

Large Group



I Wonder...

LESSON 9: LARGE-GROUP

What should I do if my friends encourage me to do bad things?

MAIN IDEA

When friends tempt us to do bad things, God has made a way of escape for us. We can choose to walk away and make new friends rather than be pulled in a direction we do not want to go. We should choose good friends who will help us be the best we can be.

BIBLE PASSAGES

- 1 Corinthians 10:13
- 1 Thessalonians 5:11
- 1 Corinthians 15:33
- Proverbs 13:20
- Hebrews 2:14-18

BIBLE VERSE

So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.

John 1:14, 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:

- Heavy rope to play tug of war
- Masking tape to mark a line on the floor

Large Group



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

REVIEW

Quickly review last week's lesson and Bible verse:

- God made us to be in a relationship with him.
- Each person is different from every other person, but everyone can have a relationship with God.
- Review Ephesians 2:10, which was last week's Bible verse.

FRIENDS CAN INFLUENCE US

Tell the students that today's question is about friends.

Ask, **Do you think God cares who your friends are?**

Have you ever had a friend or a group of friends who encouraged you to do something you knew was wrong?

After several students indicate that they have had this experience, ask,

What did they want you to do?

Is it hard to choose the right thing when a friend wants you to do something wrong? Why?

How can we resist doing what we know is wrong?

OBJECT LESSON: TUG OF WAR

Divide the group into two teams, and play a game of tug of war. One team will try to drag the other team across a tape-line that separates the teams. Once one team wins, ask the losing team members these questions:

How did it feel to lose?

Was it fun to be dragged across the middle line?

What could you have done to avoid being dragged across the middle line? (They could have pulled harder, or they could have chosen not to play the game at all. They could have walked away.)

Did you choose to lose? (No, you were just dragged across the middle line.)

Ask the students how this game of tug of war is like the way our friends influence us to do wrong.

Say, **Sometimes we get tugged in a direction we do not want to go by our friends. Sometimes we cannot resist the pull of our friends, and so we need to walk away and choose new friends.** (Choosing friends is the topic of small group time today.)

WRAP IT UP

Read 1 Corinthians 10:13 together.

Explain, **Even though we want to please God, if we hang out with people who are bad influences, we will get dragged along in their sin. Thankfully, God has promised to provide a way of escape. Sometimes that way of escape is to walk away and choose new friends. We can fight being pulled** (and we may sometimes win) **and give in to sin a lot, or we can walk away.**

Read Proverbs 13:20 together.

Discuss that we tend to become like the people we hang out with. **If we choose to hang out with foolish people, we will end up doing foolish things. We will just get dragged along. If we hang out with wise people who want to honor God, we will become wise, too.**

(Optional) You may wish to play some Bible verse games to help the students remember the verse, if time allows.

Pray with the students, and dismiss them into small groups.