

Easter

2024-2025 CURRICULUM



LEADER MANUAL

PRIMARY: GRADES K-3 | INTERMEDIATE: GRADES 4-6

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Large Group



LESSON 1: LARGE GROUP

Do you trust me?

MAIN IDEA

Kids will know the origin of sin, how it separates us from God, and his provision for sinners.

BIBLE PASSAGES

- Genesis 3

MEMORY VERSE

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

Romans 3:23, NLT



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.



Introduce the story of the Gospel.
(10-15 minutes)



Play large group games.
(25 minutes)

Prepare



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.

QUESTIONS

- How can you be praying for the student this week? Are there any specific students or requests you can pray for?
- Are there any changes and additions needed for the Large Group Lesson?
- Is there anything specific you need to communicate to the small group leaders?

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- (Optional) Device to play music
- (Optional) Random noise-making objects (e.g., whistle, jingle bells, etc.)
- (Optional) Removable floor tape, such as blue painter's tape
- Printouts 1A-1D (recommend printing on cardstock)
- 7 clothespins or strong tape
- 2 fuzzy blankets

Large Group



Introduce the story of the Gospel.
(10-15 minutes)

SET EXPECTATIONS

Review 3 Rules of Respect and Who Is Jesus?

SONG SUGGESTION

Christ Arose (By GO FISH) or Romans 3:23 on Spotify

TEACH

Today, we'll perform a paraphrased re-enactment of Genesis 3. As I read I would like my volunteers to act out (without talking) their part.

We need high-energy, good-listening volunteers to be the following characters (clip signs to kids' shirts using clothespins or strong tape as they come up):

- God
- Adam
- Eve
- Tree of Life
- Tree of Knowledge of Good & Evil
- Serpent
- Lamb (wearing 2 fuzzy blankets)

Read dramatically.

In the beginning, **GOD** created the Heavens and the Earth. He made complex creatures to roam the land, sky, and seas; like this beautiful **LAMB**. God loved all of his creation, calling it good and with **ADAM** and **EVE** in whom he made in his image.

GOD made a beautiful garden called Eden. **ADAM** and **EVE** ate all the fruit they wanted and were never hungry. In the middle of the garden, he placed the **TREE OF LIFE**, which would allow his **ADAM** and **EVE** to live with him forever.

GOD also placed the **TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL** there. God told Adam and Eve, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden, but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat from it, you will certainly die."

The next day, an evil **SERPENT** asked Eve, "Did God really say you can't eat this fruit? It looks really yummy!" **EVE** said, "Silly serpent! God told us not to even touch this fruit or we will die." The **SERPENT** said, "No you won't! If you eat it you will know all about good and evil, just like God. Don't you want to be like him?" **EVE** took a long look at the fruit, and decided she did want to be just like God. She listened to the Serpent, ate it, and gave some to **ADAM** to eat too. Immediately they felt weird! Their eyes grew wide.

They looked down at their bodies and felt naked. **ADAM** and **EVE** ran over and hid among the trees. **GOD** came to the middle of Eden for their daily chat, but they were hiding.



"Who is Jesus"
Call and Response



"Christ Arose"
by GO FISH



"Romans 3:23"
by CCBC Kids

GOD asked, "Why are you hiding? Did you eat the fruit that I told you not to?" **ADAM** and **EVE** peeked out from behind the trees and nodded their heads. **GOD** looked very sad. He said, "Because you did not trust me and disobeyed my instruction, you cannot live forever.

Sin has entered this perfect world I created. You can no longer eat my forever fruit and we cannot walk together for our evening chats. You have to leave my garden."

ADAM and **EVE** felt ashamed and cried. **GOD** said, "I promise you that one day I will rescue you from your sin. One of your children will fix this terrible mistake and will destroy the serpent who deceived you. Until then, because I love you, I will make you clothes."

GOD walked over to an animal (let's pretend it was a **LAMB**) and killed it. The animal laid on the ground, still. God removed the skins (fuzzy blankets) and covered **ADAM** and **EVE**.

To be continued...



WRAP IT UP

Say, **Can you clap for the volunteers?**

Your Small Group leaders will talk with you about this story.

Dismiss them to their small groups.

Games



Play large group games.
(25 minutes)

LARGE GROUP GAME: MUSICAL STATUES

Materials: Device to play music

Object of game: Be the last one standing.

How to play: The kids move around and dance while the music plays and freeze when the music stops. Kids who move before the music starts are directed to sit out on the side.

Bible story connection: Just like most of you got “out” in our game, in our Bible story today, we’ll hear about how Adam and Eve were cast out of God’s presence in the Garden of Eden.

LARGE GROUP GAME: HOW WELL DO YOU HEAR?

Materials: Random noise-making objects

Object of game: Be the first kid to reach the leader on the other side of the room.

How to play: Choose three to five students to be “leaders” and have the rest of the students line up across the playing area with their backs facing the “leaders” on the other side. The leaders will take turns making noises and the kids will guess which leader was making the noise, for example, clapping hands, stomping feet, whistling, snapping fingers, another leader’s voice, jingle bells, hissing, etc. After the leader makes the sound, he or she will say to the kids, “Raise your hand if you heard: clapping...?” (wait for students to raise their hand, and notice which kids make that choice) “or stomping?” (wait for students to raise their hand and notice which kids make that choice). Tell the kids who chose the correct sound to step backwards toward the leader two times. The kids who choose incorrectly stay in place. Continue with different sounds until the kids reach the leader.

Bible story connection: In our Bible story today, we will learn how Adam and Eve heard two different voices and had to choose which one to trust.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Device to play music
- Random noise-making objects
- Painter’s tape

LARGE GROUP GAME: LAND, SEA, AIR

Materials: A line on the ground (could use removable tape, such as painter's tape)

Object of game: To respond.

How to play: Choose a spot with a natural line, such as a line on the gym floor, or place a small piece of tape on the floor. Have kids stand on the line. Identify behind the line as "land", in front of the line as "sea", and jumping directly up as "air". Have the kids follow your directions. Say the commands "land", "sea", and "air" in no particular order. If the kids make a mistake, have them do three jumping jacks and try again.

Bible Story Connection: In our Bible story today, we will learn about how Adam and Eve had to listen carefully to God's voice and His instructions.



LESSON 1: PRIMARY SMALL GROUP

Do you trust me?

MAIN IDEA

Kids will know the origin of sin, how it separates us from God, and his provision for sinners.

BIBLE PASSAGES

- Genesis 3

MEMORY VERSE

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

Romans 3:23, NLT



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.



Connect with the kids and make them feel heard and cared for. (15 minutes)



Facilitate activity and study to help kids know and love Jesus. (20-25 minutes)



Lead kids to live out the mission of the Gospel. (5-10 minutes)

Prepare



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.

QUESTIONS

- How can you be praying for the students this week?
- Are there any specific students or requests you can pray for?
- Are there any adaptations that you can make to the lesson this week to better serve the kids in your small group or make your small group more effective?
- How can you connect with the students outside of club over the next few weeks? Is there a sporting event or performance you can go to? Can you plan a casual park or fast-food meet-up with them and their families (as a group or individually)?

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- A Bible
- Name tags
- Snack, 1 per child
- (Alternative snack) Fruit snacks or cookies and carrots, broccoli, or apple slices
- (Optional) Printout 2: Snack & Sort Pictures, 1 per small group
- (Optional) Printout 3: Animal Coverings, 1 per small group (pre-cut, on cardstock preferably)
- Printout 4: Salvation Prayer, 1 per child
- Memory Verse Cards, 1 per child (on cardstock if desired, for durability)

Connect



Connect with the kids and make them feel heard and cared for.
(15 minutes)

Small Group Session 1

ICE BREAKER

Distribute name tags and snacks. Choose one of the following icebreaker activities to do together while children eat their snack:

- Option 1: Ask the children to share their highs and lows (the best and worst things that happened to them either today or from the past week).
- Option 2: Ask the children to take turns sharing how they're feeling today using the "How Are You Feeling?" chart (from the CKC Games Bag).

PRAY TOGETHER

Collect prayer requests from the students. The leader or a student can pray for the entire group or a leader can pair up students and invite them to pray for one another.

ACTIVITY OPTION 1: SENSIBLE OR SWEET?

For snacks, give kids the option of a healthy treat (e.g., carrots, apple slices, or broccoli) or sweet (e.g., fruit snacks or cookies).

Ask, **Was that an easy or hard choice?**

ACTIVITY OPTION 2: SNACK & SORT

Give kids snacks and show pictures of different food options while asking kids to sort between snacks that make our body and mind stronger and snacks that only give us energy for a little bit.

Ask, **Is it easy to make a good choice?**

Tell me about a time you had a food craving. (Listen to students' answers.) **Sometimes we want to eat certain food even though we know it won't make our bodies or minds any stronger. That same craving can be felt when we have a temptation to do the wrong thing. This is because of our sinful nature.**

HELPFUL HINT

Talk about a time you were tempted to do the wrong thing (e.g., driving over the speed limit or lying about not brushing your teeth, etc.). Keep it child-appropriate and don't overshare.

Have you ever wanted to do the wrong thing? (Allow students to share briefly.)

Have you ever wondered why we all feel these cravings to do bad?

Today, we are going to listen to a story that happened a long time ago. It's in the Bible (God's Holy Word) and it explains how our sinful nature separates us from God.

Dismiss to Large Group or Games.

Heart



Facilitate activity and study to help kids know and love Jesus.
(20-25 minutes)

Small Group Session 2

Open up the Bible to Genesis 3. Review the Bible Skit by asking any of these questions:

- **Name one of the characters from our Bible story.** (Let each kid give a response.)
- **Who were the main characters?**
- **Who were the other characters?**
- **What was the setting of our story? Where were they, and what was happening in the story?**
- **What was the main problem? What was the solution?**
- **Is this just a story, or did this really happen in real life?**

HELPFUL HINT

Consider using the Games Bag Game - Zap to keep kids more engaged for these questions.

ACTIVITY: ANIMAL COVERING MEMORY GAME

Show kids different animal cards and animal fur cards. Set up cards for the game Memory by placing them in a grid on the floor or table.

Shuffle the cards and lay them face down in rows to form a grid. Make sure the cards are arranged in such a way that players cannot see their faces.

The first player flips over two cards, one at a time. If the two cards match, the player takes the pair and gets another turn. If the two cards do not match, flip them face down in the same positions.

Next Player's Turn: The next player then takes their turn, repeating the process. Allow each student an opportunity to take a turn.

GOOD NEWS OR BAD NEWS?

Say, **Life is full of good things and bad things that happen. Listen to these scenarios.**

For good news: smile, stand up, two thumbs up. For bad news: sit down, two thumbs down, frown.

- You got to be the line leader for your class.
- Your friend accidentally ran into your foot and made your shoe come off.
- They served fruit slushies at lunch.
- You ate your slushie so fast you got a brain freeze headache.
- You get to have Chick-fil-A for dinner.
- The fries were cold and soggy.

- You complained about your soggy fries and your parents called you ungrateful.
- You have to sit in your room for timeout.
- You apologize to your parents and thank them for letting you get Chick-fil-A.
- We are all sinners who are separated from God.
- God sent Jesus to save us so that we can live with Him forever.

Just as you all agreed, the bad news is that we are all sinners who are separated from God. But the good news is that God did what he promised and sent Jesus to save us so that we can live with him forever!

Hands



Lead kids to live out the mission of the Gospel.
(5-10 minutes)

Small Group Session 2

WRAP IT UP

Recap with the students, and ask a student to summarize the lesson for the group.

What did you learn today?

We all make mistakes, which is called sin, and we deserve to be punished when we sin.

What are some things that you do that could be sin? (disobey parents or teachers, steal something, lie, etc.)

If someone does something wrong to you (like hitting you or lying to you), what do you want to happen to them?

In the same way, when we do something wrong, we should get punished for it so that we learn that it is wrong.

Adam and Eve sinned, and they got punished. The good news is that God loves us even when we make mistakes and sin. Even though we deserve punishment for our sins, God has promised to save us from the punishment for our sins. That is good news!

