

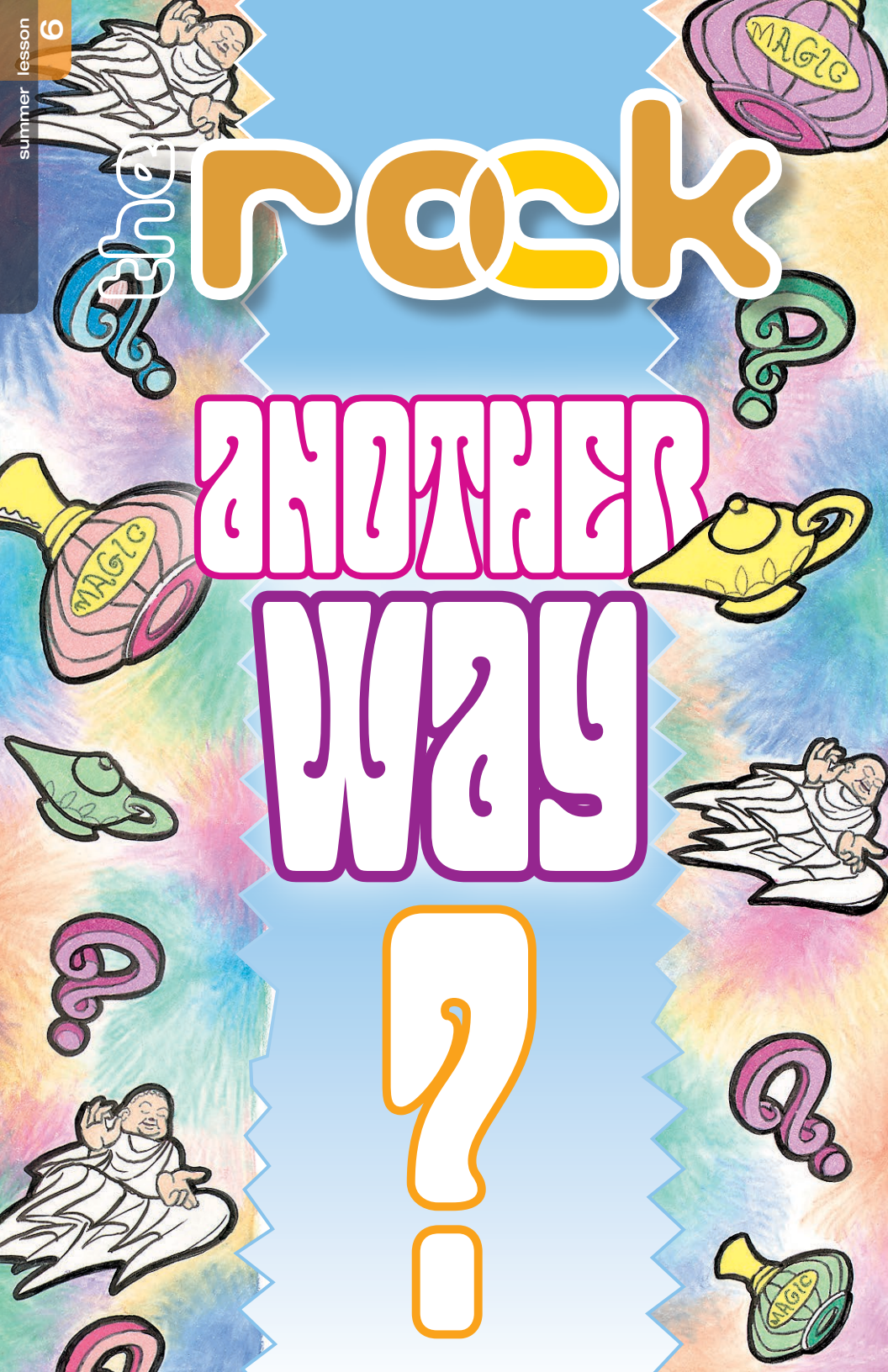
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ANOTHER

WAY

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A lot of people have problems with the truth that the only way to approach God is through Jesus. These people wonder if that's really true. Could there be some other ways that lead to God?

