



LESSON 10: INTERMEDIATE SMALL GROUP

Mary

MAIN IDEA:

Mary remained a devoted follower of Jesus, even after His crucifixion. Like Mary, we too can continue to follow Jesus through the most difficult times, knowing that He will be there for us.

BIBLE PASSAGES:

- Luke 8:1-3
- Matthew 27:56
- Mark 15:42-47
- Luke 24:1-12

MEMORY VERSE:

“Jesus told him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.’”

John 14:6, 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
- Printout 2, 1 per group
- Printout 3, 1 per child
- Pens or pencils, 1 per child
- Yarn, 1 roll per small group
- 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).

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: MATCHING THE COMMITMENTS

Print and cut Printout 2. Spend a few minutes figuring out which commitment fits the scenario.

Ask:

- **Have you ever committed to something but then it was more difficult than you expected?**
- **How did you feel when it became hard for you to keep that commitment?**
- **How did you respond to the difficult commitment?**
- **Did you keep the commitment, or did you break your commitment?**

Say: **Commitment is about sticking to a promise or goal even when it's not easy. It's about doing something regularly and not giving up, even if progress is slow or things are difficult.**

Today we will hear about a hero who was committed to following Jesus even when it got really hard. Her name is Mary, and she was a committed follower of Jesus. Mary was willing to follow Jesus even when the commitment was difficult and the circumstances were bad.

Pray and dismiss to Large Group.

Heart



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

Small Group Session 2

Review the main idea of the lesson with the students:

Say: **Mary was a committed follower of Jesus, even after he had been crucified. Like Mary, we also can follow Jesus through the hardest times, because he will be there for us.**

Pass out Printout 2, and allow five minutes to write or draw.

Discuss the questions after everyone has had a chance to write or draw.

Read Mark 16:1-9 out loud.

Ask:

- **Who were the three people who went to Jesus' tomb on Sunday morning?**
- **On the way there, what was the question they asked each other?**
- **What did they find when they arrived at the tomb?**
- **Who did they see at the tomb?**
- **What did the angel tell the women to go do?**
- **After speaking with the angel, how did the women feel?**
- **What was the response of the disciples when they heard the message that Jesus is no longer dead but is risen?**
- **How would you feel if someone told you that someone rose from the dead?**

HELPFUL HINT

Consider offering students a ticket or other incentive to answering a question. You might also consider going around in a circle and asking each student a question. You may not get through all the questions with younger children. Maybe pick your top 3-4 questions to ask students.

Say: **Because Mary was a woman, people in her time thought she could only do certain things. Even the disciples did not believe her when Mary told them that Jesus was alive.**

Ask:

- **Are there times when people do not believe you? Why?**
- **How do you feel when this happens, or how do you think Mary felt?**
- **Mary was probably discouraged when she saw Jesus buried, but what did she do after that? (Think Station 4 in Large Group)**

We can be like Mary when we are discouraged or when we don't know what to do. Mary just kept doing what she knew how to do, and that was to follow and obey what Jesus taught her.

- **What are some things Mary did to show her commitment to following Jesus?** (Mary listened to Jesus' teaching, and she told others about Jesus.)
- **How can you show your commitment to Jesus?** (Spend time reading your Bible and praying. Tell others about Jesus.)

Say: When we read our Bibles, we have a chance to learn about Jesus. We get to spend time with him when we pray, just like Mary followed Jesus and spent time with him to help her obey the things Jesus was teaching, she also grew in her commitment to him. When we spend time reading the Bible and praying, we are able to grow closer to Jesus.

Jesus loves us and wants to spend time with us. He is able to help us when things get difficult, and he wants us to come to him for help.

OPTION 1: TRUST WEB

Have kids sit in a circle and use a ball of yarn to create a "web" of trust. One child holds the yarn and shares something they trust about another person in the circle, then tosses the ball to that person while holding onto part of the yarn. Continue until everyone is holding part of the yarn. If you are short on time, skip to the second round that focuses on trusting God. This creates a visual representation of how trust connects people, showing that trust is a two-way street and that everyone's actions contribute to a strong community.

