



HEROES OF THE FAITH

INTERMEDIATE
Small Group

LESSON 7: INTERMEDIATE SMALL GROUP

Peter

MAIN IDEA:

Peter rightly identified who Jesus is, and recognizing this truth ourselves is one of the most important things in life.

BIBLE PASSAGES:

- Matthew 16:13–20
- Romans 3:23

MEMORY VERSE:

“But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.”

Romans 5:8, 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)?
- What is the process for our club after a student chooses to accept the gift of salvation? Do we report it to the club captain?
- How do we follow up with the parents? How do we follow up with the students?

GOSPEL HAND

Look over the Gospel Hand. Consider teaching students motions with each point to make it stick even more.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Bible
- Name tags
- Snacks, 1 per child
- Balloons, 1 per child or 1 per small group
- Target (paper plate or paper)
- Masking tape
- Apple, 1 per small group or 1 per child
- "Hello, my name is" name tags, with the meaning of each student's name
- Printout 2, 1 per small group (cut before club)
- Pens or pencils, 1 per child
- Markers, 1 box per small group
- Blank paper, 1 per child
- (Optional) Search and print meaning of students names



Gospel Hand



Search for the
Meaning of Names

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:

Pass out Printout 3. Allow the group about five minutes to write or draw, and while they work, ask them about their names.

If you have the opportunity, consider searching the meaning of your students' names prior to club. If they don't know the meaning of their names, you can share with them.

If you have the opportunity, consider searching the meaning of your students' names prior to club. If they don't know the meaning of their names, you can share with them.

Say: **Names are important. They represent who we are to others. When our names are said, it helps give a picture of what we look like but also shows our character.**

We are going to do an activity with our names!



Search for the
Meaning of Names

ACTIVITY: NAME ACTION MATCH

Each player will take turns. When it's a player's turn, they will say their name and then think of a motion or action that starts with the same letter as their name. After thinking of the motion, they must perform it for the group.

Choose a player to start. They say their name, announce the motion they've chosen, and then perform the motion. After they finish, the next player in the circle does the previous person's name and action followed by their own name and action.

Examples: If someone's name is Sarah, she might choose to do a Spin. If someone's name is Liam, he might decide to Leap. If someone's name is Emma, she might choose to do an Elbow Twist.

Optional Variations:

- Students can use action words or descriptors that match their character (i.e., Busy Betty, Enthusiastic Emma, Calm Caleb).
- Memory Challenge: After the first round, each player must repeat the names and motions of all the previous players before doing their own.
- Speed Round: Set a timer and see how quickly everyone can complete their motions in order.
- Theme Rounds: Add a theme to the motions, like animal movements, sports actions, or dance moves.

Heart



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

Small Group Session 2

Say: **Peter was asked a very important question—Who is Jesus? We are going to look at Peter’s answer because that question is very important for each of us to answer.**

Tell them that you will look into the Bible to see Peter’s answer.

Read Matthew 16:13–20 out loud.

Ask:

- **Who did Peter say Jesus is?**
- **What are the two things Peter used to describe Jesus?**

Peter described who Jesus was with some very important ideas—Messiah and Son of God.

Discuss with the students what these names mean:

Messiah means “anointed one”—prophets, priests, and kings were the kinds of people that used to be anointed with oil. Jesus is all three—prophet, priest, and king. So, he was the “anointed one”.

HELPFUL HINT

Consider asking students who they believe Jesus is.

JESUS IS:

- **Prophet: A person chosen to speak for God and to guide the people of God.**
- **Priest: A priest serves as a representative between people and God. They offer prayers and sacrifices on behalf of believers in order to secure God’s forgiveness.**
- **King: A ruler supreme of a country, nation, or territory.**

To make it stick, do hand motions for each of these definitions to help the older students understand them. Prophet = hands cupped around mouth like megaphone, Priest = praying hands, King = Hands shaped like crown on head.

In the Bible, the Old Testament pointed to a Messiah coming to save the Israelites, and they had been waiting. But Jesus was not the warrior Messiah they had been waiting for. The Messiah was the chosen one that God was going to use to save people from the punishment for their sins. The punishment for sins is death and separation from God. Jesus came to save people from sin and death and create a way for people to get to God.