When you disobey your parents or a teacher or you hurt someone else, you might still have an earthly consequence (like timeout, not getting to do something you want to do, etc.), but your eternal consequence is paid for by Jesus' death.

RESPONSE & REFLECTION

Print out and practice the memory verse for this unit (Romans 3:23).

Consider creating hand motions to help students memorize the verse. You can also take a look at Memory Verse Game Ideas. Additionally, you can consider using the Romans 3:23 song to help students learn the verse.

Consider printing and re-introducing the example of salvation prayer (Printout 4). Read it one time out loud and suggest that they put it somewhere special at home. When they feel God leading them to believe and follow Jesus, then they will have it available to them and their parents as a guide for how to pray for salvation. Encourage them to let you know if they do so you can rejoice with them and welcome them into God's family.

Say, If you remember, at the start of Crossroads this year, I shared this prayer with you. As we get closer to Easter, we are celebrating something very special. It is the good news of Jesus, that he died on the cross to take the punishment for the sins we have committed, and then God rose Jesus from the dead three days later. The Bible says that everyone who believes this about Jesus will be saved. I want each of you to believe in Jesus and be saved.

Pray with the students and dismiss them.



Bible Memory Verse
Games



"Romans 3:23"
by CCBC Kids



LESSON 1: INTERMEDIATE SMALL GROUP

Do you trust me?

MAIN IDEA

Kids will know the origin of sin, how it separates us from God, and his provision for sinners.

BIBLE PASSAGES

- Genesis 3

MEMORY VERSE

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

Romans 3:23, NLT



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.



Connect with the kids and make them feel heard and cared for. (15 minutes)



Facilitate activity and study to help kids know and love Jesus. (20-25 minutes)



Lead kids to live out the mission of the Gospel. (5-10 minutes)

Prepare



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.

QUESTIONS

- How can you be praying for the students this week?
- Are there any specific students or requests you can pray for?
- Are there any adaptations that you can make to the lesson this week to better serve the kids in your small group or make your small group more effective?
- How can you connect with the students outside of club over the next few weeks? Is there a sporting event or performance you can go to? Can you plan a casual park or fast-food meet-up with them and their families (as a group or individually)?

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- A Bible
- Name tags
- Snack, 1 per child
- (Alternative snack) Fruit snacks or cookies and carrots, broccoli, or apple slices
- (Optional) Balloon, 1 per pair of children
- (Optional) Printout 2: Snack & Sort Pictures, 1 per small group
- (Optional) Printout 3: Animal Coverings, 1 per small group (pre-cut, on cardstock preferably)
- Printout 4: Salvation Prayer, 1 per child
- Memory Verse Cards, 1 per child (on cardstock if desired, for durability)

Connect



Connect with the kids and make them feel heard and cared for.
(15 minutes)

Small Group Session 1

ICE BREAKER

Distribute name tags and snacks. Choose one of the following icebreaker activities to do together while children eat their snack:

- **Option 1:** Ask the children to share their highs and lows (the best and worst things that happened to them either today or from the past week).
- **Option 2:** Ask the children to take turns sharing how they're feeling today using the "How Are You Feeling?" chart (from the CKC Games Bag).
- **Alternative Option: Balloon Bounce Verse Game**
Have the kids stand in a circle (or in pairs if you're working with a smaller group). Give the balloon to one player.

The goal is to keep the balloon in the air by tapping it, but each time a player hits the balloon, they must say the next word or phrase in the verse. For example, the verse is, For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. The first person says, "For," the next person says, "everyone," and so on.

If someone drops the balloon or forgets their part of the verse, they can start from the beginning or pick up from the last completed word, depending on how challenging you want it to be.

PRAY TOGETHER

Collect prayer requests from the students. The leader or a student can pray for the entire group, or a leader can pair up students and invite them to pray for one another. Make sure to pray specifically for the students to understand how our sin separates us from God, and praise God for sending Jesus to give us eternal life.

Begin by asking students the following questions:

- **What is your favorite food to eat?**
- **Do you know how to cook or make any food yourself?**

ACTIVITY OPTION 1: SENSIBLE OR SWEET?

For snacks, give kids the option of a healthy treat (e.g., carrots, apple slices, or broccoli) or sweet (e.g., fruit snacks or cookies).

Ask, **Was that an easy or hard choice?**

ACTIVITY OPTION 2: SNACK & SORT

Ask the students to use the printout to work as a team to create a meal plan for dinner for their family that will help their bodies and minds grow strong. They can add other food items that they think of but need to include at least 2 of these items.

Ask, **Is it easy to make a healthy choice?**

Were you tempted to include some of the candy donuts and chips in your dinner plan? Why or why not?

Sometimes we want to eat some foods even though we know it doesn't make us stronger.

Tell me about a time you had a food craving. (Listen to students' answers.) **That same craving can be felt when we have a temptation to do the wrong thing. This is because of our sinful nature.**

HELPFUL HINT

Talk about a time you were tempted to do the wrong thing (e.g., driving over the speed limit or lying about not brushing your teeth, etc.). Keep it child-appropriate and don't overshare.

Have you ever wanted to do the wrong thing? (Allow students to share briefly.)

Have you ever wondered why we all feel these cravings to disobey what God wants us to do?

Today, we are going to listen to a story that happened a long time ago. It's in the Bible (God's Holy Word) and it explains how our sinful nature separates us from God.

Dismiss to Large Group or Games.

Heart



Facilitate activity and study to help kids know and love Jesus.
(20-25 minutes)

Small Group Session 2

Open up the Bible to Genesis 3. Review the Bible Skit by asking any of these questions:

- **Name one of the characters from our Bible story.** (Let each kid give a response.)
- **Who were the main characters?**
- **Who were the minor characters? Protagonist? Antagonist?**
Explain these words:
PROTAGONIST is the leading character.
ANTAGONIST is a person who actively opposes or is hostile to someone or something.
- **What was the setting of our story? Where were they, and what was happening in the story?**
- **What was the main problem? What was the solution?**
- **Is this just a story, or did this really happen in real life?**
- **Do you have any questions for me from the Skit?**

This is a great time to help kids dig deeper in their understanding of sinful nature. It's okay if you don't know the answer to some of their questions. Just answer with something like, "That's a great question. Let's study more to find the answer."

HELPFUL HINT

Consider using the Games Bag Game - Zap to keep kids more engaged for these questions.

ACTIVITY: ANIMAL COVERING MEMORY GAME

Break into groups of two to three students (print several copies of Printout 2 and put into ziplock bags for each group.

Show kids different animal cards and animal fur cards. Set up cards for the game Memory by placing them in a grid on the floor or table.

Shuffle the cards and lay them face down in rows to form a grid. Make sure the cards are arranged in such a way that players cannot see their faces.

The first player flips over two cards, one at a time. If the two cards match, the player takes the pair and gets another turn. If the two cards do not match, flip them face down in the same positions.

Next Player's Turn: The next player then takes their turn, repeating the process. Allow each student an opportunity to take a turn.

Were you tempted to cheat and peek at the cards?

That feeling inside of you was “temptation” and is a part of being human. However, it is not sin until you act on it. When you choose to cheat, then you have sinned, and that separates us from God.

For believers in Jesus, who have given their lives to him, we feel separated, and the Holy Spirit makes us feel bad about it.

For those who have not chosen to believe in Jesus yet, it adds to the sin that separates us from God and doesn’t allow us to enter heaven.

GOOD NEWS OR BAD NEWS?

Say, Life is full of good things and bad things that happen. Listen to these two examples, and then we will go around in a circle and everyone will share one thing for others to choose if it’s good new or bad news.

For good news: smile, stand up, two thumbs up. For bad news: sit down, two thumbs down, frown. Share two examples, and let the students come up with their own. Use the list of examples if your students are struggling to come up with their own.

- You got to be the line leader for your class.
- Your friend accidentally ran into your foot and made your shoe come off.
- They served fruit slushies at lunch.
- You ate your slushie so fast you got a brain freeze headache.
- You get to have Chick-fil-A for dinner.
- The fries were cold and soggy.
- You complained about your soggy fries and your parents called you ungrateful.
- You have to sit in your room for timeout.
- You apologize to your parents and thank them for letting you get Chick-fil-A.
- We are all sinners who are separated from God.
- God sent Jesus to save us so that we can live with Him forever.

Just as you all agreed, the bad news is that we are all sinners who are separated from God. But the good news is that God did what he promised and sent Jesus to save us so that we can live with him forever!

Hands



Lead kids to live out the mission of the Gospel.
(5-10 minutes)

Small Group Session 2

WRAP IT UP

Recap with the students, and ask a student to summarize the lesson for the group.

What did you learn today?

We all make mistakes, which is called sin, and we deserve to be punished when we sin.

What are some things that you do that could be sin? (disobey parents or teachers, steal something, lie, etc.)

What happens when you do something wrong? What if you lied to your parents?

In the same way, when we do something wrong, we should get punished for it so that we learn that it is wrong.

Adam and Eve sinned, and they got punished. The good news is that God loves us even when we make mistakes and sin. Even though we deserve punishment for our sins, God has promised to save us from the punishment for our sins. That is good news!

When you disobey your parents or a teacher or you hurt someone else, you might still have an earthly consequence (like timeout, not getting to do something you want to do, etc.), but your eternal consequence is paid for by Jesus' death.

RESPONSE & REFLECTION

Print out and practice the memory verse for this unit (Romans 3:23).

Consider creating hand motions to help students memorize the verse. You can also take a look at Memory Verse Game Ideas. Additionally, you can consider using the Romans 3:23 song to help students learn the verse.

Consider printing and re-introducing the example of salvation prayer (Printout 4). Read it one time out loud and suggest that they put it somewhere special at home. When they feel God leading them to believe and follow Jesus, then they will have it available to them and their parents as a guide for how to pray for salvation. Encourage them to let you know if they do so you can rejoice with them and welcome them into God's family.

Say, If you remember, at the start of Crossroads this year, I shared this prayer with you. As we get closer to Easter, we are celebrating something very special. It is the good news of Jesus, that he died on the cross to take the punishment for the sins we have committed, and then God rose Jesus from the dead three days later. The Bible says that everyone who believes this about Jesus will be saved. I want each of you to believe in Jesus and be saved.

Pray with the students and dismiss them.



