

**Grade 6, Lesson 8      Many Roads, One Way**  
**Bible Background**

When the apostle Paul came to Athens on his second missionary journey, “his spirit was provoked within him as he was beholding the city full of idols” (Acts 17:16). Speaking to the men gathered at the Areopagus he said, “I observe you are very religious in all respects” (17:22). Man has always been very religious, but because of the darkness of sin and separation from the one true God, he has created his own religions to appease gods of his own making.

When Jesus appeared on earth, some of the major world religions we know today had already been around for centuries. Hinduism (1800-1000 BC) and Buddhism (founded around 520 BC) both arose in India. Confucianism began in China around 700-800 BC. Every pagan culture the Israelites encountered in Canaan and surrounding areas had religions with their own gods and idols. God forbade his people to take part in these “detestable things” such as divination, witchcraft sorcery, casting spells, calling up the dead, etc. (Deuteronomy 18:9-11). But all of these pagan religions are still around today along with many new ones, most of them under the umbrella of “New Age” religions.

Every world religion has produced many branches or sects, and Jesus faced this with the Jews as well. The Pharisees were a Jewish sect that appeared around 160 BC. They believed that Jewish oral tradition was as valid as the Torah (law of Moses), and emphasized that law in both its oral and written forms. They were known for their traditions, forms and rituals for which Jesus called them “hypocrites” (Matthew 23:13ff). The Sadducees were a priestly, aristocratic Jewish sect founded in the second century BC. They believed in strict interpretation of the written Mosaic law and so rejected ideas such as immortality of the soul, bodily resurrection, and the existence of angels (Matthew 22:23). The Herodians were a Jewish political faction rather than a religious sect, and were interested in maintaining the power and authority of the Herodian dynasty. They sometimes joined with the Pharisees in challenging Jesus (Mark 3:1-6, 12:13-14).

Jesus did not introduce a new religion but revealed the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of the living who came down to deliver his people (Exodus 3:8; John 1:14, 10:10). He atoned for sin, not with blood sacrifices of animals (or humans), but with His own blood (Hebrews 9:14; I Peter 1:19-20). The Samaritan woman at the well was religious (John 4:20). Jesus replied that religious people “worship that which you do not know; we worship that which we know; for salvation is from the Jews” (John 4:22). Jesus is “God with us” (Matthew 1:23). He came to give life (John 10:10) and a blessed hope (I Peter 1:3), and He is the one way to the Father in heaven (John 14:6).

## **Answers for Quarter 1, Lesson 8**

1. The Pharisees did these things and followed these rituals because they wanted to be noticed by men.
2. v.14, hypocrites  
v.16, blind guides  
v.17, fools and blind men  
v.33, serpents/brood of vipers
3. The Sadducees said there was no resurrection, meaning there was no life after death.
4. Jesus healed a man on the Sabbath.
5. As his name indicates, Simon “the Zealot” had been a zealot.
6. The wide way leads to destruction.
7. The narrow way leads to life.
8. By learning and knowing the truths taught in Scripture and continuing in them.
9. God will guide us through His Word, which lights our path.

### **Catechism Corner**

1. No; since the fall in sin, no man can perfectly keep the Law.
2. It points out to us our sins and the wrath of God toward sin.  
It makes us anxious to seek Christ.  
It points out to the believer what fruits his faith must bear.
3. a. None of us can obey the Law perfectly. To even break just one commandment has the same effect of breaking them all.  
b. By believing (trusting) in what Jesus Christ has done for me, and by believing (trusting) in him alone.

### **Word Works**

Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life.”



# Religious Roads

Using the different road signs given in the middle of the page, draw “roads” to connect the Jewish religious groups to a description of them at the bottom. Write down any other details you remember from the lesson about these religious groups.