ACTIVITY: REACHING THE TARGET

Give each student a balloon, and set up a target 5-10 feet away. The target could be one drawn on paper or on a paper plate and taped to a wall or chair. Make sure it's impossible for students to throw the balloon to hit the target. Allow each of the students a chance to throw the balloon at the target.

After each student has a chance to hit the target, bring the group back and read Romans 3:23 out loud.

Say: **Sin is defined as "missing the mark". Just like you missed the target with the balloon, the Bible says that each of us has sinned and none of us can get to God's perfect standard (the target). No one can get to heaven because no one is good enough. God is perfect and heaven is a perfect place, so we cannot get there on our own because none of us are perfect. Just like no one was able to hit the target with the balloon, it's impossible for us to be with God and go to heaven on our own. We need a savior who is able to help us get to heaven and be with God. That Savior is Jesus.**

Just like Peter said in our Bible reading, Jesus is also the Son of God. Son of God means that Jesus is God. The Bible says that there is only one God, but there are three persons that are all God: God the Father, God the Son, which is Jesus, and God the Holy Spirit. They are all God!

ACTIVITY: THE THREE PARTS OF AN APPLE

Take the apple and pass it around the small group, allowing each student to look at it and hold it. Or give each student an apple if you brought enough.

Say: To help us understand God as three parts (Father, Son, and Spirit), we are going to look at this apple. An apple consists of three distinct parts: the skin, the pulp (flesh), and the core. Each part is different in form and function, yet all three together make up one complete apple.

1. **The Skin:** This represents God the Father. The skin protects the apple and gives it its shape, just as God the Father is the Creator and helps hold everything together, providing order and structure to all creation.
2. **The Pulp (Flesh):** Take a bite or cut open the apple. This represents God the Son, Jesus Christ. The flesh is the part we eat, filling our stomachs and giving us energy, similar to how Jesus came into the world, lived among us, and offered himself as a sacrifice for all people to be saved.
3. **The Core:** This represents God the Holy Spirit. The core contains the seeds, which have the potential to grow into new apple trees. The Holy Spirit is the source of spiritual growth and life, living within believers and guiding them in their faith.

Though the apple has these three distinct parts, it remains one apple. This is like what we call the Trinity. God is one God in three distinct persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. They are not separate gods but one God in three persons, living in a perfect and eternal unity.

An apple can help us understand a little more how there can only be one God but yet three persons who are God: God the Father, God the Son (who is Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit.

God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit. Each person is fully God, yet there is only one God. It's a mystery that our minds can't fully comprehend, but we can understand it in part.

Another commonly used analogy is water. Water can exist in three forms: solid (ice), liquid (water), and gas (steam). Even though it changes forms, it remains the same substance—H O. Similarly, God exists in three different persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), but they are all one God.

Using Printout 2, have students match up the title of Jesus with the pictures.

The Bible gives us many other names and titles that describe who Jesus is. Here are some of them:

- King of Kings
- Lord of Lords
- Prince of Peace
- Alpha and Omega (meaning the beginning and the end)
- Savior
- Redeemer (meaning that we are bought)
- Emmanuel (meaning God with us)

Briefly explain what each name means.

Pass out the blank paper and markers to students.

Each one of us is going to make an artistic work that represents one of these names or titles. Using markers, artistically write or draw the name or title that you have chosen. When you are finished, exchange your papers with a neighbor and explain what you drew and why.

Hands



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

Small Group Session 2

WRAP IT UP:

Reread Matthew 16:13–20 out loud.

Say: **Did you notice that Peter’s statement was personal? It reflected what was in his heart. Each of us needs to decide what to do with Jesus—will we receive him as God’s Son and our Savior or not?**

Use the Gospel Hand to share the Gospel with students.

Ask: **Would anyone like to trust Jesus as your Savior?**

If so, I would love to talk to you for a few minutes after we wrap up in Small Group.

RESPONSE & REFLECTION:

Example of Salvation Prayer:

“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.”

Print out the memory verse.

Practice the memory verse for this unit (Romans 5:8). Bible Memory Verse Games.

Pray with the students and dismiss them.



Bible Memory Verse
Games



Gospel Hand