Bible Memory Verse
Games



"Romans 3:23"
by CCBC Kids

Memory Verse Cards

MEMORY VERSE

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

Romans 3:23, NLT

MEMORY VERSE

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

Romans 3:23, NLT

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Romans 3:23, NLT

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Romans 3:23, NLT

MEMORY VERSE

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

Romans 3:23, NLT

Printout 1A

GOD

ADAM

Printout 1B

EVE

**TREE
OF
LIFE**

Printout 1C

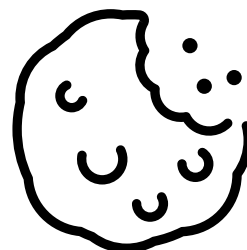
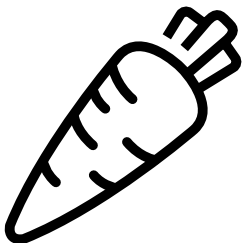
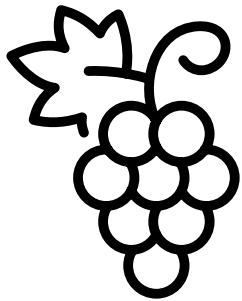
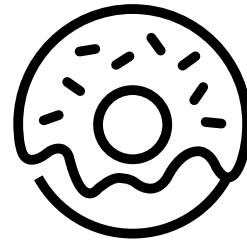
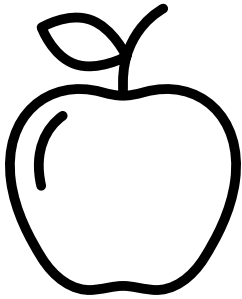
**TREE OF
KNOWLEDGE
OF
GOOD & EVIL**

Printout 1D

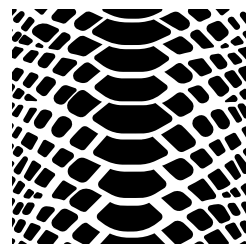
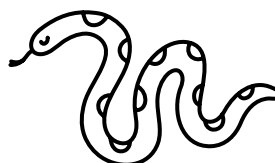
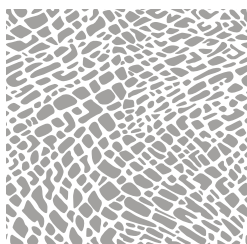
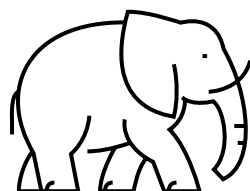
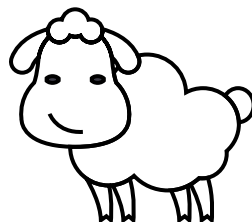
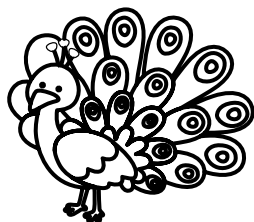
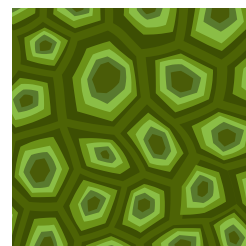
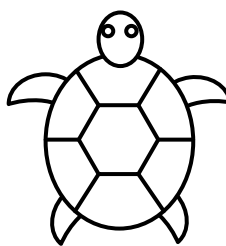
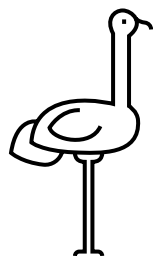
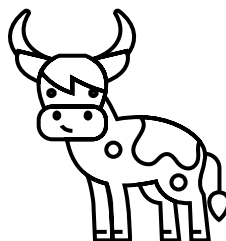
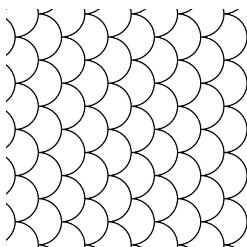
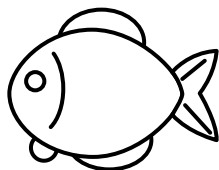
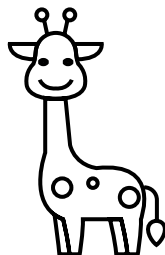
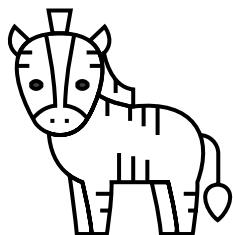
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SERPENT

Printout 2: Snack & Sort Pictures



Printout 3: Animal Covering Match



Printout 4

SALVATION PRAYER:

Faith in Jesus is what saves someone. It is not about saying the right words in a prayer. Believing that Jesus died on the cross and rose again from the dead to take the punishment for your sins is how you are saved. (Romans 10:9)

**“Lord Jesus, I confess that I have sinned against you.
I turn from my sin right now.
I believe that you died on the cross to pay the punishment for my sins.
I receive you as the Lord and Savior of my life. I give my life to you.
In Jesus’ name, amen.”**

God loves you! Believing in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior is about more than avoiding Hell, it’s about being able to spend eternity with the God who loves you and wants to know you personally. (John 3:16)

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In Jesus’ name, amen.”**

God loves you! Believing in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior is about more than avoiding Hell, it’s about being able to spend eternity with the God who loves you and wants to know you personally. (John 3:16)



LESSON 2: LARGE GROUP

Trusting God's Plan

MAIN IDEA

Kids will understand Abraham trusted God, even when it was hard. God provided a way to save Isaac, just like he provides a way to save us through Jesus.

BIBLE PASSAGES

- Genesis 22:1-18
- Proverbs 3:5

MEMORY VERSE

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

Romans 3:23, NLT



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.



Introduce the story of the Gospel.
(10-15 minutes)



Play large group games.
(25 minutes)

Prepare



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.

QUESTIONS

- How can you be praying for the student this week? Are there any specific students or requests you can pray for?
- Are there any changes and additions needed for the Large Group Lesson?
- Is there anything specific you need to communicate to the small group leaders?

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- A Bible
- (Optional) Device to play music
- (Optional) Printout 1: Script, 3 copies

Large Group



Introduce the story of the Gospel.
(10-15 minutes)

SET EXPECTATIONS

Review 3 Rules of Respect and Who Is Jesus?

SONG SUGGESTION

My God (GO FISH)

TEACH

Ask, **What's something really hard you've had to do, but you did it because you trusted someone?**

Say, **Today we are going to hear about a man named Abraham who trusted God, even when God asked him to do something very hard.**

Close your eyes and imagine you are going for a hike with the person you trust the most. You plan to go camping for the night, but you realize when you get on the trail that you don't have a tent or any other camping equipment. You ask why you haven't prepared or brought anything for the hike or to camp at night, and the response you get is, "God will provide."

How would you respond? How would you feel for the rest of the hike?

Listen to what happened in the Bible with a man named Abraham and his son Isaac.

Option 1: Read Genesis 22:1-18.

Option 2: Use the script and call up three volunteers to read. Consider using another leader to read for Abraham. The Large Group leader should read the Narrator portion of the script.

Option 3: Read the summary of Genesis 22:1-18 for your students.

GENESIS 22:1-18 SUMMARY

A long time ago, there was a man named Abraham. Abraham loved God and trusted Him with all his heart. God had blessed Abraham and his wife, Sarah, with a son named Isaac. Isaac was their special gift from God, and Abraham loved him very much.

One day, God decided to test Abraham's trust and faith. God spoke to Abraham and said, "Abraham!" Abraham answered, "Here I am!" Then God said something very hard to understand. He told Abraham, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. I want you to offer him as a sacrifice on a mountain I will show you."

Abraham's heart must have felt heavy, but he trusted God, even when it didn't make sense. Early the next morning, Abraham got up, saddled his donkey, and took two of his servants and Isaac with him. They cut wood for the sacrifice and began their journey.



"Who is Jesus"
Call and Response



"My God"
by GO FISH

After three long days of walking, Abraham saw the mountain in the distance. He told his servants, "Stay here with the donkey. Isaac and I will go up and worship, and then we will come back." Abraham took the wood for the sacrifice and placed it on Isaac's shoulders, and they walked up the mountain together.

As they climbed, Isaac noticed something was missing. He turned to his father and asked, "Father, we have the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the sacrifice?" Abraham looked at his son and said, "God Himself will provide the lamb, my son." And they kept going.

When they reached the top of the mountain, Abraham built an altar and arranged the wood on it. Then, with a trembling heart, he tied up Isaac and laid him on the altar. Just as Abraham reached out his hand to take the knife, an angel of the Lord called out, "Abraham! Abraham!"

"Here I am!" Abraham replied quickly.

The angel said, "Do not lay a hand on the boy. Do not harm him. Now I know that you fear God because you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me."

Abraham looked up, and there in the bushes, he saw a ram caught by its horns. God had provided! Abraham untied Isaac and together they sacrificed the ram instead. Abraham named that place "The Lord Will Provide", because God had made a way when it seemed impossible.

Then the angel spoke again, saying, "Because you have obeyed Me and did not hold back your only son, I will bless you. Your descendants will be as many as the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore. They will be blessed, and through them, all nations on earth will be blessed because you have obeyed Me."

And so, Abraham and Isaac went back down the mountain together, thankful for God's faithfulness and his provision.

WRAP IT UP

After you choose to teach using one of the three options, ask,

- **Why do you think God asked Abraham to do something so hard?**
- **How did Abraham show he trusted God?**
- **How did God provide for Abraham and Isaac?**
- **What does this story teach us about trusting God, even when we don't understand?**

Say, **Just like God provided the ram for Abraham, God provided Jesus as a way to save us. We can trust God because He always has a good plan, even when it's hard to see it.**

Dismiss them to their small groups.

Games



Play large group games.
(25 minutes)

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Small bundle of sticks
- Plastic ram
- Toy knife
- Picture of a mountain, etc.
- Stuffed ram or sheep or another object representing God's provision
- Small bag
- Obstacles (chairs, tables, or large cushions that kids go over or under)

LARGE GROUP GAME: GOD PROVIDES SCAVENGER HUNT

Materials: A small bundle of sticks, a plastic ram, a toy knife, a picture of a mountain, etc.

Object of game: Reinforce the idea that God provided for Abraham and Isaac.

How to play: Hide various objects around the room or outdoor space that symbolize different parts of the story (e.g., a small bundle of sticks, a plastic ram, a toy knife, a picture of a mountain, etc.).

Give kids clues or a checklist to find the hidden objects. As they collect each item, explain how it connects to the story.

Bible story connection: Conclude by highlighting that God provided the ram just in time, showing that He is faithful to meet our needs.

LARGE GROUP GAME: FAITH TAG

Materials: None

Object of game: Teach the kids about God's timing and provision.

How to play: Choose one or two kids to be "Faith" and give them a small object like a piece of wool or cotton to represent a ram. The rest are "Challenges".

The "Challenges" chase the other kids, but if a kid is touched by "Faith" holding the ram, they are safe for 10 seconds. Rotate who plays "Faith" to let more kids have a turn.

Bible story connection: Use this game to explain that God provides safety and rescue just like He did for Abraham.

LARGE GROUP GAME: "GOD WILL PROVIDE" HOT POTATO

Materials: A stuffed ram or sheep or another object representing God's provision

Object of game: Emphasize the surprise element of God's provision.

How to play: Play the game like traditional Hot Potato, but use a small stuffed animal ram or another object that represents God's provision.

Have the kids sit in a circle and pass the ram around while music plays. When the music stops, whoever has the ram must share a time when they trusted God or an example of how God provides.

Bible story connection: Explain how God provided the ram for Abraham just in time and how God provides for us in our lives.

LARGE GROUP GAME: MOUNTAIN CLIMBER'S CHALLENGE

Materials: Small bag, obstacles (chairs, tables, or large cushions that kids go over or under)

Object of game: Illustrate the journey Abraham and Isaac took to the mountain.

How to play: Kids must carry a small bag (representing the wood Isaac carried) as they go through the course. Instruct students on how to get through the obstacle course before they begin, or give instructions as they go.

Have students go one at a time through the obstacle course, or pick a leader and have the rest of the students follow the leader through the course.

Bible story connection: Remind the kids how Isaac carried the wood up the mountain, trusting his father, and how we are called to trust God even in challenging moments.



LESSON 2: PRIMARY SMALL GROUP

Trusting God's Plan

MAIN IDEA

Kids will understand Abraham trusted God, even when it was hard. God provided a way to save Isaac, just like he provides a way to save us through Jesus.

BIBLE PASSAGES

- Genesis 22:1-18
- Proverbs 3:5

MEMORY VERSE

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

Romans 3:23, NLT



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.



Connect with the kids and make them feel heard and cared for. (15 minutes)



Facilitate activity and study to help kids know and love Jesus. (20-25 minutes)



Lead kids to live out the mission of the Gospel. (5-10 minutes)

Prepare



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.

QUESTIONS

- How can you be praying for the students this week?
- Are there any specific students or requests you can pray for?
- Are there any adaptations that you can make to the lesson this week to better serve the kids in your small group or make your small group more effective?
- How can you connect with the students outside of club over the next few weeks? Is there a sporting event or performance you can go to? Can you plan a casual park or fast-food meet-up with them and their families (as a group or individually)?

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- A Bible
- Name tags
- Snack, 1 per child
- Memory Verse Cards, 1 per child (on cardstock if desired, for durability)
- Painters tape
- (Optional) Paper plates, cotton balls, markers, glue, scissors, black paper
- (Optional) Strips of cardstock, ram or sheep stickers, markers
- The Gospel Hand, 1 per student

Connect



Connect with the kids and make them feel heard and cared for.
(15 minutes)

Small Group Session 1

ICE BREAKER

Distribute name tags and snacks. Choose one of the following icebreaker activities to do together while children eat their snack:

- Option 1: Ask the children to share their highs and lows (the best and worst things that happened to them either today or from the past week).
- Option 2: Ask the children to take turns sharing how they're feeling today using the "How Are You Feeling?" chart (from the CKC Games Bag).

