



I Wonder...

LESSON 11: INTERMEDIATE SMALL GROUP

Why does God want me to respect my teacher and why do I need school?

MAIN IDEA

Students today do not automatically respect their teachers as an authority in their life. The truth is that God has established the teacher as an authority in the lives of the children, and the teacher is a gift who brings the light of learning to each one. Also, students may feel that they are learning useless information in school, but they do not know what their future holds. They may well need the things they are learning some day—for work, in an emergency, or just for fun and general well being.

BIBLE PASSAGES

- Romans 13:1
- James 4:14-15
- Proverbs 5:13-14
- Psalm 139:16b

BIBLE VERSE

Again I say, don't get involved in foolish, ignorant arguments that only start fights. A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone, be able to teach, and be patient with difficult people.

2 Timothy 2:23-24, NLT



Prepare your heart to teach. Plan for the lesson.



Connect with the kids, and help 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?

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Sheets of paper (newspaper, construction paper, or regular printer paper)
- Tape (masking tape or clear adhesive tape)
- (Optional, depending on the age of the participants), scissors
- Ruler or measuring tape
- Brown grocery bag with the following items inside of it:
 - Pencil
 - Paperclip
 - First aid kit OR an adhesive band aid
 - Various small toys
 - Bible Verse Cards, 1 per child

Connect



Connect with the kids, and help them feel heard and cared for.
(15 minutes)

Small Group Session 1

ICEBREAKER

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.

WHY DO I NEED SCHOOL?

Say, **Sometimes we may not feel like our teachers are a gift to us because we may think that we are learning things that we are never going to use.**

Ask, **Do any of you ever feel that way?**

Well, God wants us to pay attention and to learn all that we can. You never know what plans he has for your life as you follow him and when you might need something you are learning now.

ACTIVITY: BUILDING A FOUNDATION

Materials: Sheets of paper (newspaper, construction paper, or regular printer paper), tape (masking or clear adhesive tape), scissors (optional, depending on the age of the participants), ruler or measuring tape

Divide the kids into pairs, depending on the number of participants. Explain the rules of the challenge: **Each team has to build the tallest tower possible using only the paper and tape provided. The tower must be free-standing and stable enough to stand for at least 10 seconds once completed.**

Set a time limit for the challenge, if desired, to add excitement and urgency to the activity. Let the kids start building! Encourage them to work together, communicate effectively, and think creatively to construct their towers. As the kids build, walk around and provide guidance, encouragement, and support as needed. Offer suggestions to help them improve stability or brainstorm ideas for making their towers taller.

Once the time limit is up or all teams have completed their towers, have each team present their creation to the rest of the group. They can explain their design choices, any challenges they encountered, and how they overcame them.

Measure each team's tower using a ruler or measuring tape to determine the tallest one. Celebrate the accomplishments of all the teams, regardless of tower height. Acknowledge their efforts, creativity, and teamwork.

Say, **As you were building, you may have figured out that having a strong foundation is important to building a tall tower. Right now in school you are building a foundation that will help you in the future. It is not always exciting, and you can't always see why the things you are learning are important or useful, but later you will.**

Ask, **Has anyone seen a house or building being built? What is the first thing builders need to do when making a building?**

They need to start with a foundation. Many times, it is just a boring slab of concrete. It is not exciting or pretty, but it is very important. This is what school is like right now.

You are building a foundation, and it's important to build a strong one so that you can keep building on top of it.

Heart



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

Small Group Session 2

OBJECT LESSON: SEEING THE FUTURE

Show the students the paper bag with the objects inside (which they cannot see). Say, **The inside of this bag represents your future. There are lots of different things inside—things which you cannot see.**

- Ask a student volunteer to stand several feet away from you and the bag and try to guess what is inside it.
- Next, allow another child to stand right next to the bag (but not touch it) and guess what is inside.
- Proceed to allow another student to touch the outside of the bag and try to feel what is inside to guess what is there.
- Finally, allow a student to reach inside the bag and feel the items inside.

After this, reveal the items to the group. Ask, **Was it easier to guess the items from far away or close up? Was it possible to guess all the items without seeing them?**

Say, **This is a bit like our future. There are some things that we are planning and anticipating that may come to be reality, but there are other things that will come as a total surprise.**

Ask, **What kinds of items were in the bag?** (Some were for safety or emergencies. Some were for fun. And some were just everyday items.)

In your life there will be some emergencies, some fun times, and some everyday kinds of times. Some of the things you are learning now you might use in your everyday job. Some of the things you might use in an emergency, and some may be just for fun.

GOD KNOWS

Read James 4:14–15 together. Consider asking a student to read the passage out loud for the group.

Ask,

- **Do you know what will happen tomorrow?** (No.)
- **Who knows what will happen tomorrow?** (God.)
- **Why is it important to pay attention and to do your best in school?**

God wants you to show respect to your teacher because you never know the ways in which what you are learning now may help you in your future.

Hands



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

Small Group Session 2

WRAP IT UP

Read through Psalm 139:16.

Ask, **Who knows us before anyone else?** (God) **Does God care about us, or does he ignore us?** (He cares enough to record each day of our lives.)

God not only cares about us and knows what is going on in our lives everyday, but he even knows what will happen in the future. God knows everything, and he chooses to have a relationship with us. It's important that we build a foundation not just through our education at school, but also in our relationship with God. Just like we study at school, we can study the Bible to learn about God and who he is. We can pray and spend time talking with him. This is how we build our relationship with God.

RESPONSE & REFLECTION

Take the students' prayer requests and pray with them. Be sure to pray that they learn to respect their teachers and appreciate them. Also, pray that they will value the knowledge they can gain in school and will work hard to learn.

(Optional) If time still remains, continue practicing the Bible verse.