6:16 • “Thus says the LORD: ‘Stand in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; then you will find rest for your souls. But they said, “We will not walk in it.” ’ ”

Matthew 20:16 • “So the last will be first, and the first last.”

Matthew 22:14 • “For many are called, but few are chosen.”

Luke 13:22-30 • “And He went through the cities and villages, teaching, and journeying toward Jerusalem. Then one said to Him, ‘Lord, are there few who are saved?’

“And He said to them, ‘Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able. When once the Master of the house has risen up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock at the door, saying, “Lord, Lord, open for us,” and He will answer and say to you, “I do not know you, where you are from,” then you will begin to say, “We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets.” But He will say, “I tell you I do not know you, where you are from. Depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity.” There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves thrust out. They will come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and sit down in the kingdom of God. And indeed there are last who will be first, and there are first who will be last.’ ”

Matthew 6:24 • “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”

(See additional passages in student material.)

B. WHAT'S TO BE SAID ABOUT “KINGDOM OF THE NARROW WAY”

Popular opinion suggests that there are many ways that lead to God. Each way seems to come equipped with a full range of personal preferences, but all seemingly lead to God's everlasting kingdom. However, that's nonsense! Christ is very clear on this matter; the only way to eternity is through Him. The teaching of Christ in the Sermon on the Mount makes it clear that “the way” is not

easy, but difficult. Those who try to market the kingdom of God by making it easier than it really is, only cause others to be confused and disappointed in the Christian journey.

The narrow way isn't called the narrow way because “everyone is doing it.” It is narrow because few have accepted the challenge and made the choice to travel it. The goal of this week's lesson was to expose the “other ways” by a careful examination of the “narrow way” that God calls us to travel on. The “way we live” demonstrates the “way” we have chosen. Do we choose the high way or the low way; the hard way or the easy way; the popular way or the right way?

C. WHERE WE'RE GOING WITH “KINGDOM OF THE NARROW WAY”

As a result of this lesson we would like the students to be able to:

1. Evaluate the common “ways” in today's society.
2. Observe the characteristics of the “narrow way” that Christ calls believers to follow.
3. Make an informed decision about accepting the “way” of the kingdom instead of the “way” of the world.

D. MATERIALS NEEDED

Beginning • (Activity A) pencil and paper for quiz on page 134; (Activity B) loaf of bread, jar of peanut butter, jelly, knife, napkins, paper, pens or pencils.*

Connecting • Bibles, student lessons, white/chalkboard, markers/chalk.

Applying • Bibles, poster board, markers.

*Be aware of any food allergies and adjust accordingly.

2 BRIDGING

A. WHERE WE'VE BEEN BEFORE

Allow 10 minutes as students are arriving to:

1. Share anything that was meaningful to them in this lesson.
2. Engage in a discussion about the topic of the lesson in connection to the belief highlighted this week.
3. Say the Bible memory text either individually or in a group.

B. OTHER SABBATH SCHOOL COMPONENTS

- >> Song service
- >> Mission emphasis (find a link for Adventist *Mission* for youth and adults at www.realtimefaith.net)
- >> Service project reports

3 BEGINNING

NOTE TO TEACHER: Put together your own program with options from the categories below—Beginning, Connecting, Applying, and Closing. Please keep in mind, however, that the students need to have an opportunity to be interactive (participate actively *and* with one another) and to study from the Word.

A. BEGINNING ACTIVITY

Get ready • Reproduce the handout on p. 134.

Get set • Be familiar with the nature of the questions on this quiz. Try to anticipate how the students might answer. Remember that in some of the questions everyone's opinion can be true.

Go • Have each student complete the quiz individually. After everyone is finished, debrief and discuss their answers. **Ask:** **How many of you answered "true" for number one?** Read the question and discuss the different ways to ap-

proach the issue. Continue for each item, referring to the commentary supplied below.

Debriefing for the Quiz Questions • For the teacher: These questions were created to be somewhat controversial. The main idea is for students to have to explain their responses. Look, for instance, at the second question. It is true that those who follow God tend to "be happy," but using your own happiness as a guide for choices does not necessarily mean you are choosing the best way. Affirm rational answers that are both thoughtful and biblical. Most answers can be defended from a Christian perspective if interpreted a certain way. The following is a suggested approach.