PRAY TOGETHER

Collect prayer requests from the students. The leader or a student can pray for the entire group or a leader can pair up students and invite them to pray for one another.

ACTIVITY: LEAP OF FAITH

Objective: Demonstrate trusting God even when we can't see the full picture.

Place a mat or soft surface on the ground. Set up a "blind jump" using painter's tape as the starting point. Have kids stand behind the line with their backs to the mat.

Without looking, the kids have to trust your guidance as you tell them when to jump backward onto the mat. You can even have two leaders standing nearby for encouragement.

Say, **Today we will talk about how a man named Abraham didn't see God's full plan, but he trusted God anyway. We can learn to trust God in situations that are uncertain.**

Heart



Facilitate activity and study to help kids know and love Jesus.
(20-25 minutes)

Small Group Session 2

OBJECT LESSON: "TRUST WALK"

Pair up kids. One partner will be blindfolded, and the other will guide them through a simple obstacle course using only their voice.

Say, **Just like Abraham had to trust God, the blindfolded partner had to trust their guide.**

Just like God provided the ram for Abraham, God provided Jesus as a way to save us. We can trust God because he always has a good plan, even when it's hard to see it.

Read Genesis 22:1-18 out loud, or have a student read for the group. You may also consider asking a student to summarize the passage.

HELPFUL HINT

Consider going around your small group and asking each student one question. This may help keep students more engaged.

Ask:

- **What did God ask Abraham to do, and why do you think it was such a big deal?**
- **How do you think Abraham felt when God asked him to sacrifice Isaac?**
- **What did Abraham do when God told him to sacrifice Isaac?**
- **How do you think he was able to trust God even when it was hard?**
- **How did God provide for Abraham and Isaac at the last minute?**

Say, **Abraham obeyed God even though the command seemed difficult and confusing. He trusted God completely, showing that true faith means trusting God even when we don't understand.**

God wants us to trust Him with our challenges, fears, and the things we don't understand, just like Abraham did.

When it seemed like there was no way out, God provided a ram for the sacrifice. God is our Provider, and he knows exactly what we need and when we need it.

We can trust God to provide for us in every situation, even if it doesn't look the way we expect.

ACTIVITY: GOD'S RAM**OPTION 1**

Glue cotton balls all around the rim of the paper plate to create a fluffy wool border. Kids can write "Trust God" on their masks as a reminder.

Use markers to draw eyes, a nose, and a smiling mouth on the center of the paper plate. Optionally, cut out two ear shapes from another paper plate or cardboard, draw details on them with markers, and glue them to the top sides of the plate.

**OPTION 2**

Pass out strips of cardstock so that each student has one. Write "Trusting God" on the bookmark. Allow kids to decorate it with sheep or ram stickers, or draw their own pictures of rams or sheep. Consider adding Proverbs 3:5 to the bookmarks.

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding."
(Proverbs 3:5, NLT)

As students work on their bookmarks or ram masks, read Proverbs 3:5 out loud and then ask:

- Why do you think God wants us to trust him with all of our hearts?
- What are some things that make it hard for you to trust God sometimes?
- How can we remind ourselves to trust God when we feel worried or scared?
- Can you think of a time when you thought you knew what was best, but things didn't turn out the way you planned?
- What are some ways we can learn to trust God more every day?
- Can you share a time when you trusted God and saw Him take care of you?

**HELPFUL HINT**

This list of questions might be too long. Pick a few that you think would be the most valuable for your students.

Hands



Lead kids to live out the mission of the Gospel.
(5-10 minutes)

Small Group Session 2

WRAP IT UP

Say, **Just as God provided a ram in place of Isaac, God provided Jesus for us. Jesus is the Lamb of God who took our place, sacrificing Himself for our sins so that we can be in a right relationship with God.**

God showed His love and faithfulness by sending Jesus to die for our sins. We can trust Jesus because He is God's perfect provision for us.

Abraham trusted God fully, even when it was hard. Jesus, too, trusted God the Father completely—even to the point of dying on the cross for our sins.

He showed the greatest obedience by following God's plan for our salvation.

Jesus' trust in God's plan shows us how much he loves us and why we can trust him with our lives.

RESPONSE & REFLECTION

Print out and practice the memory verse for this unit (Romans 3:23).

Consider creating hand motions to help students memorize the verse. You can also take a look at Memory Verse Game Ideas.

Say, **When it seemed like there was no way out, God provided a ram for the sacrifice. God is our Provider, and He knows exactly what we need and when we need it.**

We can trust God to provide for us in every situation, even if it doesn't look the way we expect.

Place your bookmark or ram mask in your room somewhere that you can be reminded to trust God to provide for you. God provided the ultimate sacrifice; he gave Jesus to be the sacrifice needed to take the punishment for our sins.

Send students home with a copy of the Gospel Hand. If you have time, go over it with your students.

Pray with the students and dismiss them.



Bible Memory Verse
Games



Gospel Hand



LESSON 2: INTERMEDIATE SMALL GROUP

Trusting God's Plan

MAIN IDEA

Kids will understand Abraham trusted God, even when it was hard. God provided a way to save Isaac, just like he provides a way to save us through Jesus.

BIBLE PASSAGES

- Genesis 22:1-18
- Proverbs 3:5

MEMORY VERSE

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

Romans 3:23, NLT



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.



Connect with the kids and make them feel heard and cared for. (15 minutes)



Facilitate activity and study to help kids know and love Jesus. (20-25 minutes)



Lead kids to live out the mission of the Gospel. (5-10 minutes)

Prepare



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.

QUESTIONS

- How can you be praying for the students this week?
- Are there any specific students or requests you can pray for?
- Are there any adaptations that you can make to the lesson this week to better serve the kids in your small group or make your small group more effective?
- How can you connect with the students outside of club over the next few weeks? Is there a sporting event or performance you can go to? Can you plan a casual park or fast-food meet-up with them and their families (as a group or individually)?

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- A Bible
- Name tags
- Snack, 1 per child
- Memory Verse Cards, 1 per child (on cardstock if desired, for durability)
- Painters tape
- (Optional) Paper plates, cotton balls, markers, glue, scissors, black paper
- (Optional) Strips of cardstock, ram or sheep stickers, markers
- The Gospel Hand, 1 per student

Connect



Connect with the kids and make them feel heard and cared for.
(15 minutes)

Small Group Session 1

ICE BREAKER

Distribute name tags and snacks. Choose one of the following icebreaker activities to do together while children eat their snack:

- Option 1: Ask the children to share their highs and lows (the best and worst things that happened to them either today or from the past week).
- Option 2: Ask the children to take turns sharing how they're feeling today using the "How Are You Feeling?" chart (from the CKC Games Bag).

PRAY TOGETHER

Collect prayer requests from the students. The leader or a student can pray for the entire group or a leader can pair up students and invite them to pray for one another.

ACTIVITY: LEAP OF FAITH

Objective: Demonstrate trusting God even when we can't see the full picture.

Place a mat or soft surface on the ground. Set up a "blind jump" using painter's tape as the starting point. Have kids stand behind the line with their backs to the mat.

Without looking, the kids have to trust your guidance as you tell them when to jump backward onto the mat. You can even have two leaders standing nearby for encouragement.

Say, **Today we will talk about how a man named Abraham didn't see God's full plan, but he trusted God anyway. We can learn to trust God in situations that are uncertain.**

Heart



Facilitate activity and study to help kids know and love Jesus.
(20-25 minutes)

Small Group Session 2

OBJECT LESSON: "TRUST WALK"

Pair up kids. One partner will be blindfolded, and the other will guide them through a simple obstacle course using only their voice.

Say, **Just like Abraham had to trust God, the blindfolded partner had to trust their guide.**

Just like God provided the ram for Abraham, God provided Jesus as a way to save us. We can trust God because he always has a good plan, even when it's hard to see it.

Read Genesis 22:1-18 out loud, or have a student read for the group. You may also consider asking a student to summarize the passage.

HELPFUL HINT

Consider going around your small group and asking each student one question. This may help keep students more engaged.

Ask:

- **What did God ask Abraham to do, and why do you think it was such a big deal?**
- **How do you think Abraham felt when God asked him to sacrifice Isaac?**
- **What did Abraham do when God told him to sacrifice Isaac?**
- **How do you think he was able to trust God even when it was hard?**
- **Why do you think Isaac trusted his father Abraham as they walked up the mountain together?**
- **How did God provide for Abraham and Isaac at the last minute?**
- **What does this teach us about God's character?**
- **If you were Abraham or Isaac, what would you have done in that situation?**

Say, **Abraham obeyed God even though the command seemed difficult and confusing. He trusted God completely, showing that true faith means trusting God even when we don't understand.**

God wants us to trust Him with our challenges, fears, and the things we don't understand, just like Abraham did.

When it seemed like there was no way out, God provided a ram for the sacrifice. God is our Provider, and he knows exactly what we need and when we need it.

We can trust God to provide for us in every situation, even if it doesn't look the way we expect.

ACTIVITY: GOD'S RAM**OPTION 1**

Glue cotton balls all around the rim of the paper plate to create a fluffy wool border. Kids can write "Trust God" on their masks as a reminder.

Use markers to draw eyes, a nose, and a smiling mouth on the center of the paper plate. Optionally, cut out two ear shapes from another paper plate or cardboard, draw details on them with markers, and glue them to the top sides of the plate.

**OPTION 2**

Pass out strips of cardstock so that each student has one. Write "Trusting God" on the bookmark. Allow kids to decorate it with sheep or ram stickers, or draw their own pictures of rams or sheep. Consider adding Proverbs 3:5 to the bookmarks.

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding."
(Proverbs 3:5, NLT)

As students work on their bookmarks or ram masks, read Proverbs 3:5 out loud and then ask:

- What does it mean to "Trust in the Lord with all your heart"?
- Why do you think God wants us to trust Him with all of our hearts?
- What are some things that make it hard for you to trust God sometimes?
- How can we remind ourselves to trust God when we feel worried or scared?
- What does it mean to not "lean on your own understanding"?
- Can you think of a time when you thought you knew what was best, but things didn't turn out the way you planned?
- How can we be more like Abraham and trust God, even when we don't understand what's happening?
- What are some ways we can learn to trust God more every day?
- Can you share a time when you trusted God and saw Him take care of you?

**HELPFUL HINT**

This list of questions might be too long. Pick a few that you think would be the most valuable for your students.

Hands



Lead kids to live out the mission of the Gospel.
(5-10 minutes)

Small Group Session 2

WRAP IT UP

Say, **Just as God provided a ram in place of Isaac, God provided Jesus for us. Jesus is the Lamb of God who took our place, sacrificing Himself for our sins so that we can be in a right relationship with God.**

God showed His love and faithfulness by sending Jesus to die for our sins. We can trust Jesus because He is God's perfect provision for us.

Abraham trusted God fully, even when it was hard. Jesus, too, trusted God the Father completely—even to the point of dying on the cross for our sins.

He showed the greatest obedience by following God's plan for our salvation.

Jesus' trust in God's plan shows us how much he loves us and why we can trust him with our lives.

RESPONSE & REFLECTION

Print out and practice the memory verse for this unit (Romans 3:23).

Consider creating hand motions to help students memorize the verse. You can also take a look at Memory Verse Game Ideas.

Say, **When it seemed like there was no way out, God provided a ram for the sacrifice. God is our Provider, and He knows exactly what we need and when we need it.**

We can trust God to provide for us in every situation, even if it doesn't look the way we expect.

Place your bookmark or ram mask in your room somewhere that you can be reminded to trust God to provide for you. God provided the ultimate sacrifice; he gave Jesus to be the sacrifice needed to take the punishment for our sins.

Send students home with a copy of the Gospel Hand. If you have time, go over it with your students.

Pray with the students and dismiss them.



