



I Wonder...

LESSON 12: LARGE-GROUP

Why should I go to church and how do I choose one?

MAIN IDEA

The local church is the body of Jesus in the world. When one of his followers is missing, the church is lacking that person's gifts and talents. It is not complete. God is present in all churches, but he wants us to be connected with one that will help us grow in our faith, our knowledge of him, and our service to him.

BIBLE PASSAGES

- Hebrews 10:25
- 1 Peter 4:16
- Matthew 5:16
- John 10:35
- Ephesians 4:16

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.



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 students this week? Are there any specific students or requests you can pray for?
- Are 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:

- J-E-S-U-S cards (using five pieces of construction paper, write one letter from the name Jesus on each)
- Stopwatch or timer

Large Group



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

REVIEW

Quickly review last week's lesson and Bible verse:

Ask, **Why is it important to respect your teacher?** (Because s/he is an authority God has placed in your life, and s/he is a gift to you.) **How is your teacher like a light bulb?** (Often unappreciated, a light bulb is very helpful for seeing things clearly.)

Remind the students that they also learned that it is important to pay attention and learn everything they can in school because they do not know what their future holds or how they might use what they are learning now.

Review Psalm 139:16

Consider doing "Who is Jesus?" Call and Response.

WHY SHOULD YOU GO TO CHURCH?

Make sure children know it is ok if they don't attend church. You don't want to shame anyone who doesn't go to church.

Show by raising your hands.

Ask,

- **How many of you attend a church regularly with your families?**
- **How many of you attend a church alone?**
- **Why is it important to go to church at all?**
- **What do you think of when I mention church?** (take responses)

Say, **Church is a gathering of people who love and follow Jesus. Each week people meet to worship and serve him. Although many people think of a building when they imagine church, it is not a building.**

OBJECT LESSON: EVERY LETTER (PERSON) COUNTS

Ask for five children to come forward. Give each one a letter card, but ask them not to look at what it says until you say so. Tell them that the goal is for them to arrange themselves as quickly as possible to spell the name, JESUS. Give them the go signal and have them spell out JESUS with the cards they are holding. (You might even time them.)

Now choose five new volunteers and challenge them to do this task even faster. After playing two or three rounds, secretly tell two of the children to sit down and not participate in the game. Doing this, the remaining three children cannot spell J-E-S-U-S.

Explain, **This illustrates why it is important for Jesus' followers to gather together in a local church. Each person has a spiritual gift to contribute to the church. If you are not there, the church is not complete. You miss out, and the others there also miss out.**

WHY WE NEED EACH OTHER

Look up and read Matthew 5:16 and John 13:35.

Ask the children, **What job has Jesus given to us?** (To do good works, to love one another and to be a light in the world) **In order to do this job well, we need other Christians.**

Read Hebrews 10:25 and 1 Peter 4:16.

Ask, **What are the purposes described for meeting together?** (encourage one another and praising God)

WRAP IT UP

Introduce today's (optional) Bible verse, which is Ephesians 4:16.

Imagine a fun and colorful car. This car represents the church, which is like a big family of people who love and follow Jesus. Each part of the car represents a different aspect of the church, showing how all parts are important and work together.

- **Jesus is the most important part of the church. He is the engine and the steering wheel that controls and allows the car to have the power to move. Without Jesus, the car wouldn't run!**
- **The headlights are like the church's eyes. They help the church see where it's going and show love to others, just like Jesus did.**
- **The body of the car is made up of lots of different people, each with their own special talents. Some might be good at singing, others at helping, and others at teaching. Together, they make the church strong and have special gifts and talents to share.**
- **The wheels are like the people who go out to help others and tell them about Jesus.**
- **The doors are open wide, inviting everyone to come and join the church family.**
- **Inside the car, it's cozy and friendly, just like when we spend time together at church.**
- **Inside the car, there's a cozy and friendly atmosphere, just like when we spend time together at church. It's where we learn, laugh, and grow together.**

This car represents the church. It shows that when all parts of the church work together, amazing things can happen! But when there are parts missing, it can impact the ability of the car to work. Each part is important, and together, when each part is doing its job, the car runs smoothly and is a wonderful experience.

In the same way, when believers stay away from church, they are cutting off parts of the body and making it look strange while causing it not to function as well as it could.