



HEROES OF THE FAITH

INTERMEDIATE
Small Group

LESSON 8: INTERMEDIATE SMALL GROUP

Peter and John

MAIN IDEA:

John and Peter each served God in different and important ways. In the same way, each of us has something unique to offer to God's kingdom.

BIBLE PASSAGES:

- Acts 3:1–4:22
- 1 Corinthians 12:12–27

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)?

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Bible
- Name tags
- Snacks, 1 per child
- Printouts 4-5; 1 per child
- Pens or pencils, 1 per child
- 2 hula hoops or ropes to make 2 circles
- 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.

INTRODUCTION:

Go around your small group and ask each student:

- **What is something that you enjoy doing?**
- **What is a hobby or interest that you like to do?**

Say: Each of us has our own interests, and sometimes we are able to meet people with similar interests. This doesn't mean that we are the same in every way. God has created each of us to be special and unique. We might have a friend who enjoys some of the same things, but we are not identical to anyone else. God has made each of us unique and special.

Pick an activity that you believe would work best with your small group. You could also allow both activities depending on time.

HELPFUL HINT

This is a great opportunity to share a story with your students. If you have a sibling or good friend who has similar interests to you, you could share about what you have in common. Then share the differences you have between the two of you. This will help students grasp the point of the following activity and provide them with ideas to consider.

ACTIVITY: FINDING THE SAME & DIFFERENT

Pass out Printout 4. Ask the students to get with a partner and list similarities and differences between them in the circles found in the printout. For example, one student might say, "I'm good at hockey," and the partner might say, "I'm good at basketball." Each of the differences will be listed on the right and left sides of the diagram (one side for each student). Anything that the two have in common will be written in the overlapping part of the two circles. So, for example, the two partners might discover that each of them likes to watch football. This fact would be listed in the middle, overlapping section. Give the students about five minutes to complete this activity. When they finish, take about five minutes to have the group share the findings from this activity out loud.

Say: As we get ready for our lesson we will get to hear about two of Jesus' disciples. Last week we talked about Peter who spoke his mind and was someone Jesus chose to use in some special ways. Peter's name means "Rock". Sometimes we think that all leaders have to be able to get up in front of people and speak loudly and boldly, but God has made each person unique and special. We get to hear today about one of Jesus' other disciples, John. God used John in some great and special ways even though John and Peter were very different people. We get to see how God uses different people to do great things!

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

Peter and John also had similarities and differences.

Hand students Printout 5.

Say: **This time, we will be comparing and contrasting Peter and John based on a story that we are going to read from the Bible.**

Read Acts 3:1–15 and Acts 4:1–10 slowly out loud as the students place the cutouts in each column using Printout 5. You may need to pause several times to point out the things that they should be writing down.

Here are some things they could write down:

John

- In background
- Supporting role
- Writer
- Exiled to Patmos
- Younger

Peter

- Takes the lead
- Forceful
- Speaker
- Older
- Jailed at Rome

Both

- Ordinary fishermen
- Unschooled
- Had been with Jesus
- Jailed in Jerusalem
- Both brought brothers to Jesus

Say: **Peter was older than John; they were both fishermen; they were both in Jesus' inner circle of friends; Peter was more known for speaking up in front and John for his care for others; Peter was killed for following Jesus while John lived a very long life; and both of them brought their brothers to Jesus.**

Peter and John each had their own strengths. Jesus chose them and used each of them based on their strengths. Jesus can do that today with us!

Ask:

- **What are some of your strengths?**
- **How do you think God could use you to help build his Kingdom?**

ACTIVITY: SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES HOP

Set down Hula-Hoops or ropes to create two overlapping circles. Students stand in the circles if they share an interest or characteristic with the topics given. The overlapping area if they share an interest or characteristic with both. Choose two topics such as "Cats" and "Dogs". Designate which circle stands for what interest or characteristic. If both apply, students can stand in the section where the circles overlap.

Examples of interests or characteristics:

- Cat or dog
- Scooter or bike
- Markers or crayons and colored pencils
- Drawing or painting
- Minecraft or Roblox
- Playing an instrument or listening to music
- Basketball or football
- Playing inside or outside
- Birds or reptiles
- Playing with pets or visiting the zoo
- Going to the park or going to the pool/beach
- Hot chocolate or ice cream
- Slow or fast
- Brave or curious
- Organized or messy
- Patient or impatient
- Outgoing or shy
- Kind or honest
- Optimistic or realistic
- Thoughtful or spontaneous
- Planner or flexible
- Independent or cooperative

Ask:

- **Were there some choices that were really hard to decide on?**
- **Why did you choose to stand where you did?**
- **Did everyone choose the same things?**

Say, Each one of us is unique. We all have different personalities, likes and dislikes, skills and abilities. Each one is valuable to God. God wants us to use all the gifts and talents he has given us to serve him just as Peter and John did.


HELPFUL HINT

This is another great opportunity to share a story of how God has used you. God has always used all kinds of people for his purposes and his glory. Allow students to share how God has used you.

Hands



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

Small Group Session 2

WRAP IT UP:

Ask:

- **How might God use you right now to serve him?**
- **How might God use you in the future?**
- **How has God used you already?**

Say: **Maybe it's just inviting a friend to join you at club or telling them about how Jesus has impacted your life. Both Peter and John did this with their brothers, their families, and friends. They did this in their own way because each was different, but the one of things that made them similar was that they both loved Jesus and wanted to follow him and tell everyone they could about him!**

RESPONSE & REFLECTION:

Ask:

- **Who is someone that you could tell about Jesus?**
- **What would you say to them about who Jesus is?**

Say: **Take home a printout of The Gospel Hand or watch the "Who is Jesus" video to be able to share with your friend or family member about Jesus. You could even give them the link to look at it themselves.**

Print out the memory verse.

Practice the memory verse for this unit (Romans 5:8).

Pray with the students and dismiss them.



Bible Memory Verse
Games