Bible Memory Verse
Games



Gospel Hand

Memory Verse Cards

MEMORY VERSE

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

Romans 3:23, NLT

MEMORY VERSE

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

Romans 3:23, NLT

MEMORY VERSE

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

Romans 3:23, NLT

MEMORY VERSE

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MEMORY VERSE

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Romans 3:23, NLT

MEMORY VERSE

For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

Romans 3:23, NLT

Printout 1A: Skit

Abraham and Isaac—A Test of Faith

CHARACTERS: NARRATOR, GOD, ABRAHAM, ISAAC

Narrator: A long time ago, there was a man named Abraham who loved and trusted God. One day, God decided to test Abraham's faith.

God: (calling out) Abraham!

Abraham: (looking up) Here I am!

God: Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There, I want you to offer him as a sacrifice on a mountain I will show you.

Narrator: The next morning, even though Abraham's heart was heavy, he obeyed God. He got up early, saddled his donkey, and took his son Isaac and two servants with him. They cut wood for the sacrifice and began the long journey. After three days, they saw the mountain in the distance.

Abraham: (to the servants) Stay here with the donkey. Isaac and I will go up the mountain to worship, and then we'll come back to you.

Narrator: Abraham took the wood for the sacrifice and gave it to Isaac to carry. He carried the fire and the knife, and together they walked up the mountain.

Isaac: (looking around, confused) Father?

Abraham: Yes, my son?

Isaac: We have the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the sacrifice?

Abraham: (smiling gently) God Himself will provide the lamb, my son.

Narrator: They kept walking until they reached the top of the mountain. Abraham built an altar and carefully arranged the wood on it. Then, with a heavy heart, he tied up Isaac and laid him on the altar.

Isaac: (eyes wide, nervous) Father...?

Narrator: Abraham picked up the knife, his hand shaking as he raised it above his beloved son.

Printout 1B: Skit

God: (calling out suddenly) Abraham! Abraham!

Abraham: (dropping the knife, relieved) Here I am!

God: Do not lay a hand on the boy! Do not harm him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.

Narrator: Abraham looked up, and there in the bushes was a ram, caught by its horns.

Abraham: (with joy) God has provided!

Narrator: Abraham untied Isaac and they sacrificed the ram instead. Abraham named that place "The Lord Will Provide", because God had shown His faithfulness.

God: (speaking again) Because you have obeyed Me and did not hold back your only son, I will bless you. Your descendants will be as many as the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore. Through your family, all nations on earth will be blessed because you have obeyed Me.

Narrator: Abraham and Isaac went back down the mountain together, thankful for God's provision and His promise.



LESSON 3: LARGE GROUP

The Greatest Love

MAIN IDEA

Jesus loves us so much that he was willing to die for us, becoming the greatest sacrifice God provided.

BIBLE PASSAGES

- Matthew 26:47-27:56

MEMORY VERSE

There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.

John 15:13, NLT



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.



Introduce the story of the Gospel.
(10-15 minutes)



Play large group games.
(25 minutes)

Prepare



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.

QUESTIONS

- How can you be praying for the student this week? Are there any specific students or requests you can pray for?
- Are there any changes and additions needed for the Large Group Lesson?
- Is there anything specific you need to communicate to the small group leaders?

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- A Bible
- Printout 1, 5 copies
- (Optional) Cross, crown of thorns, robes
- (Optional) Printout 2, Resurrection Eggs Instructions

Large Group



Introduce the story of the Gospel.
(10-15 minutes)

SET EXPECTATIONS

Review 3 Rules of Respect and Who Is Jesus?

SONG SUGGESTION

I Believe (GO FISH)

TEACH

Ask:

- **Who remembers the story of Abraham and Isaac?**
- **What big test did God give Abraham?**

Last week we learned how God provided a sacrifice so that Isaac didn't have to be sacrificed. This week, we'll see how God provided the greatest sacrifice—His Son, Jesus—so that we could be close to Him forever.

Today's story is about Jesus showing the greatest love ever.

- **What does it mean to show love to someone else?**

Jesus was God's Son who came to earth to teach us about God's love and to save us. Just as God provided a ram to save Isaac, God sent Jesus to save us.

Jesus knew he would face something very hard. He knew he would be arrested, put on trial, and eventually die on the cross, but he chose to do it because he loves us.

OPTION 1: SKIT

I am going to need some volunteers to act out a skit of what happened to Jesus the night he was arrested and then crucified.

Get volunteers to help act out the arrest and crucifixion of Jesus based on each scene. The skit's based on Matthew 26:47-27:56.

Characters needed:

Scene 1: Jesus, 3 Disciples, Judas, crowd of soldiers

Scene 2: Jesus, Pilate, crowd (could be the whole group of students)

Scene 3: Jesus, several soldiers, onlookers

After the skit discuss and ask follow-up questions.

Say, Just as God provided a ram to save Isaac in our lesson last week, God provided Jesus to save all of us. This time, Jesus willingly became that sacrifice so we could be forgiven and close to God.

Pray and dismiss the students.



"Who is Jesus"
Call and Response



"I Believe"
by GO FISH

OPTION 2: RESURRECTION EGGS

Using the Resurrection eggs are a fun, interactive way for kids to learn about the Easter story. Each egg contains a small object that represents a part of Jesus' journey to the cross and his resurrection. Here's how to set up and use Resurrection eggs:

Materials:

- 12 plastic Easter eggs (numbered 1-12)
- Small items representing different parts of the Easter story (see below)
- A Bible or printouts of short scriptures to read with each egg

Start with egg 1 and continue through egg 12. For each egg:

- Let a child open the egg and take out the item.
- Read or explain the related Bible verse.
- Discuss what that part of the story means.

After opening all the eggs, discuss the story as a whole, focusing on the meaning of Easter and the resurrection.

Say, **Just as God provided a ram to save Isaac in our lesson last week, God provided Jesus to save all of us. This time, Jesus willingly became that sacrifice so we could be forgiven and close to God.**

Pray and dismiss the students.



WRAP IT UP

Games



Play large group games.
(25 minutes)

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Blindfold
- Index cards or slips of paper with key events from the Easter story (one event per card)
- Baskets or bags to hold the cards
- Starting line and finish line

LARGE GROUP GAME: RED LIGHT, GREEN LIGHT

Materials: None

Object of game: Be the first to reach the leader's side

How to play: One leader will stand at one end of the playing area, and all the students will stand at the other end. The leader will yell out either "green light", "yellow light", or "red light". When yelling out "green light", the leader will close their eyes, and the students can run as fast as they want. The leader can then yell out "yellow light" or "red light" and open their eyes. On "yellow light", students can only walk, and any student that the leader sees still running will go back to the wall and start over. On "red light", students must stop, and if the leader sees anyone moving, they must go to the wall and start over. The student that gets to the leader's side first is the winner.

LARGE GROUP GAME: BLOB TAG

Materials: None

Object of game: Players tagged by the blob of people must join the blob.

How to play: A designated area is decided upon to play. Eight people are then paired up, resulting in four groups. Everyone else spreads out over the playing field.

The pairs of people try to run and tag other players. The two must remain holding hands while chasing others. If someone gets tagged, they must join the blob of people. The game ends when everyone is tagged.

LARGE GROUP GAME: TRUST TAG

Materials: Blindfold

Object of game: Avoid being tagged by the blindfolded player..

How to play: Play a game of tag where the person who is "it" must close their eyes and rely on their sense of hearing to tag others. This activity encourages trust as children learn to navigate and interact with each other without sight. This game works best with smaller spaces or a designated playing area. Consider spreading leaders out to help direct and keep the person who is "it" from getting hurt.

LARGE GROUP GAME: RESURRECTION RELAY

Materials: Index cards or slips of paper with key events from the Easter story (one event per card), baskets or bags to hold the cards, a starting line and finish line

Object of game: To learn about the events leading up to Jesus' resurrection while having fun with a relay race.

How to play: Write key events from the Easter story on index cards. For example:

- Jesus enters Jerusalem on a donkey
- The Last Supper
- Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane
- Jesus is arrested
- Jesus is crucified
- Jesus is buried
- The Resurrection

Place the cards in baskets or bags at the starting line. Divide the kids into two or more teams. Have each team line up at the starting line. Explain that they will be participating in a relay race to learn about the Easter story. Each team will need to collect all the events in the correct order and bring them to the finish line. The first player from each team will run to the basket, pick up a card, and run back to their team. The player will then tag the next player, who will repeat the process. Continue until all players have had a turn and the team has collected all the cards.

Once all the cards have been collected, have each team arrange the events in the correct order. Review the events with the kids and discuss their significance. Celebrate the winning team and emphasize the importance of the Easter story.



LESSON 3: PRIMARY SMALL GROUP

The Greatest Love

MAIN IDEA

Jesus loves us so much that he was willing to die for us, becoming the greatest sacrifice God provided.

BIBLE PASSAGES

- Matthew 26:47-27:56

MEMORY VERSE

There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.

John 15:13, NLT



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.



Connect with the kids and make them feel heard and cared for. (15 minutes)



Facilitate activity and study to help kids know and love Jesus. (20-25 minutes)



Lead kids to live out the mission of the Gospel. (5-10 minutes)

Prepare



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.

QUESTIONS

- How can you be praying for the students this week?
- Are there any specific students or requests you can pray for?
- Are there any adaptations that you can make to the lesson this week to better serve the kids in your small group or make your small group more effective?
- How can you connect with the students outside of club over the next few weeks? Is there a sporting event or performance you can go to? Can you plan a casual park or fast-food meet-up with them and their families (as a group or individually)?

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- A Bible
- Name tags
- Snack, 1 per child
- Memory Verse Cards, 1 per child (on cardstock if desired, for durability)
- Strips of colored paper (1 per child, with extras)
- Markers or crayons
- Tape or glue
- 1 large nice item from home (i.e., favorite toy or book)
- 1 small broken item such as broken crayon or pencil
- (Optional) Prayer Wall activity: Large poster board, sticky notes, and pens
- (Optional) Forgiveness Cross activity: paper or foam crosses, markers, stickers, and ribbon

Connect



Connect with the kids and make them feel heard and cared for.
(15 minutes)

Small Group Session 1

ICE BREAKER

Distribute name tags and snacks. Choose one of the following icebreaker activities to do together while children eat their snack:

- Option 1: Ask the children to share their highs and lows (the best and worst things that happened to them either today or from the past week).
- Option 2: Ask the children to take turns sharing how they're feeling today using the "How Are You Feeling?" chart (from the CKC Games Bag).

PRAY TOGETHER

Collect prayer requests from the students. The leader or a student can pray for the entire group or a leader can pair up students and invite them to pray for one another.

INTRODUCTION

Ask, **What is your favorite (pick a color) object?** (This will already get the students thinking about things they like, and then we can add the sacrifice element.) **Have you ever done something really hard to help someone else? (sharing a favorite toy, helping a friend when they'd rather play, or letting someone else have the first turn)**

Today, we're learning about the greatest act of love and sacrifice ever shown. Jesus did something very hard, something that cost him everything, because he loves us so much. He chose to die on the cross so we could be close to God forever.

This story is about God's love and the biggest sacrifice of all time.

ACTIVITY: LOVE IN ACTION

Give each child a strip of paper. Ask them to draw a small way they can show love or sacrifice for someone else, just like Jesus showed love for us. Examples could be: "Help my parents," "Forgive my friend," "Share my toys," or "Say something kind."

After they draw, have each child share their idea with the group.

As they share, tape or glue each strip into a link, connecting each strip to form a long chain.

Say, **This chain shows how our acts of love connect us and can remind us of Jesus' love for all of us. How does it feel to know that when we show love, we're following Jesus' example?**

Just like our sacrifice chain, Jesus connected us to God through his sacrifice. Every time we make a choice to show love, we're remembering what Jesus did for us.



Heart



Facilitate activity and study to help kids know and love Jesus.
(20-25 minutes)

Small Group Session 2

Let kids know that you are glad that they are there.

Say, **What we are talking about today and next week is the most important thing that we can talk about. Learning about what Jesus did for us, that he willingly died to take the punishment for our sins and then rose again from the dead is the most important message we talk about in our lives!**

Remind students of the main idea.