Pharisees

Sadducees

Herodians

Zealots

The Road of Activism

The Road of Outward Appearances

The Road of the Rich

The Road of Politics

Said there is no resurrection

Those who separate themselves

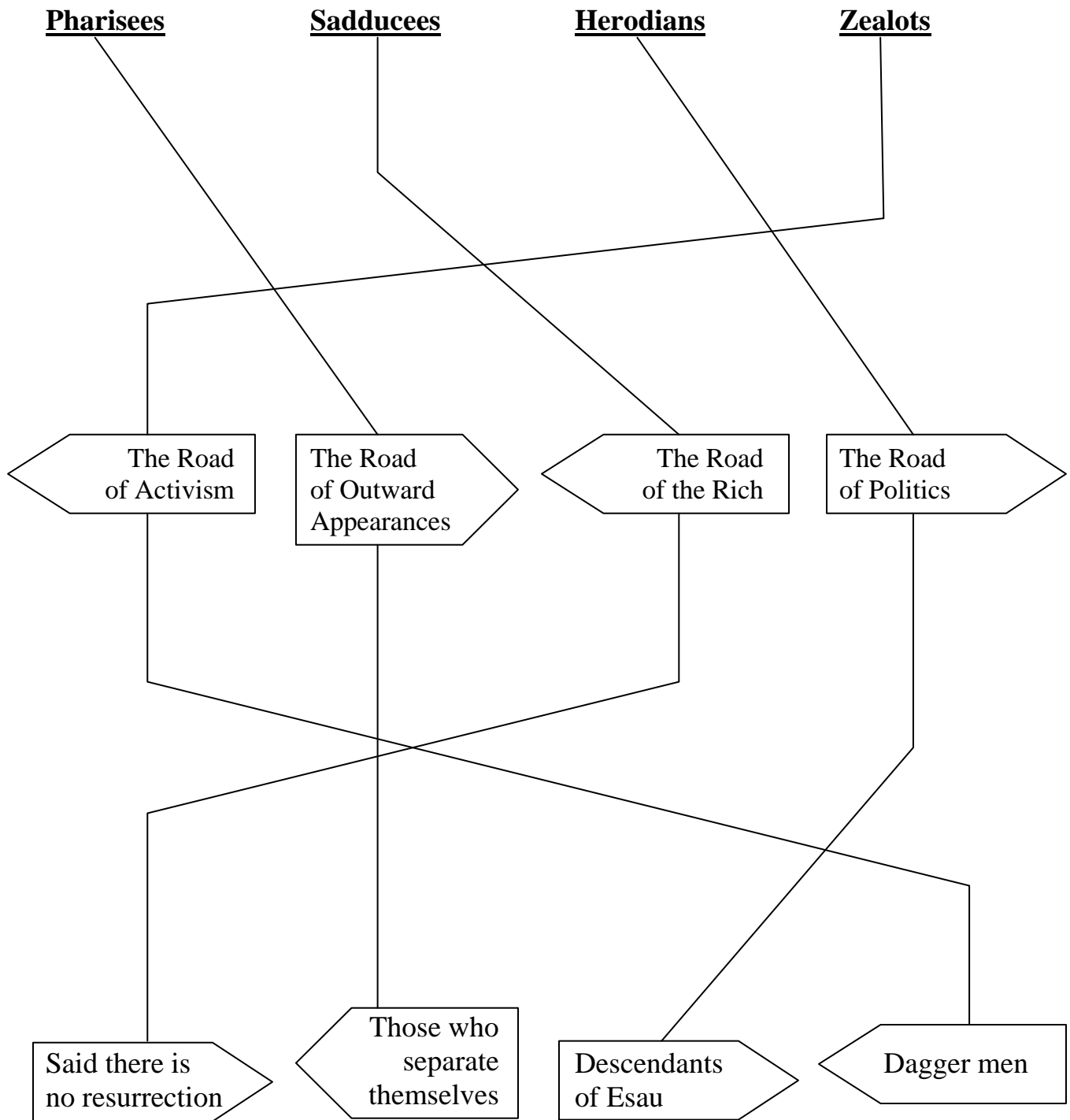
Descendants of Esau

Dagger men



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# Memory Math

Use your math skills to decode and complete this week's memory verse.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
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Jesus said to him, “ \_\_\_\_\_  
 (K-2) (E-4) (K+2) (S+1) (L-4) (D+1) (Z-3) (C-2) (V+3)

\_\_\_\_\_,  
 (G-6) (L+2) (A+3) (U-1) (F+2) (F-1) (Q+3) (V-4) (W-2) (S+1) (I-1)

\_\_\_\_\_; \_\_\_\_\_  
 (B-1) (M+1) (G-3) (R+2) (D+4) (H-3) (P-4) (D+5) (G-1) (C+2) (P-2) (T-5)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (N+1) (K+3) (A+4) (D-1) (Q-2) (J+3) (F-1) (P+3) (R+2) (K+4) (U-1) (L-4) (K-6)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (A+5) (F-5) (W-3) (M-5) (I-4) (O+3) (E-3) (S+2) (N+6)

\_\_\_\_\_.” **John 14:6**  
 (X-4) (G+1) (T-2) (L+3) (Q+4) (D+3) (B+6) (P-3) (A+4)



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Jesus said to him, “I A M T H E W A Y,  
 (K-2) (E-4) (K+2) (S+1) (L-4) (D+1) (Z-3) (C-2) (V+3)

A N D T H E T R U T H,  
 (G-6) (L+2) (A+3) (U-1) (F+2) (F-1) (Q+3) (V-4) (W-2) (S+1) (I-1)

A N D T H E L I F E; N O  
 (B-1) (M+1) (G-3) (R+2) (D+4) (H-3) (P-4) (D+5) (G-1) (C+2) (P-2) (T-5)

O N E C O M E S T O T H E  
 (N+1) (K+3) (A+4) (D-1) (Q-2) (J+3) (F-1) (P+3) (R+2) (K+4) (U-1) (L-4) (K-6)

F A T H E R B U T  
 (A+5) (F-5) (W-3) (M-5) (I-4) (O+3) (E-3) (S+2) (N+6)

T H R O U G H M E.” **John 14:6**  
 (X-4) (G+1) (T-2) (L+3) (Q+4) (D+3) (B+6) (P-3) (A+4)