1. Debating usually seeks to protect your own ideas rather than to learn from someone else. Talking and listening may lead to more insightful choices if people are using wisdom and biblical principles. But if they are simply defending their own ideas, it could lead to eloquent error.
2. What makes me happy may not make me holy or help lead me to God's kingdom. Sometimes I may choose to have less so that others can have more or to endure persecution for God's cause even though it may not appear on my list of "things that make me happy."
3. When someone steals or cheats, they are looking at the short-term benefit and not the long-term impact of dishonesty. In many ways it is hard to see the road ahead and how our decisions might impact our future.
4. It depends on what you are talking about: school, morality, success, or popularity. In general, we are a society that is all about the here and now.
5. When it comes to dress, music, and entertainment—probably yes. Culture tends to be a compass for many people.
6. We live our lives in different ways because we all have to make decisions based on our own unique journey. However, the ultimate decision about eternity does not lend itself to a variety of different choices.

We have two choices: we live either for ourselves or for God. Of course, how a person lives their life, for themselves or for God, may look different, but the type of choices we make are choices that others on the way have to make.

7. Our culture, music, and entertainment are talking about “spirituality,” but they aren’t any closer to fully living for God’s kingdom than when religion and spirituality were unpopular.
8. It is dangerous to even discuss who will make it to heaven and who will not. We have no idea what kind of people will make it. Those decisions are obviously completely up to God. All that we really know is that the Scriptures tend to demonstrate that those who make it are not the majority.
9. It is sometimes difficult to know who has responded to the Holy Spirit’s call to their soul, and accepted Christ’s robe of righteousness and who has not. In Romans Paul declares that those who do not have the law (the Bible) will be judged by God based on the way they responded to His love as demonstrated in the world around them. But those who have the words of life are accountable to respond to them. Ultimately, we must trust God to know the hearts of people. However, the way we choose to live does matter.
10. What is arrogant is to suggest that “I am right and others are wrong.” On the other hand, in the words of Christ there seems to be a clear line between two groups of people, and those groups are separated by some pretty high standards.

B. BEGINNING ACTIVITY

Note to Teachers: Before you introduce the next activity, make sure that none of the students in your group is allergic to peanut butter or any other food items you plan to use. In case of food allergies, please exclude those food items from the demonstration.

Get ready • This activity involves making a

peanut-butter-and-jelly sandwich. You will need a loaf of bread, a jar of peanut butter, jelly, a knife, and some napkins. Students will need paper and pen in order to write down instructions. Your job will be to make the sandwich following their instructions exactly. Some will be thoughtful and clear, while others will be very vague. The end product will reflect the nature of their instructions.

Get set • Equip students with paper and pen. Invite them to begin writing step-by-step instructions for how to make a peanut-butter-and-jelly sandwich. **Say:** **Be as thorough and specific as you think you need to be.**

After they have written their instructions, have them pair up with someone else and share their instructions. Give students a few more minutes to modify their instructions based on suggestions from their partner.

Go • Have students turn in their instructions. Pick several to follow exactly; make the sandwiches accordingly.

Debriefing • Ask: **How were the sandwiches different? How were they the same? Could they all be considered “PB and J sandwiches”? What aspects of the sandwich were core and nonnegotiable? What aspects of the sandwich left room for flexibility and variety? How is this like walking in accordance to the principles of God’s kingdom?**

C. BEGINNING ILLUSTRATION

In your own words, tell the following story:

Some people wonder how a majority can be misled. Surely a more perfect outcome should result when more heads are put together. Right?

An interesting thing happened several years ago at a college sporting event that proves that a majority of people can be misled. During the NCAA cross-country championship race the runners came across a dilemma that required an important decision. The runners came to a stage in the race in which the course was not marked

well. They had two choices: continue down the street they were on or take another way. Both directions looked reasonable. The lead runners made their choice and the crowded pack of runners followed, that is, all except Mike Delcavo and a handful of others. Mike knew that the other runners had taken the wrong road, and he urged the rest to follow him. Many of them laughed and made fun of him, but a few followed him. Mike finished the race with four other competitors. Out of 128 runners, 123 of them took the wrong way.