Say, **Jesus loved us so much that He was willing to die for us, becoming the greatest sacrifice God provided.**

OBJECT LESSON:

Hold up two items: something valuable (like a favorite toy or book) and something small or broken.

Ask, **Which one would you want to give to a friend?**

God gave us the most valuable thing he could—Jesus—because he loves us. He didn't hold back but gave his best for us.

Ask a student to summarize the story of the crucifixion in Matthew 27:36-54 or read through the passage.

Ask, **Why did Jesus allow himself to be arrested and put on the cross? How does it make you feel to know Jesus loves you enough to die for you?**

Say, **Jesus' love for us is greater than any other love that we experience. Jesus was willing to love us even when we didn't love him. Jesus even died for those who were making fun of him.**

- **Have you ever been punished for something that you did not do?**
- **How did that feel?**

Although Jesus did come to die for our sins, he did not deserve our punishment. He took the pain and suffering we deserve in order for us to have sanctification and an unshakeable relationship with God.

Jesus forgave the people who hurt him.

- **Have you ever forgiven someone even when it was hard?**
- **How did it feel?**
- **Why is forgiving others sometimes hard?**
- **How can Jesus' example help us?**

Last week, we talked about how God provided a ram for Abraham and Isaac.

- **How is Jesus like that ram God provided?**
- **What does it mean to say Jesus was the "greatest sacrifice"?**
- **How can we show others that we love them like Jesus loves us?**
- **What are some ways we can make sacrifices to help others, even in small ways?**

OPTION 1: PRAYER WALL

Create a "Prayer Wall". Have kids write a thank-you note to Jesus for his love and forgiveness or list someone they want to forgive. You will need: a large poster board, sticky notes, and pens.

- **Why is it important to forgive others, just as Jesus forgave?**
- **How does it feel to ask God to help us forgive?**

OPTION 2: FORGIVENESS CROSS

Using small paper or foam crosses, markers, stickers, and ribbon, have each child write "Father, forgive them" on the cross. Encourage them to decorate it with stickers or drawings that remind them of love and forgiveness. They can hang it up at home as a reminder of Jesus' forgiveness.

Ask, **How can remembering Jesus' forgiveness help us forgive others?**

Say, **This activity gives us a reminder of God's love and the lesson we learned about Jesus' sacrifice.**

Hands



Lead kids to live out the mission of the Gospel.
(5-10 minutes)

Small Group Session 2

WRAP IT UP

- **How did Jesus show his love for us?**
- **What do you think about Jesus forgiving those who hurt him?**
- **How can we remember and show Jesus' love in our own lives?**

RESPONSE & REFLECTION

Print out and practice the memory verse for this unit (John 15:13).

Consider a game or activity to help students understand and memorize the memory verse. Take a look at the Memory Verse Game Ideas.

Send students home with a copy of the Gospel Hand. If you have time, go over it with your students. Use motions to help them remember the Gospel message.

Pray with the students and dismiss them.



Bible Memory Verse
Games



LESSON 3: INTERMEDIATE SMALL GROUP

The Greatest Love

MAIN IDEA

Jesus loves us so much that he was willing to die for us, becoming the greatest sacrifice God provided.

BIBLE PASSAGES

- Matthew 26:47-27:56

MEMORY VERSE

There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.

John 15:13, NLT



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.



Connect with the kids and make them feel heard and cared for. (15 minutes)



Facilitate activity and study to help kids know and love Jesus. (20-25 minutes)



Lead kids to live out the mission of the Gospel. (5-10 minutes)

Prepare



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.

QUESTIONS

- How can you be praying for the students this week?
- Are there any specific students or requests you can pray for?
- Are there any adaptations that you can make to the lesson this week to better serve the kids in your small group or make your small group more effective?
- How can you connect with the students outside of club over the next few weeks? Is there a sporting event or performance you can go to? Can you plan a casual park or fast-food meet-up with them and their families (as a group or individually)?

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- A Bible
- Name tags
- Snack, 1 per child
- Memory Verse Cards, 1 per child (on cardstock if desired, for durability)
- Strips of colored paper (1 per child, with extras)
- Markers or crayons
- Tape or glue
- 1 large nice item from home (i.e., favorite toy or book)
- 1 small broken item such as broken crayon or pencil)
- (Optional) Printout 1, one per small group
- (Optional) Prayer Wall activity: Large poster board, sticky notes, and pens
- (Optional) Forgiveness Cross activity: paper or foam crosses, markers, stickers, and ribbon
- (Optional) Printout 3, 1 per small group

Connect



Connect with the kids and make them feel heard and cared for.
(15 minutes)

Small Group Session 1

ICE BREAKER

Distribute name tags and snacks. Choose one of the following icebreaker activities to do together while children eat their snack:

- Option 1: Ask the children to share their highs and lows (the best and worst things that happened to them either today or from the past week).
- Option 2: Ask the children to take turns sharing how they're feeling today using the "How Are You Feeling?" chart (from the CKC Games Bag).

PRAY TOGETHER

Collect prayer requests from the students. The leader or a student can pray for the entire group or a leader can pair up students and invite them to pray for one another.

INTRODUCTION

Ask, **Have you ever done something really hard to help someone else?** (sharing a favorite toy, helping a friend when they'd rather play, or letting someone else have the first turn.)

Today, we're learning about the greatest act of love and sacrifice ever shown. Jesus did something very hard, something that cost him everything, because he loves us so much. He chose to die on the cross so we could be close to God forever.

This story is about God's love and the biggest sacrifice of all time.

ACTIVITY: LOVE IN ACTION

Give each child a strip of paper. Ask them to draw a small way they can show love or sacrifice for someone else, just like Jesus showed love for us. Examples could be: "Help my parents," "Forgive my friend," "Share my toys," or "Say something kind."

After they draw, have each child share their idea with the group.

As they share, tape or glue each strip into a link, connecting each strip to form a long chain.

Say, **This chain shows how our acts of love connect us and can remind us of Jesus' love for all of us.**



ACTIVITY OPTION 2: LOVE IN ACTION CHARADES

Using Printout 3, have students take turns picking a card from the stack. They are to act out what their card says without using words. The rest of the students will guess what they are acting out. Be sure to share with students that each word is an action we can do to show love. Set a timer, and allow each student to have a turn.

After they are finished, encourage them to take a card or make their own of how they can show love to friends or family this week.

Ask, **How does it feel to know that when we show love, we're following Jesus' example?**

Just like Jesus connected us to God through his sacrifice, every time we make a choice to show love, we're remembering what Jesus did for us.

Heart



Facilitate activity and study to help kids know and love Jesus.
(20-25 minutes)

Small Group Session 2

Let kids know that you are glad that they are there.

Say, **What we are talking about today and next week is the most important thing that we can talk about. Learning about what Jesus did for us, that he willingly died to take the punishment for our sins and then rose again from the dead is the most important message we talk about in our lives!**

Remind students of the main idea.

Say, **Jesus loved us so much that He was willing to die for us, becoming the greatest sacrifice God provided.**

OBJECT LESSON:

Hold up two items: something valuable (like a favorite toy or book) and something small or broken.

Ask, **Which one would you want to give to a friend?**

God gave us the most valuable thing he could—Jesus—because he loves us. He didn't hold back but gave his best for us.

Ask a student to summarize the story of the crucifixion in Matthew 27:36-54 or read through the passage.

Ask, **Why did Jesus allow himself to be arrested and put on the cross? How does it make you feel to know Jesus loves you enough to die for you?**

Say, **Jesus' love for us is greater than any other love that we experience. Jesus was willing to love us even when we didn't love him. Jesus even died for those who were making fun of him.**

- **Have you ever been punished for something that you did not do?**
- **How did that feel?**

Although Jesus did come to die for our sins, he did not deserve our punishment. He took the pain and suffering we deserve in order for us to have sanctification and an unshakeable relationship with God.

Jesus forgave the people who hurt him.

- **Have you ever forgiven someone even when it was hard?**
- **How did it feel?**
- **Why is forgiving others sometimes hard?**
- **How can Jesus' example help us?**

Last week, we talked about how God provided a ram for Abraham and Isaac.

- **How is Jesus like that ram God provided?**
- **What does it mean to say Jesus was the "greatest sacrifice"?**
- **How can we show others that we love them like Jesus loves us?**
- **What are some ways we can make sacrifices to help others, even in small ways?**

OPTION 1: PRAYER WALL

Create a "Prayer Wall". Have kids write a thank-you note to Jesus for his love and forgiveness or list someone they want to forgive. You will need: a large poster board, sticky notes, and pens.

- **Why is it important to forgive others, just as Jesus forgave?**
- **How does it feel to ask God to help us forgive?**

OPTION 2: FORGIVENESS CROSS

Using small paper or foam crosses, markers, stickers, and ribbon, have each child write "Father, forgive them" on the cross. Encourage them to decorate it with stickers or drawings that remind them of love and forgiveness. They can hang it up at home as a reminder of Jesus' forgiveness.

Ask, **How can remembering Jesus' forgiveness help us forgive others?**

Say, **This activity gives us a reminder of God's love and the lesson we learned about Jesus' sacrifice.**

Hands



Lead kids to live out the mission of the Gospel.
(5-10 minutes)

Small Group Session 2

WRAP IT UP

- **How did Jesus show his love for us?**
- **What do you think about Jesus forgiving those who hurt him?**
- **How can we remember and show Jesus' love in our own lives?**

RESPONSE & REFLECTION

Print out and practice the memory verse for this unit (John 15:13).

Consider a game or activity to help students understand and memorize the memory verse. Take a look at the Memory Verse Game Ideas.

Send students home with a copy of the Gospel Hand. If you have time, go over it with your students. Use motions to help them remember the Gospel message.

Pray with the students and dismiss them.



Bible Memory Verse
Games

Memory Verse Cards

MEMORY VERSE

There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.

John 15:13, NLT

MEMORY VERSE

There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.

John 15:13, NLT

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John 15:13, NLT

MEMORY VERSE

There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.

John 15:13, NLT

Printout 1A

SCENE 1: THE ARREST IN THE GARDEN

(Setting: Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus kneels as if praying. Three disciples sit a short distance away, looking tired and sleepy. Judas enters quietly, looking anxious.)

Narrator: Late at night, Jesus went to a garden called Gethsemane to pray. He knew something hard was about to happen, but he still chose to do what God wanted because he loves us so much.

Jesus (praying): Father, if it's possible, let this cup pass from me. But not what I want—what You want.

Narrator: While Jesus prayed, His disciples were nearby, but they fell asleep, even though Jesus had asked them to keep watch.

(Jesus looks back at his sleeping disciples.)

Jesus: (quietly, but kindly) Couldn't you keep watch with me, even for a little while?

(Suddenly, Judas enters with guards.)

Narrator: Then, Judas, one of Jesus' friends, came with guards. Judas betrayed Jesus by showing the guards who he was with a kiss.

Judas: (pointing) This is the one.

Guard 1: (seizing Jesus) You're coming with us!

Narrator: Jesus could have stopped them, but he didn't. He went with them because he loves us so much that he was willing to face what came next.

SCENE 2: THE TRIAL AND CRUCIFIXION

(Setting: Courtroom. Jesus stands silently before Pilate, who looks stern and judgmental. A crowd stands around, pointing fingers and looking angry.)

Narrator: Jesus was taken to trial, even though he hadn't done anything wrong. The people were angry and wanted Jesus to be punished, even though he had only shown them love.

Printout 1B

Pilate: (to the crowd) What should I do with Jesus?

Crowd (loudly): Crucify him! Crucify him!

Narrator: So, Pilate gave in to the crowd. Jesus was led to a place called Golgotha, where he was put on a cross.

(Jesus kneels down with a cross behind him.)

Narrator: Jesus suffered on the cross, not because he deserved it, but because he loved us so much. He was willing to go through all of this so we could be close to God.

SCENE 3: FORGIVENESS ON THE CROSS

(Setting: Jesus hangs on the cross, looking weary but peaceful. A few soldiers stand by, looking tough. Some onlookers watch with sad expressions.)

