



I Wonder...

LESSON 4: INTERMEDIATE SMALL GROUP

What is sin and what does it do?

MAIN IDEA

Sin—even a little bit of sin—ties us in knots and makes us unclean with God. God invites us to have our sins washed away through faith in Jesus.

BIBLE PASSAGES

- Proverbs 5:22, Hebrews 12:1b
- The Book of Jonah
- Romans 6:23, James 2:10
- 1 John 1:9, suggested Bible verse (Optional)

BIBLE VERSE

But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.

1 John 1:9, 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:

- Bible
- 1 piece of facial tissue
- 1 sheet of notebook paper
- 1 pen or marker
- Round pony beads for each child: 1 black, 1 red, 1 white, 1 yellow, 1 green, 2 clear or blue
- 15" black or brown suede leather lace, 1 per child
- Printout 3, 1 per English-speaking child
- Printout 4, 1 per Spanish-speaking child
- 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.

ACTIVITY

Say, **Today we have been talking about sin. Why is sin such a big deal?** (It makes a mess of our lives, traps us so we can't escape, and separates us from God.)

Ask the students to get into a circle with their backs to each other and link arms. Have them try to stand up without using their hands or arms to push off the ground. This could also be done with pairs of students.

Once students have completed the activity or you have given them a few minutes ask,

- **Was this an easy or difficult task?**
- **Did the others help you or keep you from standing?**
- **Did you feel trapped?**

Ask the students to come up with a list of as many different sins that children their age might struggle with. Write down their ideas on a piece of notebook paper.

Read Romans 6:23 and discuss the fact that sin is very serious. It separates us from God and leads to death.

Say, **Right now this square of tape represents how sin traps us. When you are trapped, you can't get what you want, go where you want or do what you want.**

Sin traps us and keeps us from being in a relationship with God. We can't do anything that fixes our relationship with God. We can't do anything to please God and we can't get to God on our own.

But Jesus is the gift of God. When we believe in Jesus, that he died on the cross and rose from the dead, we will be saved from the punishment of sin and given eternal life.

DISCUSSION

Read Romans 6:23 and discuss the fact that sin is very serious (it separated us from God and leads to death).

Say, **When you were connected and couldn't use your arms, you probably felt hindered or trapped. This is how sin traps us. When you are trapped, you can't get what you want, go where you want, or do what you want.**

Sin traps us and keeps us from being in a relationship with God. We can't do anything that fixes our relationships with God. We can't do anything to please God, and we can't get to God on our own.

But Jesus is the gift of God. When we believe in Jesus, that he died on the cross and rose from the dead, we will be saved from the punishment of sin and given eternal life.

Heart



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

Small Group Session 2

LIFE APPLICATION

Remind students that sin is something that every person struggles with.

Ask, **What if you don't sin very much or if you try to start being better?**

OBJECT LESSON: DIRTY TISSUE

Show the students a clean piece of facial tissue. Pass it around and let each one touch it. Explain that right now you could use this tissue for a number of things. You might clean up a spill from a kitchen counter, for example.

Now blow your nose into it just slightly. Ask the students if any of them would like to touch the tissue now (after you have blown your nose in it). Most likely they will all think that is gross. You can say: **It's just a little snot. Look at how many parts of this tissue are totally clean.**

WHAT DOES SIN DO

Ask the students to open their Bibles to James 2:10 and read the verse together.

Ask, **How is sin like the tissue?** (Just one sin makes us sinful, and just a little snot ruins the whole tissue.)

Recap with the students covering these points:

- All people have sinned.
- Sin is very serious to God and separates us from him. He is holy and is "grossed out" even by a little sin.
- Sin always traps us and ties us up in knots. We cannot get free from those knots by ourselves. We need God to set us free.
- Death is the consequence of our sin. Jesus died so that we don't have to.
- According to 1 John 1:9, we need to confess our sins to God and he will forgive us and give us a new start.

ACTIVITY: WORDLESS BRACELET

Consider making wordless bracelets while going through the Gospel with students.

How to assemble the wordless bracelet

1. Tie knot #1 on lace.
2. Thread beads onto the lace in specific color order (black, red, white, yellow and green).
3. Tie knot #2 on lace.
4. Thread the two clear or blue beads on one end of the lace. Thread the other end of the lace through the two beads.
5. Tie knot #3 and #4 on lace.



Each color of the wordless book / bracelet represents an important Bible truth about Salvation!

Black Romans 3:23 = All have sinned.

Red 1 John 1:7 = Jesus' blood covers sin.

White Psalm 51:7 = Jesus washes away sin.

Yellow John 14:2 = Believe in Jesus and receive eternal life.

Green 2 Peter 3:18 = Grow in the knowledge of God.

Hands



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

Small Group Session 2

WRAP IT UP

(Optional) Review the Jonah story with kids.

Allow kids to take home Printout 3 or Printout 4 so that they can make more wordless book bracelets and share with their families what each color bead represents.

RESPONSE & REFLECTION

Ask the students for any additional prayer requests, and pray with them.

(Optional) Review the Bible verse (1 John 1:9) with the students.