Debriefing • Ask: What happened? Why did the other runners follow the race leaders? Why did so few runners listen to and follow Mike? What other examples can you think of in which the majority was wrong? When in your life have you had a similar experience in which you followed the majority or vice versa?

4 CONNECTING

A. CONNECTING TO THE KINGDOM

Present the following ideas in your own words:

Choosing the way of the kingdom is harder than it may seem. Teens talk about resisting peer pressure and “not following the masses,” but when presented with a difficult situation or decision it can be a virtual pressure cooker of emotions. Teens describe peer pressure as one of the most difficult issues they must face. The masses often make it difficult for those in God’s kingdom to resist the pull of the world. In spite of the pressures of the world, you must remember that you are striving for heavenly rewards, not earthly approval. As you follow the narrow way, you can expect to be misunderstood. You can expect to be challenged. You can expect to feel outnumbered and alone. The good news is that the Savior provides the tremendous promise of His presence with those who travel the narrow way. And the fact that the narrow way leads to eternal life, as opposed to destruction, is a

motivating reward for those on the journey.

Have students find and read the following text: **Matthew 7:13, 14.**

“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 the road that leads to life, and only a few find it” (Matthew 7:13, 14, NIV).

Debriefing • Ask: What do most people think it means to be a Christian? How does this passage fit with that perception?

B. CONNECTING TO THE LESSON ILLUSTRATION

Ask someone beforehand to read or tell the story from Sabbath’s section of the lesson.

Ask: In the story “Drivers Wanted” we heard about three drivers who were challenged to drive extremely close to the edge of the road. Each driver was forced to make a decision in response to the man’s request. People often live close to the edge, thinking it is the best way to go. How does this apply to the Christian lifestyle? How does this relate to entertainment, dress, the way we talk, what we play, what we watch? Is it good or bad to live close to the edge? How do you think Jesus feels about people living close to the edge?

C. CONNECTING TO LIFE

The narrow way doesn’t just appear under your feet; you must choose to walk it. There are a number of scenarios listed below to which the students can respond. Write the two questions on a white/chalkboard. Have the students answer them for each scenario.

What do you think most people would do?
What do you think people following the narrow way would do?

1. You witness a close friend cheating on an exam.
2. You discover that your friend is mixing with the wrong crowd.

3. You learn that a friend is being pressured to engage in prohibited behavior.
4. You find out that your friend is failing his classes because he is constantly playing video games.
5. You see that your friend is cruel and uncaring to people who have very few friends.

Now have students scan the verses in the student lesson. Ask if they would change any of the responses they have just made based on the understanding they have of what God is saying in His Word.

5 APPLYING

A. APPLICATION ACTIVITY

Have students read the following promises for those who travel the narrow way:

Psalms 23:4

Proverbs 10:24

Isaiah 43:2

Isaiah 51:12-16

John 14:17-21

John 16:33

Then have students form groups of two or three for the "Narrow Way" signpost project.

Have students look over the student lesson they have just read, and have them make a "Narrow Way" sign that could be posted at the trailhead, where the two ways divide. The signs should have trail tips that would help a traveler make the choice and the journey. Trail tips would actually be paraphrases of the promise, but short, concise, pithy, and in the students' own words. For example, a trail tip from **Proverbs 10:24** might read "People who do what is right will reach their goals." A trail tip from **Psalms 23:4** might read "No anxiety / No worries / No fear / When God is near."

After the students have made their signs, invite them to share them with the class and explain why they chose the tips that they did.

Debriefing • Ask: How do you think your signs would be received by the majority of people in the world? at school? on a busy

street corner? in church? In what way has God given us signs to mark the narrow way?

B. APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. Who do you know in your community that is a good example of someone who walks the narrow way?
2. What qualities do they exhibit? What choices do they make that are defining moments for them?
3. Do you think people are admired or ostracized for their willingness to go against the crowd and popular opinion?
4. How do you stay humble and at the same time boldly live in a way that you believe is right?
5. In what part of your life do you struggle to stay on the narrow way?
6. Who do you know that needs encouragement to stay on the narrow way? Write a note and share a promise from Scripture that will give hope to that person.