ALL-SEEING STARS

Rachel's friend Cammy comes every day to school with the local paper tucked under her arm. At lunch, Cammy spreads open the horoscope page and cheerfully announces to her friends what they can expect to have in store for their day. "You're a Leo, Rachel," Cammy declares, "so you will write a thoughtful letter to a sibling. Oh! Also, bicycle riding is in for this evening." Cammy is a Christian, and she thinks that God uses the stars to give His people insight and direction in their lives. Cammy points out that God used a star to help the Wise Men find Jesus. Why wouldn't He still use stars today?

What's Rachel to think? Has Cammy figured out another way God speaks to us?

GOOD PEOPLE

Shawn enjoys visiting Dulé's family. There is little fighting in the Webb household. Dulé's mom often

ANOTHER WAY?



drives the boys where they need to go. And in the recent hunger march, Shawn overheard that the Webbs contributed \$300. There couldn't be any better people. But Shawn knows that they don't believe in Jesus. "If there's a God," said Dulé's mom one day, "then I'm sure He is just. If we do our best, He can't ask anything more."

But is that so?

OTHER RELIGIONS

One of the largest tourist attractions in West Virginia is Prabhupada's Palace of Gold—a huge monument to the founder of the Hare Krishna movement. Smothered in gold, marble, stained glass, and Indian teakwood, this mysterious palace sits on a hill overlooking the homes of hundreds of Krishna followers. These people base their beliefs on the Hindu scriptures. They worship objects in nature (even a holy plant) and spend hours chanting, "Hare Krishna, Hare Krishna."

Are these thousands of modern Americans entirely wrong? And what about the millions of Hindus and their thousands of years of history?

GOD'S ANSWER

These are hard questions. But there *are* answers! First, the Bible tells us that there *are* other spiritual beings and powers in this world apart from Christ. Jesus warned about false Christs and false prophets (Matt. 24:24). If the stars really predicted our futures, then nature would rule over us and our free will. But God gave *us* command over nature (Gen 1:26-31).

Second, we shouldn't be satisfied with just a little bit of truth. Almost all religions contain something that is true. That's why it's sometimes hard to tell what's okay and what is not.

The New Testament says that nature reveals enough of God's qualities (His eternal power and His divine nature) that people have no excuse if they ignore obvious truth and choose to live ungodly lives (Rom. 1:18-20). *Everyone* catches at least a *glimpse* of God's reality. The mistake comes when people get hung up on that *glimpse* of God and don't really seek Him. They often end up worshiping creation (idols and such) instead of the Creator.

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Oh, SAY CA

Can anyone really know what God is like? Probably Moses knew God better than anyone else in the Old Testament. God used to speak to him in the “tent of meeting” (Exod. 33:7). Whenever Moses went to the tent, the pillar of cloud that meant God’s presence would come down, and God would talk to Moses “by name.”

READ EXODUS 33:11-17.

- What were the first two requests Moses made of God (see verses 13, 15, and 16)?
- What do these requests tell you about how close Moses was to God?

Even though Moses knew God personally, as a friend, there was something missing, and Moses wasn’t satisfied.

READ EXODUS 33:18.

- What more did Moses want?
- Why do you think Moses wanted to see God’s glory?

READ VERSES 19-23 TO FIND OUT HOW GOD ANSWERED MOSES’ REQUEST.

- Think about Moses’ experience. What picture comes to mind? Describe something you would compare Moses’ experience with.

No one, not even Moses, could ever actually see God directly. God is too great, too powerful, too pure



Bible Study

W DO YOU SEE?

for us mere mortals to ever fully know Him.

But wait! There is a way to know more. READ JOHN 1:14, 18.

¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

¹⁸No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known.

- How can we know God?
- From what you know about Jesus, what can you discover about God? Make a list of your discoveries (John 1:14 can get you started).

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

Exodus 33:11-23

¹¹The LORD would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend. Then Moses would return to the camp, but his young aide Joshua son of Nun did not leave the tent.

¹²Moses said to the LORD, "You have been telling me, 'Lead these people,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me.

You have said, 'I know you by name and you have found favor with me.'