Now, Have students do this activity but direct their attention and trust towards God.

Say: Just like you trust your friends and family, you can also trust God in your lives.

Read Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take."

The first child holds the ball of yarn, says something they trust God for (e.g., "I trust God to take care of my family." or "I trust God to help me when I'm scared."), and then tosses the ball to another child while holding onto their piece of yarn.

The next child repeats the process, sharing their trust in God and passing the yarn, creating a web as each child participates.

OPTION 2: TRUST FALL

Ensure there is ample space free of obstacles, ideally with soft flooring (e.g., mats, grass, or carpet) to reduce the risk of injury. The teacher (and any additional catchers, if available) should stand behind the student, feet shoulder-width apart for balance.

Let the student know the goal is to fall straight back, trusting that they will be caught safely. Instruct the student to stand straight, arms crossed over their chest, feet together. Be clear when you would like them to fall. Consider using a verbal cue like, "Fall now" or "Fall on".

Their body should remain stiff throughout the fall, with no bending at the waist or knees. The Small Group leader should keep their knees slightly bent for stability. Have them keep their arms extended forward with palms open and slightly up, ready to receive the student's weight.

When you allow each student to have a turn, sit back down and begin a discussion.

An alternative to this is doing a trust walk with the students. The leader should have students close their eyes and be led by hand or voice around the room.

Ask: What does it mean to trust someone?

Trust means believing in someone, even when you can't see how things will turn out. Trusting God works in a similar way. It can be hard to trust Him, especially when we face challenges or uncertainty, but He is always faithful and trustworthy.

- **How did you feel before the trust fall?**
- **Were you nervous?**
- **Did you doubt that you would be caught?**

Just like it was hard to let go and trust that you would be caught in the trust fall, it can be hard to trust God in our lives, especially when we're going through tough or scary situations. Sometimes we're afraid to let go of control, or we feel unsure about what's going to happen.

Mary trusted in God when things were going well, and even when Jesus was arrested and killed, she still was committed to trusting him.

We can learn from Mary and her trust.

Hands



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

Small Group Session 2

WRAP IT UP:

HELPFUL HINT

The following questions may need to be adjusted based on the activity option you selected.

Ask:

- **What does the web or trust fall represent?**
- **What do you think it represents about our relationship with God?**

Encourage kids to think about how the web symbolizes the connections we have with God and each other through trust.

- **How does trusting God connect us to each other, just like this yarn connects us in this web?** (Just like this yarn connects us in this web) (Our shared trust in God creates a strong bond within their faith community.)
- **How is that similar to what happens when we don't trust God?**

Illustrate the importance of every individual's trust in God and how it strengthens the whole group.

- **How Does God support us?**
- **Just like the yarn supports the web, how does God support us in our lives?**
- **Can you think of a time when you felt God's support?**
- **What are some things in your life that you can trust God with?**
- **Why do you feel you can trust Him with these things?**
- **How do you think we can make our trust in God grow stronger, just like how we made the web stronger by adding more connections?**

Actions like prayer, reading the Bible, and helping others are ways to strengthen your trust in God.

Why do you think it's important to trust God, even when things are difficult or you don't understand what's happening?

The yarn has connected everyone, just like how our trust in God connects us all as a community of faith. Just as the yarn connects us, God is always with you, supporting and holding you up in life's challenges.

The web is stronger with more connections, just as our trust in God grows stronger when we support each other and share our faith.

End the activity with a prayer, asking God to help each child grow in their trust and faith, knowing that He is always with them.



Bible Memory Verse
Games

RESPONSE & REFLECTION:

Print out the memory verse.

Practice the memory verse for this unit (John 14:6).

Consider cutting pieces of the yarn and passing them to each student. Encourage them to think this coming week about ways they can grow in their trust and commitment to God.

Have them put the yarn around their wrist or doorknob to their bedroom to help them remember to pray and read their Bible to spend time with Jesus and remember that Jesus is someone they can trust because he will always be there for them!