6 CLOSING

SUMMARY

In your own words, conclude with the following ideas:

When Christ called His disciples to follow Him, He made it clear that they would have to count the cost first. He made no attempt to convince them about the narrow way. He informed them that the journey would be challenging. Those who take the narrow way must be ready to climb uphill at times. A signpost might even say, "You might think you're lost because there aren't many travelers on this trail, but keep going! You are on the right trail."

Especially in this time, we need a generation of teens who are committed to the narrow way, no matter the cost.

FOR LESSON THIRTEEN:

THIS HANDOUT IS FOR BEGINNING ACTIVITY A.

QUIZ

Mark each item either True or False.

1. ___ The more people debate an issue, the better the chances are that they will eventually agree.
2. ___ If you want to walk “the narrow way,” make choices that will make you happy.
3. ___ Most people look at the long-term effects of their decisions before they make choices.
4. ___ Most people consider only the short-term impact of their choices.
5. ___ My friends tend to make choices based on popular consensus.
6. ___ Eventually all ways lead to God.
7. ___ The more our culture talks about spiritual things, the closer they will get to God’s truth.
8. ___ God will save more people regardless of their choices.
9. ___ God will save people from other religions.
10. ___ It is arrogant to assume that only a small group of people are currently walking on the “narrow way.”



STUDENT LESSON

KINGDOM OF THE NARROW WAY

Drivers Wanted

March 29, 2025

Sabbath

FOR STUDY

- » **Memory Text:** "Ponder the path of your feet, and let all your ways be established. Do not turn to the right or the left; remove your foot from evil" (Proverbs 4:26, 27).
- » **Our Beliefs, no. 11, Growing in Christ:** "As we give ourselves in loving service to those around us and in witnessing to His salvation, His constant presence with us through the Spirit transforms every moment and every task into a spiritual experience."
- » Ellen G. White, *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, pp. 141-144

DRIVERS WANTED

The story is told of a man who lived at the top of a mountain. The road from his house to the valley was a winding, narrow route. On one side of the road there were no guardrails, in spite of a steep drop-off at the edge of the road. His search for a new chauffeur brought several potential drivers to the residence for an interview. His only interview instruction was "Drive me down the mountain."

The first candidate drove down the mountain about eight inches from the edge, demonstrating tremendous skills as a driver. A few times the tires squealed slightly, but the car stayed firmly on the road the whole way down. The man who lived on the mountain thanked

him politely and dismissed him, saying, "I will call you if I need to speak with you further."

The second candidate skillfully drove the car six inches from the edge of the cliff the whole way down. The driver spoke of his experience racing cars and could describe exactly what the car was doing as it swerved at each turn. His confidence and ability as a driver were well noted, but he too was dismissed and informed that he would be called if necessary.

When the third candidate heard the challenge, he looked at the mountain road that went to the valley and then started down the mountain. It was noted that he stayed a healthy distance away from the edge of the mountain the whole way down. When questioned, the driver said, "There are many ways to get down the mountain, but I chose the best and safest way. There was no reason to drive the car as close to the edge as possible and take the chance that something bad might happen." He was hired.

And this is how it is with the Christian walk. Too often as Christians we think, *Oh, I can handle this*, and we try to see how close we can get to sin without sinning. Unfortunately, and all too often, we end up so close to the edge that we fall into sin. There is no safety in getting close to sin.

We can be safe only when we turn away from sin and temptation. Jesus said, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8).

Sunday RESPONDING

- » Read 2 Corinthians 5:10.
- » Kelsey feels alone. She witnessed two boys hurting another boy at school. While many students witnessed the incident, no one was willing to say what happened.
- » Kelsey couldn't remain quiet. She told the principal, and the students were disciplined. Afterward students began calling her names that made her feel bad. How is standing up for what is right always the best course of action? Why does being a child of God sometimes result in being misunderstood by others? What should we do in those times?

