

Large Group



I Wonder...

LESSON 2: LARGE-GROUP

Where is God and why doesn't he fix the world's problems?

MAIN IDEA

Even though we can't see him, God is everywhere. When we trust Jesus as our Savior, God comes to live inside us by his Holy Spirit. Because God loves us, he allows us to make choices about whether to follow him or not. Because we often choose poorly, there are many problems in the world.

BIBLE PASSAGES

- Romans 8:38-39
- Psalm 139:7
- John 14:6-7
- John 16:33

BIBLE VERSE

The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display his craftsmanship. Day after day they continue to speak; night after night they make him known.

Psalm 19:1-2, 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 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:

- ☐ Latex balloons, 2 per child

Large Group



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

REVIEW

Quickly review last week's lesson and Bible verses.

- God has shown us what he is like from his creation.
- God is the source of all wisdom and knowledge.
- Review Psalm 19:1.
- Consider doing "Who is Jesus?" Call and Response.

INTRODUCTION

Ask, **Where Is God?** (Listen for the answers the children give.) **Can you see him?**

Read Psalm 139:7–10 aloud together, and discuss these verses.

Remind children, **The Bible is the best source for our knowledge of God. The Bible says that God is everywhere.**

OBJECT LESSON: AIR IN A BALLOON

Show the students a deflated balloon. Ask them if there is air around it. (Yes!) Move the balloon to different locations in the room (e.g., put it on the floor, hold it up high, hand it to someone else). Each time ask the same question: **Is there air around this balloon?**

Say, **The Bible says that God is everywhere. It also says that he lives inside each person who has believed in Jesus as their Savior and the forgiver of their sins. Let's read about that in John 14:16–17.** Read these verses aloud, and explain that the Holy Spirit is God. Jesus is promising his followers that the Holy Spirit—God—will live inside each of his followers. **So, if God is all around us, how can he be inside us at the same time?**

- **Let's think about our balloon again.** Give each student a balloon; tell them not to blow it up yet.
- **Is there air around each balloon?** (Yes!)
- **How did the air get there?** (It is always there. We are surrounded by air.)
- **How did it get there?** (It was there all along.)
- **Now, blow up your balloons. Is there air around your balloon?** (Yes!)
- **Is there air inside your balloon?** (Yes!)
- **How do you know?** (It has changed.)
- **How did the air get inside your balloon?** (You made a choice to put the air inside the balloon.)

Have the students throw away the used balloons, and let them know that you will give them another balloon to take home at the end so that they can explain this illustration to their parents and others. This way the balloons will not be a distraction.

WRAP IT UP

GOD WANTS TO LIVE IN US

How are the air and the balloon similar to God and us?

God is everywhere. He is around all people all over the world—even those who do not believe in him. He loves each person, and he wants to change each one's life for the better. He gives us the opportunity to invite him into our lives—to be our Savior and our leader. When we do that, he fills us with his Holy Spirit. He changes the shape of our life for the better.

Read Revelation 3:20:

"Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends."

In this verse Jesus is talking. He wants to come into our lives, but just like with the air we have to make the choice to allow him in.

Explain to the children how they can respond personally to Jesus' invitation.

We can respond to Jesus' invitation by believing in Him; that he died on the cross to take the punishment for our sins, and then rose again from the dead.

Pray with the students and dismiss them into small groups.