



Large Group

## LESSON 2: LARGE GROUP

### My Friends and Neighborhood

#### MAIN IDEA:

Jesus is a friend to sinners, and he can be our closest friend. He can protect us from all the dangers that surround us in our neighborhoods and world.

#### BIBLE PASSAGES:

- John 11:1–15
- Matthew 20:29–34
- Matthew 14:15–21
- Luke 19:1–10

#### 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.



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
- Posterboard with the memory verse written on it (Hebrews 12:1)
- Microphone (working or non-working)
- Sheet of blank posterboard
- Marker
- Printout 1

## 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.

Pray with the students.

### HOW JESUS BEFRIENDED PEOPLE

Do the following activity (use Printout 1):

Assign each small group one of the following Bible passages to read and study together. Leaders will read a Bible passage to their small group. Tell them that they will have five minutes to read the passage together and to discuss how Jesus showed the people that he was a friend to them.

- John 11:1–15 (Going to see Lazarus)
- Matthew 20:29–34 (Jesus heals two blind men)
- Matthew 14:15–21 (Feeding the 5,000)
- Luke 19:1–10 (Speaking with Zacchaeus)

After the groups have read the passages, discuss Jesus’ actions and how he befriended people.

Say: **As we read, imagine that you are there watching this happen.**

**We will be reporting on these events for the 5 o’clock news—you are all eyewitnesses to the events you read about and they all happened TODAY! An eyewitness is someone who was there and saw what happened.**

Bring up one or two representatives from the first group, and interview them using a microphone as a prop. Ask them questions in a very excited tone of voice such as:

- **What did you see Jesus do?**
- **How did the people react?**
- **I’ve heard that Jesus is a really good friend. In light of what you saw, what do you think?**
- **After seeing this take place, will it change the way that you relate to others? How?**

Interview representatives from each of the other groups in the same way.

On a poster board, write the words “Good friends...”. Place the poster board where the students can see it, and then ask them to complete the sentence. Write their responses on the poster board.

Say: **Jesus is the best friend a person could ever have. He listens to us, and he is always there for us.**



“Who is Jesus”  
Call and Response

## WRAP IT UP

Say: **Jesus showed that he was a good friend by loving those around him. He was willing to sacrifice for the sake of others. He helped them when his friends were in need, and he put their needs above his own. We can learn a lot about who Jesus is, and we can also learn how we can be better friends today.**

Wrap up with prayer, and dismiss to Small Group.