Monday BIBLE ANSWERS ON GROWING IN CHRIST

- » Read 1 Peter 1:16; Revelation 14:12; 18:4; 2 Peter 3:10-14.
- » As we approach the end of time, God is looking for a people that will represent Him and will stand firm and true. He is looking for faithful children that will carry His message of love to a dying world.
- » What does it mean to "keep the faith of Jesus"?

- » Why does God ask us to separate ourselves from sin?

- » Explain how the way we treat others shows our character and our relationship with God.

- » Fill in the blanks.

"Therefore, _____ you want men to do to you, _____ also to _____, for this is the Law and the Prophets. _____"

by the _____; for _____
is the _____ and _____ is the
_____ that _____ to _____,
and there are _____ who go in by it.
Because _____ is the _____ and
_____ is the way which _____ to
_____, and there are _____ who
_____ it" (Matthew 7:12-14).

Tuesday REFLECTING

- » Read Proverbs 14:12.
- » Jesus has laid out the paths we have to choose from. We can choose the "wide" path of the world that leads to death and eternal separation from God. Or we can choose the "narrow" way that leads to salvation and eternal life.
- » Jesus didn't promise fewer problems, more money, and great success. He did promise that your life would be abundant, full of joy and peace—with no regrets. However, He makes it clear that the way is not easy.
- » Have you weighed the eternal rewards of following Christ against the short-term benefits of following the crowd? You can't travel on both trails—it's one or the other.
- » Sometimes it may seem hard to live differently than your friends, but the eternal rewards are better than anything this life has to offer. Do you think anyone who chooses to follow Christ will regret their decision when Jesus comes to take them to heaven to live with Him? What about you? Have you counted the cost? Are you on the right path that "leads to life"?
- » "He who will follow Jesus . . . will know of the doctrine, and will understand what are the advantages of entering in at the strait gate, and of walking in the narrow way" (Ellen G. White, in *Review and Herald*, March 28, 1912).

Wednesday

BIBLE INSIGHTS

- » Fill in the missing parts of the following verses. All verses are from the New King James Version.

"You will _____;
in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your
right hand are pleasures forevermore"
(Psalm 16:11).

"Then you will understand righteousness
and justice, equity and every good path.
_____,
and knowledge is pleasant to your soul"
(Proverbs 2:9, 10).

"Forsake foolishness and live, and _____
_____." (Proverbs 9:6).

"Turn from your evil ways, and _____
_____, ac-
cording to all the law which I commanded
your fathers, and which I sent to you by My
servants the prophets" (2 Kings 17:13).

"Your ears shall hear a word behind you,
saying, '_____',
whenever you turn to the right hand or
whenever you turn to the left" (Isaiah 30:21).

Thursday

CONNECTING

- » Read Romans 12:2.
- » Review the memory text.
- » Do you ever wonder how one minute you are following Jesus and the next you find yourself on the broad road doing things you know you shouldn't be doing? Jesus even saw His disciples struggle with this again and again. But Jesus is always there, waiting to help us.
- » Even longtime Christians who know the sign-

posts and are familiar with the trail struggle sometimes. One Bible veteran was Peter. He had a victorious experience at Pentecost and many other triumphant moments risking his all for Christ, but he succumbed to the popular way at times. In Galatians 2:11-14 Paul had to remind Peter of the narrow way. Paul sternly reprimanded Peter, who was prejudiced against the Gentiles. Then Peter counted the cost and got back on the narrow way.

- » Is it your desire to follow God every day? The road can be difficult, but God's Spirit reminds us that He is with us, and in the end we will rejoice that we chose the narrow way.
- » "We cannot retain self and yet enter the kingdom of God. If we ever attain unto holiness, it will be through the renunciation of self and the reception of the mind of Christ" (Ellen G. White, *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, p. 143).

Friday

APPLYING

- » Read Philippians 1:9-11.
- » List some decisions that you have made in the past that are characteristic of the "broad way":

- » List some decisions that you have made that you will never regret because they helped you walk the "narrow way":

- » Develop your own signpost motto (such as: Even if I feel lonely, I am never alone; I can't even imagine the reward stored up for me.) and write it here.