Narrator: Even while Jesus was in pain, he thought of us. Instead of feeling angry or upset, he looked at the people who had hurt him and said something amazing.

Jesus: (with kindness) Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they're doing.

Narrator: Even though he was in so much pain, Jesus forgave the people who put him on the cross. He did this so we could be forgiven too, showing us the greatest love of all.

(Pause, then the narrator speaks to the audience.)

Narrator: Jesus showed us the greatest love by giving his life for us. He was willing to suffer so we could be forgiven and close to God. Jesus' love is the greatest love we could ever know.

Printout 2

Resurrection Eggs: Instructions

- Collect Materials:** Gather 12 plastic eggs and an empty egg carton to store them.
- Label the Eggs:** Use a permanent marker to number each egg from 1 to 12.
- Add Items:** Place the representative items (listed below) inside each egg. Then put the eggs in the egg carton.
- Introduce the Story:** Start by asking the kids how they'd feel if they went on an Easter egg hunt and found only empty eggs. Explain that sometimes an empty egg is a GOOD thing—in fact, it's the best egg of all!
- Open Each Egg:** Begin with egg 1 and open each egg in order, retelling the Easter story as you go.
- Interactive Storytelling:** Let the kids guess what each item might represent. This can help make the story more engaging.
- Review the Story:** After telling the story, distribute the eggs to the kids and let them take turns retelling it, using the items as prompts.
- Make and Take Option:** If you have fewer children, consider helping each child make a set to take home as a reminder of the Easter story.

ITEMS FOR EACH EGG:

- Egg 1:** A leaf or small twig – Jesus' Triumphal Entry (Verse: Matthew 21:1-11)
- Egg 2:** A small cracker or communion cup – The Last Supper (Verse: Luke 22:7-23)
- Egg 3:** Coins – Judas Betrays Jesus (Verse: Matthew 26:14-16)
- Egg 4:** Thorns or a small branch with thorns – The Crown of Thorns (Verse: Matthew 27:27-31)
- Egg 5:** A small cross – Jesus Carries the Cross (Verse: John 19:17)
- Egg 6:** Nails – Jesus Is Nailed to the Cross (Verses: John 19:18; John 20:25-29)
- Egg 7:** Dice and a piece of purple cloth – Soldiers Cast Lots for Jesus' Clothes (Verse: John 19:23-24)
- Egg 8:** A small piece of black paper or cloth – Darkness Covers the Earth (Verse: Matthew 27:45)
- Egg 9:** A sponge – Offer of Vinegar on a Sponge (Verse: Matthew 27:46-48)
- Egg 10:** A small piece of white cloth – Joseph of Arimathea Wraps Jesus' Body (Verse: Matthew 27:57-60)
- Egg 11:** A stone – The Stone Rolled Away (Verse: Matthew 28:1-4)
- Egg 12:** EMPTY – Jesus Is Alive! - (Verse: Matthew 28:5-7)

AFTER OPENING ALL THE EGGS:

Discuss the story as a whole, focusing on the meaning of Easter and the Resurrection.

Printout 3

LISTEN WELL

Listen closely when others are speaking, showing you care about their feelings and thoughts.

USE KIND WORDS

Words can build up or hurt, so saying things like "please", "thank you", and "I'm sorry" shows respect and love.

SHARE AND TAKE TURNS

Sharing toys and snacks or taking turns in games shows kindness and makes others feel included.

HELP OUT WITHOUT BEING ASKED

Whether it's cleaning up a shared space or helping a sibling with a chore, this shows love through action.

PRAY FOR THEM

You can show love by praying for your friends and family members, asking God to bless and care for them.

BE PATIENT

Being patient when others make mistakes is a way of showing kindness and understanding.

CELEBRATE THEIR SUCCESSES

Cheer on your friends and family when they accomplish something, big or small.

SAY ENCOURAGING THINGS

A compliment or words like, "You did a great job!" or, "I'm proud of you!" can make others feel valued.

FORGIVE QUICKLY

Let go of grudges and forgive others, showing grace just as Jesus taught.

HELP THEM FEEL BETTER

When someone is sad or hurt, being there with comforting words or just sitting with them can be a huge support.

Large Group



LESSON 4: LARGE GROUP

Jesus and the Resurrection

MAIN IDEA

Kids will understand that Jesus' resurrection shows His power over death and offers us hope and new life.

BIBLE PASSAGES

- Matthew 28:1-10
- Romans 10:9

MEMORY VERSE

There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.

John 15:13, NLT



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.



Introduce the story of the Gospel.
(10-15 minutes)



Play large group games.
(25 minutes)

Prepare



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.

QUESTIONS

- How can you be praying for the student this week? Are there any specific students or requests you can pray for?
- Are there any changes and additions needed for the Large Group Lesson?
- Is there anything specific you need to communicate to the small group leaders?

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- A Bible
- Picture of a sunrise
- Paper plates
- Markers
- Craft supplies
- (Optional) Name tags for skit characters
- (Optional) Music for the closing song

Large Group



Introduce the story of the Gospel.
(10-15 minutes)

SET EXPECTATIONS

Review 3 Rules of Respect and Who Is Jesus?

SONG SUGGESTION

“Christ the Lord is Risen Today” by GO FISH

TEACH

Show a picture of a sunrise, and explain how the darkest moments (like the night) can lead to the brightest moments (like morning).

Review the events leading up to Jesus’ death on the cross (his arrest, crucifixion, burial). Remind kids about the sadness and confusion the Disciples felt.

Ask, **How do you think the Disciples and Jesus’ friends felt after he died?**

Choose students to play the following characters. They are to act out the story silently as you read it. Consider giving students name tags with their character on them.

Characters:

Mary Magdalene

Mary

An angel

Jesus

2 Guards

MATTHEW 28:1-10 SKIT AND READING

Place a chair in the center of the room, have the 2 guards stand on either side of the chair, representing the entrance to the tomb.

Early on Sunday morning, as the new day was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went out to visit the tomb. (Both Marys are walking around the room and approach the chair.)

Suddenly there was a great earthquake! (The 2 guards start waving their hands trying to keep their balance during the earthquake.) **For an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled aside the stone, and sat on it.** (Have the angel come and sit on the chair.) **His face shone like lightning, and his clothing was as white as snow. The guards shook with fear when they saw him, and they fell into a dead faint.** (Have 2 guards fall on the ground.)

Then the angel spoke to the women. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He isn’t here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying. (The Angel points behind him.) **And now, go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and he is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there. Remember what I have told you.”**



“Who is Jesus”
Call and Response



“Christ the Lord is
Risen Today”
by GO FISH

The women ran quickly from the tomb. (Both Marys walked quickly around the room and circle back to the front of the room.) **They were very frightened but also filled with great joy, and they rushed to give the disciples the angel's message. And as they went, Jesus met them and greeted them.** (Have the student playing Jesus meet the Marys at the front of the room.) **And they ran to him, grasped his feet, and worshiped him.** (Both Mary's fall on their knees in front of the student playing Jesus.) **Then Jesus said to them, "Don't be afraid! Go tell my brothers to leave for Galilee, and they will see me there."**

Dismiss students to their seats.


 WRAP IT UP

Say, **Jesus' resurrection proves he is stronger than death and sin. Because Jesus rose from the dead, we can have hope that we too will have eternal life with him if we believe.**

Three weeks ago we learned about how Adam and Eve disobeyed God and brought sin into the world, but God promised to send a Savior. Two weeks ago we read about Abraham taking Isaac to give a sacrifice. Isaac asked his father where the sheep was for the sacrifice, and Abraham told his son Isaac that God will provide the sacrifice.

Jesus is our Savior, the Savior God promised Adam and Eve. He is also our sacrifice needed because Jesus willingly sacrificed his life for us when he died on the cross to overcome sin, then he rose from the dead to overcome death!

The Bible says that everyone who believes in Jesus—that he died on the cross to take the punishment for our sins, and rose again from the dead, overcoming death and giving us hope for eternal life with him—will be saved.

Lead the group in a prayer of thankfulness for Jesus' sacrifice and victory over death, and ask for help in sharing his story.

Dismiss students.

Games



Play large group games.
(25 minutes)

LARGE GROUP GAME: RESURRECTION TAG

Materials: None

Object of game: To remind kids of the joy of new life, symbolizing the moment Jesus rose from the dead.

How to play: Choose one or two kids to be “taggers”. When a player is tagged, they have to sit or lie down as if they’re “in the tomb”. To be “brought back to life”, another player has to come over, say, “Jesus is alive!” and gently touch them. Once “brought back to life”, they can rejoin the game. Play for a set time and switch taggers, if desired.

LARGE GROUP GAME: GOOD NEWS RELAY

Materials: Strips of paper, markers or pens

Object of game: Help kids experience the joy and excitement of spreading good news, mirroring the way the Disciples shared the resurrection news.

How to play: Before the activity, write simple, exciting messages on strips of paper. Examples could include: “You get extra playtime!”, “You get a snack!”, or “You’re getting a prize!” Make sure the messages are positive and something the kids will be excited about.

Split the kids into two or more teams, with each team lining up at one side of the room. The first person in each team runs across the room, picks up a strip of paper, and reads the message. They then run back to their team and whisper the “good news” to the next teammate in line. That teammate runs to the starting point, picks up a new strip of paper, and shares it with the next person in their team. Continue this process until every team member has had a turn to hear and share the “good news.”

After the relay, bring everyone together and discuss:

- How did it feel to hear good news?
- How did it feel to share good news?
- Was there excitement as you passed the message?

Bible story connection: On Easter, Jesus’ followers discovered the best news ever: He is alive! Just like in the relay, they couldn’t wait to share it with others. We can share this amazing news, too, because it brings joy and hope to everyone who hears it.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Strips of paper
- Markers or pens
- Open space for running
- Plastic eggs or small bags with paper messages inside (each should say “Jesus is alive!”)
- Music player with upbeat worship songs

LARGE GROUP GAME: RUN AND TELL!

Materials: Open space for running, plastic eggs or small bags with paper messages inside (each should say "Jesus is alive!")

Object of game: To simulate the excitement of Mary and Mary Magdalene when they ran to tell the Disciples that Jesus had risen.

How to play: Divide the group into pairs. Place the eggs or bags on one side of the room, and have each pair race to grab one and bring it back to the starting point. When they open it, they should shout together, "Jesus is alive!"

Bible story connection: It is exciting to share good news about Jesus! How does it feel when you have really good news to share?

LARGE GROUP GAME: ALIVE FREEZE DANCE

Materials: Music player with upbeat worship songs

Object of game: To celebrate and reinforce the joy of Jesus' resurrection in a fun and lively way.

How to play: Play an upbeat song, and have the kids dance around with lots of energy. At random intervals, pause the music and have the kids "freeze". When they freeze, shout, "Jesus is alive!" and encourage the kids to shout it back.

Resume the music and continue playing. Each time they freeze, you can have them make different joyful poses, like "praise hands" or jumping for joy.

Tip: You could turn this into an elimination game, where those who don't freeze fast enough are out until the last one remains. Or keep everyone involved for maximum fun!



LESSON 4: PRIMARY SMALL GROUP

Jesus and the Resurrection

MAIN IDEA

Kids will understand that Jesus' resurrection shows His power over death and offers us hope and new life.

BIBLE PASSAGES

- Matthew 28:1-10
- Romans 10:9

MEMORY VERSE

There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.

John 15:13, NLT



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.



Connect with the kids and make them feel heard and cared for. (15 minutes)



Facilitate activity and study to help kids know and love Jesus. (20-25 minutes)



Lead kids to live out the mission of the Gospel. (5-10 minutes)

Prepare



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.

QUESTIONS

- How can you be praying for the students this week?
- Are there any specific students or requests you can pray for?
- Are there any adaptations that you can make to the lesson this week to better serve the kids in your small group or make your small group more effective?
- How can you connect with the students outside of club over the next few weeks? Is there a sporting event or performance you can go to? Can you plan a casual park or fast-food meet-up with them and their families (as a group or individually)?

