



HEROES OF THE FAITH

Large Group

LESSON 10: LARGE 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.



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:

- Bible
- Markers and crayons, various colors, 2-3 per child
- Pencils, 1 per child
- Toilet paper, 2 per small group
- 2 rolls white first aid tape (available in the first aid section of many stores or at <https://a.co/d/fYDMRu0>)
- Printout 1, 1 copy

Large Group



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

INTRODUCTION

Welcome the students to Crossroads and tell them you are glad they came this week.

(Optional) Go through the “Who is Jesus” call and response.

(Optional) As a group, say the memory verse for this week.

Open with prayer for the students.

Have the students gather in their small groups (they will be playing games during Large Group, and it is easiest to already have them gathered in small groups as everyone will walk to all the stations together).

Say, Today’s hero is named Mary Magdalene. She was a committed follower of Jesus, and we are going to walk through her life today.

Your team will be your small group. Leaders will keep track of points, and we will see which team wins. We will move to 4 different stations. I will be your tour guide through Mary’s life.

STATION 1: MARY AND JESUS’ MINISTRY

(Setup: Place a container approximately ten feet away from a designated line. This can be a line in the flooring, a doorway, or any other line you designate. If all the students are making the coins into the container, move the container back farther.)

Read Luke 8:1–3.

To show how Mary gave her own money to help Jesus’ ministry, we will be tossing coins into this container. Each person will get a chance to toss five coins, and the small group that gets the most coins in the container will be the winner!

Small Group leaders should keep track of how many coins their group makes in the container. After each team has had a chance to participate, announce the winner, and move to the next station.

STATION 2: MARY AT JESUS’ CRUCIFIXION

(Setup: Place plain white paper, crayons, and markers in the space. Also, place one copy of Printout 1 in the space as something to consider.)

Read Matthew 27:38–56.

Mary traveled with Jesus all the way until his death on the cross. I’m sure she was sad when she had to watch her friend and Savior die. We are now going to take some time to think about Jesus’ death. If you have any questions about Jesus’ death, ask one of the leaders.

Allow the group about five minutes to draw and contemplate before moving to the next station.



“Who is Jesus”
Call and Response

STATION 3: MARY AT JESUS' BURIAL

(Setup: Toilet paper)

Read Mark 15:42–47.

Mary watched when Joseph buried Jesus. At that time, they wrapped the bodies up in cloth to bury them, like mummies. To remember this, we are going to make one volunteer a mummy!



Ask or choose a volunteer: Take a roll of toilet paper, and allow students to wrap the volunteer student by twisting it around so it loops around the student.

STATION 4: JESUS' RESURRECTION

(Setup: None required, though it may be helpful to make sure there is plenty of room at this station for the group to run relay races.)

Read Luke 24:1–12.

Mary went to go see Jesus' tomb, and she was surprised to find it empty! When she saw Jesus, she ran back to tell the disciples that Jesus was alive! We can run and tell others that Jesus is alive too, and to practice that, we are going to run relay races!

Have each small group line up. When the leader says, GO, the first student will run to the end of the space or a designated end line. They will turn around and run back to their line to tell the next person, "Jesus is alive!" After this, the next person in line will run the same way and will tell the next person. The first team to complete the whole relay and sit down is the winner.

WRAP IT UP

Now that we know more about Mary Magdalene, a follower of Jesus, we can go to our small groups and discuss how we can be better followers of Jesus ourselves.

Pray and dismiss students.

Games



Play large group games.
(25 minutes)

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Blindfolds, 1 per pair of children
- 1 soft ball (like a soccer ball, volleyball, or playground ball)
- 2 goals

LARGE GROUP GAME: TRUST WALK

Materials: Blindfolds (one for each pair of children); a safe, obstacle-free area to walk (like a large room, gym, or outdoor space)

Object of game: Lead the blindfolded follower safely

How to play: Divide the children into pairs. Explain that one person in each pair will be the “guide” and the other will be the “follower”. The follower in each pair puts on a blindfold. Make sure the blindfold is secure and that the follower cannot see. The guide’s job is to lead the blindfolded partner around the area, using only their voice or gentle touches to guide them. The follower must listen carefully and trust their partner to lead them safely. After a few minutes, have the children switch roles so that each child gets a chance to be both the guide and the follower. After the activity, gather the children together to discuss their experience. Ask questions like:

- How did it feel to be the follower? Was it easy or hard to trust your partner?
- How did it feel to be the guide? Did you feel responsible for your partner’s safety?
- What made it easier or harder to trust your partner?

Discuss how trust works in real-life situations. For example, trusting parents, teachers, friends, or even trusting God. Explain that trust is an important part of relationships and that it helps us feel safe and supported.

LARGE GROUP GAME: EVERYONE’S IT

Materials: None needed

Object of game: Be the last one standing

How to play: This game is very much like regular tag except that, true to the name, everyone is it. On the “go” signal, all players run around trying to tag everyone else and avoiding being tagged themselves. Once tagged, a player must sit down immediately. The last one standing is the winner.

LARGE GROUP GAME: WRAP THE BUMBLE BEE

Materials: 1 soft ball (like a soccer ball, volleyball, or playground ball), 2 goals

Object of game: Throw the ball into the goal; score the most goals

How to play: Divide the students into two teams. This game works best on a soccer field, but any large field with equal goals at either end will work. Students can run and throw the ball to each other, but while a student has the ball, he or she cannot move. To score, students must throw the ball into the goal. It is similar to soccer, but players use their hands instead. Consider setting an area around the goals where only the goalie can run. This will keep students from getting too close to throw the ball into the goal.



LESSON 10: PRIMARY 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 tried to do something, but it was a lot harder than you thought it would be?**
- **How did you feel when it got really tough to keep going?**
- **What did you do when it got hard?**
- **Did you keep trying, or did you stop?**

Say, **When we talk about commitment, we mean sticking to a promise or a goal, even when it's not easy. It's about doing something again and again, and not giving up, even when it's really tough.**

Today, we're going to learn about a hero who stayed committed to following Jesus, even when it was very hard. Her name is Mary. Mary loved Jesus so much that she kept following Him, even when things weren't going well.

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 3, 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 went to the tomb after the Sabbath was over?** (A tomb is a place where people are buried when they die, kind of like a cemetery.)
- **What were the women planning to do when they went to the tomb?**
- **What did they find when they arrived at the tomb?**
- **Who did they see sitting in the tomb, and what was he wearing?**
- **What message did the angel give to the women?**

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) (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 web of yarn, or the leader who catches you when you fall, supports you, 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!



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 3, 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.

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

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- **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

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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!

Memory Verse Cards

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

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Printout 1



Printout 2

Sports Team Practice

You have committed to a soccer team, but there's practice on a rainy day or when you are tired.

Completing Homework

You have homework due tomorrow, but you want to play video games or watch TV.

Helping with Chores

You agreed to help with household chores, like cleaning your room or setting the table, but you'd rather play outside or chat with friends.

Attending a Friend's Event

You promised to attend a friend's birthday party, but on the day of the party, you feel shy or not in the mood to go.

Caring for a Pet

You promise to take care of a pet by feeding it and cleaning its cage, but sometimes you forget or don't feel like it.

Printout 3

Why is Mary a hero in God's eyes?

Mary followed Jesus with everything she had. In other words, she was a fan of Jesus. What are you a fan of? Draw a picture or describe it in this space:



How are you like Mary? How are you different from Mary?