



HEROES OF THE FAITH

INTERMEDIATE
Small Group

LESSON 1: INTERMEDIATE SMALL GROUP

My Life at Home

MAIN IDEA:

Children can develop a relationship with God, who will be their perfect Father. Even if their own homes have challenges or difficulties, they can find comfort and peace in the love of their heavenly Father.

BIBLE PASSAGES:

- 1 John 3:1-3

MEMORY VERSE:

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us.”

Hebrews 12:1, 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 the 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:

- Bible
- Name tags
- Snacks, 1 per child
- Printouts 2, 3, 4; 1 per child
- (Optional) Printouts 5-6
- Crayons or markers, 1 box per small group
- Pens or pencils, 1 per student
- Memory Verse Cards, 1 per child

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).
- Extra questions: What did you do over Christmas break? What traditions does your family do over the holidays?

PRAY TOGETHER:

Collect prayer requests from the students. Have the group sit in a circle. Explain that you'll take turns praying out loud for the person to their right. Encourage each student to focus on one specific request or need for the person next to them, keeping the prayer simple and sincere.

INTRODUCTION:

Say: Welcome to the first week of our new series called Heroes of the Faith! We'll be exploring the stories of heroes from the Bible and discovering what made them special. These heroes weren't perfect or superhuman—they simply trusted God and followed Him, even when it was tough.

As we learn about their stories, we'll see how you can be like them, trusting God and living with courage and faith in your own life. Your story could inspire others just like these heroes inspire us!

Pass out one copy of Printout 2 to each student. Make sure they write their name on the front, and then allow them to draw the picture of their family portrait of the people and pets that live with them.

As the students work on their portraits, discuss the pictures as a group. This is a good Small Group Activity!

Some questions you can ask:

- **Can you tell me who is in your family?**
- **Do you have any brothers or sisters? What are their names, and how old are they?**
- **What do your parents do for work?**
- **Do you have any grandparents? Do they live nearby or far away?**
- **Do you have any aunts, uncles, or cousins? Do you get to see them often?**
- **What's a fun or special memory you have with your family?**
- **Does your family like to travel or go on vacations? Where do you usually go?**

Give the students time to ask you about your family and how you grew up. Leaders, consider sharing your own story about your family.

HELPFUL HINT

Consider asking each question and go around the circle to each student for every question or asking one question per student and move on to the next question for the next student depending on how much time you have for small groups. You may also choose to limit the number of questions asked.

Heart



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

Small Group Session 2

Distribute pens to the students, and invite them to complete “All About Me” (Printout 6). See which student is able to get Bingo by marking all the listed things that apply to them. Be prepared with a prize for the winner(s). Tickets or candy could be easy prizes to give to the winner(s).

Option 1: If students aren’t able to get Bingo on their own, have them ask other students to help fill out their cards. The first to get Bingo wins.

Option 2: Allow the students with the most items marked off from the Bingo list at the end of a designated time to win the prize.

Spend some time going through the students’ answers to the questions about them and their family.

Ask:

- **Do you think God cares about you and your family?**
- **How does your relationship with God look like your family here on Earth?**
- **How is it different?**
- **Do you think that God wants to know you more and allow you to know him better?**

Leaders, consider taking a picture of these images and save them in an album on your phone to refer back to later on. Send home paper copies to parents.

Read 1 John 3:1-3, or ask a student to read out loud.

Ask:

- **What is this passage trying to tell us about God?**
- **What does this passage call God?** (Our Father)
- **Who is called God’s children?** (Those who believe in Jesus for salvation)

This is a good opportunity to use the Gospel Hand to walk through the Gospel with your students.

HELPFUL HINT



Gospel Hand

ACTIVITY: GOD'S FAMILY TREE

Say: **I am glad you are here, and you are important, both to me and to God.**

We become God's children by believing in Jesus. God's life in us enables us to love our fellow family members. How we treat others shows who our Father is. Live as a faithful, loving family member. Remember whose children you are.

Just like we have families here on Earth, we also belong to a special family called the family of God. In this family, everyone who believes in Jesus is connected like branches on a tree.

Give each child a piece of green paper and ask them to cut out a leaf shape. If the kids are too young to cut out their own shapes, you can have leaves pre-cut.

Have the kids write their names on the leaf. Then, ask them to think of other people they know who are part of God's family (like friends, parents, church leaders, or even Bible characters) and write those names on additional leaves.

Once the leaves are ready, using printout 4, start attaching them to the branches of the tree. As you add each leaf, talk about how that person is connected to everyone else through their faith in Jesus.

Say: **Being part of the family of God means we're never alone. We support, pray for, and help each other grow in faith, just like how a tree's branches are connected and rely on the trunk for strength.**

We can thank God for the big family he has given us and ask him to help us love and support each other.

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.

What did you learn today?

Say: **You can begin a relationship with God, and he will be your perfect heavenly Father. He loves you and wants you to be part of his family. You can know the love of a heavenly Father by believing in God's son Jesus for salvation.**

If you haven't already taken prayer requests, then take the student's prayer requests and pray with them. If time permits, review the memory verse with the students.

Bible Memory Verse Games

RESPONSE & REFLECTION:

Print and cut out the memory verse cards. Practice the memory verse for this unit (Hebrews 12:1).

Consider printing and introducing the example of a salvation prayer (Printout 5). 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.

Pray with the students and dismiss them.



Bible Memory Verse
Games