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- A Bible
- Name tags
- Snack, 1 per child
- Memory Verse Cards, 1 per child (on cardstock if desired, for durability)
- A small box or gift bag, 1 per small group
- Slips of paper with "Jesus is alive!" written on them, 1 per child
- Treats or stickers for each child
- Paper plates, 1 per child
- Markers or crayons
- (Optional) Yellow and orange construction paper
- (Optional) Glue sticks
- (Optional) Scissors

Connect



Connect with the kids and make them feel heard and cared for.
(15 minutes)

Small Group Session 1

ICE BREAKER

Distribute name tags and snacks. Choose one of the following icebreaker activities to do together while children eat their snack:

- Option 1: Ask the children to share their highs and lows (the best and worst things that happened to them either today or from the past week).
- Option 2: Ask the children to take turns sharing how they're feeling today using the "How Are You Feeling?" chart (from the CKC Games Bag).

PRAY TOGETHER

Collect prayer requests from the students. The leader or a student can pray for the entire group or a leader can pair up students and invite them to pray for one another.

INTRODUCTION

Ask, **Have you ever gotten a surprise that made you super happy? What was it, and how did you feel?**

Encourage the kids to share experiences of unexpected surprises, like a birthday present, a visit from a friend, or a fun family outing. Consider sharing your own story with your students.

ACTIVITY: THE "SURPRISE BOX"

Objective: To let kids experience a small surprise that sets the tone for understanding the joy of discovering Jesus' resurrection.

Materials:

- A small box or gift bag for each small group
- Slips of paper with "Jesus is alive!" written on them (one for each child)
- Treats or stickers for each student (set aside so students don't see)

Begin by briefly recapping last week's lesson of Jesus' death on the cross.

Say, **Jesus' Disciples and friends were sad and confused when he died, but everything changed when they learned he was alive again!**

Show students the box.

Say, **This box holds a special surprise, but they can't open it until everyone is ready.**

Build anticipation by telling them they'll find out something that reminds them of the biggest surprise ever—when Jesus rose from the dead! On the count of three, have the kids open their boxes or bags to reveal the treats and the "Jesus is alive!" note.

Ask:

- **How did it feel to open the box?**
- **Were you surprised?** (Give them a moment to share their reactions.)

Ask questions to connect their feelings to how the Disciples might have felt:

- **How do you think Jesus' friends felt when they heard he was alive?**
- **Do you think they were surprised, like you were when you opened your boxes?**

Today we will learn about some friends of Jesus, who loved him very much, but they were incredibly sad when he died on the cross. Imagine how they must have felt when they discovered Jesus was alive!

They must have been surprised and felt incredible joy and amazement, unlike anything they'd ever experienced!

Easter is a time when we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead! This moment came as a surprise to everyone, and it changed the world forever.

Heart



Facilitate activity and study to help kids know and love Jesus.
(20-25 minutes)

Small Group Session 2

Read Matthew 28:1-10 out loud, or have a student summarize the passage for the group.

- **How do you think Mary and Mary Magdalene felt when they found the empty tomb?** (Encourage them to share ideas like being surprised, confused, or excited. Relate it to how they might feel if they got a huge surprise.)
- **Why is Jesus' resurrection so important?**

Say, **The Resurrection means Jesus defeated death and gave us hope that we can be with God forever.**

- **Can you think of other times Jesus did amazing things?** (like healing people)
- **What would you do if you saw Jesus alive after he died?**

Imagine running to tell your friends who were with you and saw Jesus die on the cross three days ago that Jesus is now alive again!

- **Who would you tell first?**
- **How can we remember that Jesus is alive today?**

HELPFUL HINT

Consider going through the Gospel Hand with your students. Help them understand the significance of believing in Jesus for salvation; believing that Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for sins, and believing that Jesus rose from the dead to conquer death and give hope for eternity with him in heaven.

We know that Jesus is alive today because of Jesus' friends who saw him alive and told everyone they could, starting with their friends.

Jesus' resurrection proves He is stronger than death and sin. Because Jesus rose, we can have hope that we too will have eternal life with him if we believe.

Read Romans 10:9, or have a student read out loud for the group.

Say, **The Bible promises that everyone who believes that God raised Jesus from the dead will be saved. We are saved by believing that Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for our sins, and that God raised him from the dead. Jesus has not conquered sin and death!**

Let's work on making a reminder for ourselves about the miracle of Jesus' resurrection and the promise to save us if we believe in him.



Gospel Hand

ACTIVITY OPTION 1: "THE EMPTY TOMB" CRAFT

Give each child a paper plate, markers, and craft supplies to create a scene of the empty tomb. Have them write "He is risen!" at the top.

Discussion Prompt: As they work, ask, "Why do you think it's important that Jesus came back to life?"

Ask, **How does knowing that Jesus is alive make you feel?**

Think of ways you can share the story of Jesus' resurrection with a friend or family member.

Lead the group in a prayer of thankfulness for Jesus' sacrifice and victory over death, and ask for help in sharing his story.

Encourage kids to tell one person this week that Jesus is alive and what that means to them.



ACTIVITY OPTION 2: "HE IS RISEN" SUNBURST CRAFT

Materials:

- Paper plates (one per child)
- Yellow and orange construction paper (for sun rays)
- Markers or crayons
- Scissors
- Glue sticks

Give each child a paper plate. This will serve as the background for their sunburst. Have the children cut strips or small triangles from the yellow and orange construction paper to create "sun rays". These can vary in size and shape.

Kids can glue the rays around the outer edge of the plate to make it look like a sunburst, symbolizing the joy and brightness of Jesus' resurrection.

In the center of the plate, have kids write "He is risen!" or "Jesus is alive!" using markers or crayons. Let them decorate their sunburst with stickers, drawings, or glitter to make it as joyful and bright as they like.

Say, **The sunburst represents the light and hope Jesus brought when he rose from the dead. The news of the Resurrection spread like light, and we can share that joy with others.**



Hands



Lead kids to live out the mission of the Gospel.
(5-10 minutes)

Small Group Session 2

WRAP IT UP

Ask, **What do you do when you experience something exciting?**

When we get to experience something amazing, we want to tell others! Today in our lesson we will hear about the most incredible thing that has happened in history, and we know about it because other people shared what happened.

Just as Mary ran to tell the Disciples, we are called to share the good news of Jesus' resurrection with others.

RESPONSE & REFLECTION

Print out and practice the memory verse for this unit (John 15:13).

Consider a game or activity to help students understand and memorize the memory verse. Take a look at the Memory Verse Game Ideas.

Send students home with a copy of the Gospel Hand. If you have time, go over it with your students. Use motions to help them remember the Gospel message.

Pray with the students and dismiss them.



Bible Memory Verse
Games



Gospel Hand



LESSON 4: INTERMEDIATE SMALL GROUP

Jesus and the Resurrection

MAIN IDEA

Kids will understand that Jesus' resurrection shows His power over death and offers us hope and new life.

BIBLE PASSAGES

- Matthew 28:1-10
- Romans 10:9

MEMORY VERSE

There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.

John 15:13, NLT



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.



Connect with the kids and make them feel heard and cared for. (15 minutes)



Facilitate activity and study to help kids know and love Jesus. (20-25 minutes)



Lead kids to live out the mission of the Gospel. (5-10 minutes)

Prepare



Prepare your heart to teach.
Plan for the lesson.

QUESTIONS

- How can you be praying for the students this week?
- Are there any specific students or requests you can pray for?
- Are there any adaptations that you can make to the lesson this week to better serve the kids in your small group or make your small group more effective?
- How can you connect with the students outside of club over the next few weeks? Is there a sporting event or performance you can go to? Can you plan a casual park or fast-food meet-up with them and their families (as a group or individually)?

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- A Bible
- Name tags
- Snack, 1 per child
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- Treats or stickers for each child
- Paper plates, 1 per child
- Markers or crayons
- (Optional) Yellow and orange construction paper
- (Optional) Glue sticks
- (Optional) Scissors

Connect



Connect with the kids and make them feel heard and cared for.
(15 minutes)

Small Group Session 1

ICE BREAKER

Distribute name tags and snacks. Choose one of the following icebreaker activities to do together while children eat their snack:

- Option 1: Ask the children to share their highs and lows (the best and worst things that happened to them either today or from the past week).
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PRAY TOGETHER

Collect prayer requests from the students. The leader or a student can pray for the entire group or a leader can pair up students and invite them to pray for one another.

INTRODUCTION

Ask, **Have you ever gotten a surprise that made you super happy? What was it, and how did you feel?**

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Materials:

- A small box or gift bag for each small group
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Begin by briefly recapping last week's lesson of Jesus' death on the cross.

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Show students the box.

Say, **This box holds a special surprise, but they can't open it until everyone is ready.**

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Ask:

- **How did it feel to open the box?**
- **Were you surprised?** (Give them a moment to share their reactions.)

Ask questions to connect their feelings to how the Disciples might have felt:

- **How do you think Jesus' friends felt when they heard he was alive?**
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They must have been surprised and felt incredible joy and amazement, unlike anything they'd ever experienced!

Easter is a time when we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead! This moment came as a surprise to everyone, and it changed the world forever.

Heart



Facilitate activity and study to help kids know and love Jesus.
(20-25 minutes)

Small Group Session 2

Read Matthew 28:1-10 out loud, or have a student summarize the passage for the group.

- **How do you think Mary and Mary Magdalene felt when they found the empty tomb?** (Encourage them to share ideas like being surprised, confused, or excited. Relate it to how they might feel if they got a huge surprise.)
- **Why is Jesus' resurrection so important?**

Say, **The Resurrection means Jesus defeated death and gave us hope that we can be with God forever.**

- **Can you think of other times Jesus did amazing things?** (like healing people)
- **What would you do if you saw Jesus alive after he died?**

Imagine running to tell your friends who were with you and saw Jesus die on the cross three days ago that Jesus is now alive again!

- **Who would you tell first?**
- **How can we remember that Jesus is alive today?**

HELPFUL HINT

Consider going through the Gospel Hand with your students. Help them understand the significance of believing in Jesus for salvation; believing that Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for sins, and believing that Jesus rose from the dead to conquer death and give hope for eternity with him in heaven.

We know that Jesus is alive today because of Jesus' friends who saw him alive and told everyone they could, starting with their friends.

Jesus' resurrection proves He is stronger than death and sin. Because Jesus rose, we can have hope that we too will have eternal life with him if we believe.

Read Romans 10:9, or have a student read out loud for the group.

Say, **The Bible promises that everyone who believes that God raised Jesus from the dead will be saved. We are saved by believing that Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for our sins, and that God raised him from the dead. Jesus has not conquered sin and death!**

Let's work on making a reminder for ourselves about the miracle of Jesus' resurrection and the promise to save us if we believe in him.



Gospel Hand

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Ask, **How does knowing that Jesus is alive make you feel?**

Think of ways you can share the story of Jesus' resurrection with a friend or family member.

Lead the group in a prayer of thankfulness for Jesus' sacrifice and victory over death, and ask for help in sharing his story.

Encourage kids to tell one person this week that Jesus is alive and what that means to them.



ACTIVITY OPTION 2: "HE IS RISEN" SUNBURST CRAFT

Materials:

- Paper plates (one per child)
- Yellow and orange construction paper (for sun rays)
- Markers or crayons
- Scissors
- Glue sticks

Give each child a paper plate. This will serve as the background for their sunburst. Have the children cut strips or small triangles from the yellow and orange construction paper to create "sun rays". These can vary in size and shape.

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Hands



Lead kids to live out the mission of the Gospel.
(5-10 minutes)

Small Group Session 2

WRAP IT UP

Ask, **What do you do when you experience something exciting?**

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RESPONSE & REFLECTION

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Consider a game or activity to help students understand and memorize the memory verse. Take a look at the Memory Verse Game Ideas.

Send students home with a copy of the Gospel Hand. If you have time, go over it with your students. Use motions to help them remember the Gospel message.

Pray with the students and dismiss them.



Bible Memory Verse
Games



Gospel Hand

Memory Verse Cards

MEMORY VERSE

There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.

John 15:13, NLT

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