¹³If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. Remember that this nation is your people."

¹⁴The LORD replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

¹⁵Then Moses said to him, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. ¹⁶How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?"

¹⁷And the LORD said to Moses, "I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name."

¹⁸Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory."

¹⁹And the LORD said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. ²⁰But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live."

²¹Then the LORD said, "There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock. ²²When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. ²³Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen."

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Because we want more than just a glimpse of truth, we go to the source. If Jesus were just a good teacher, then others might be able to teach us as much about God as Jesus. If He were only our example—the one we are to follow to get to heaven—then we might have a right to wonder if there are other ways. But Jesus is much more than a prophet or a good teacher or a good example.

Jesus is God.

What about other religions? Only Jesus brings us to God.

What about mystical experiences in drugs and the occult? Is it God or the forces of evil one encounters there? Paul said, “Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light” (2 Cor. 11:14).

And what about those who think they can live good enough lives to face God? Jesus said, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6).

There is no other way.



“I’ll believe
it when I
see it.”

How many times have you heard or said that expression? Actually, there are a lot of things you can’t see that you believe in.



INVALUABLE INVISIBLES



GRAVITY—THE ORIGINAL SUPER GLUE

Without gravity, the moon would go flying out into space. You’d be chasing your dog through space instead of around the block. In fact, the earth itself would tumble wildly out of control if God had not created this mysterious force that holds us all in place.

To understand the force of gravity, try this simple experiment. Tie a small object to a piece of string. Twirl it in a circle, and watch what happens. The tension in the string can be compared to the sun’s gravitational pull keeping the earth from flying off into space. Unless the string breaks, the object will stay in “orbit.”

MICROBES—NATURE’S MIGHTY MINIATURES

A microbe is the smallest form of plant or animal. Microbes come in many invisible varieties, but you can see them when they clump together to form colonies.

That blue fuzz growing on that forgotten orange in the refrigerator is mold, a form of microbes. Long

ago, scientists discovered how to produce penicillin from a mold.

You can grow mold by wetting a paper towel and placing it in a pie pan. Lay a piece of bread on top and cover with plastic wrap. Set the pan on a dark closet shelf for three to four days. You will discover a whole colony of mold creeping across the bread.

Invisible one-celled plants called algae trap energy from the sun to make sugar, then release oxygen into the air. We could not live without a ready supply of oxygen. Microbes also give us bubbles for our root beer, certain kinds of cheeses, and yeast to make bread rise.



THE HOLY SPIRIT—OUR INVISIBLE HELPER

We recognize gravity because we see the results all around us, even though we can’t see gravity itself. In the same way, we can’t see God’s Spirit, but we see His work in a Christian’s life as a friend, comforter, guide, and counselor.



every day devos

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

—John 1:14

Glory BE!

WHY WOULD anyone want to leave a beautiful, perfect place for a run-down crummy one? In a way that's what Jesus did when He left heaven to live on earth for a while. Jesus, however, didn't give up His identity as God's one and only Son.

MONDAY Read John 1:14. Why do you think Jesus became one of us? From what you know about Jesus' life on earth, finish this sentence: Because Jesus

_____ ,
I know God is

_____. For example: *Because Jesus never sinned, I know God is perfect.*

TUESDAY Read the first sentence of John 1:14. List all the things that you think Jesus experienced while here on earth, including actions as well as emotions. Do you believe that Jesus really understands your problems? Why or why not?

WEDNESDAY Read John 1:14 again. Write down the first word you think of when you hear the word "glory." Jesus showed His glory to His followers by His

miracles and by His death and resurrection. Draw a picture of Jesus' glory while He was on earth.

THURSDAY Do you think people at your school would recognize Jesus as God's one and only Son if He came to your school? Make up an introduction for Jesus. What would you say about Him?

FRIDAY List some of the ways you're like your dad. Now read John 1:1, 14, 18 and list some things Jesus shows you about His Father. Thank God for sending His Son to earth.

SATURDAY Read John 1:14 one last time. We can also give glory, or praise and thanksgiving, to God. Choose creative ways to express glory to God. For example, you could sing a song or act out your praise without using any words.

