



I Wonder...

LESSON 10: INTERMEDIATE SMALL GROUP

How can I get along better with my brothers and sisters?

MAIN IDEA

It is tempting to constantly argue with siblings, but God challenges us to stop the arguments and to learn to get along. By giving them their way in matters that are not critical and by learning to build them up, we will honor God and get along with our siblings much better.

BIBLE PASSAGES

- 2 Timothy 2:23-24
- Ephesians 4:29
- Proverbs 15:18

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:

- Set of dominos, 1 per small group
- Printouts 1, 2A, 2B
- Scissors, 1 pair per child
- Glue or tape
- (Optional) Stickers or other decorative items
- (Optional) Markers, crayons, or colored pencils
- Construction paper, at least 1 sheet per 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.

INTRODUCTION

Leader Note: Consider sharing a story of when you got into an argument with a family member. How did that affect your relationship? Was it worth the fight?

Ask, **Is it easy to get along with brothers and sisters?**

Say, **Brothers and sisters can be the hardest people in our lives to get along with. We see them all the time, and they get into our stuff and our space. It can be hard to be patient with them because they know exactly what to do to annoy us.**

We are going to do an activity that will help us see the good qualities in others.

ACTIVITY: ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER

In this game, players sit together to form a circle. Then, following the circle clockwise, each player takes a turn saying something encouraging that they like about the person to their left. Consider allowing students to use Printouts 2A and 2B to help them think of ideas for how to encourage others.

Heart



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

Small Group Session 2

AVOID ARGUMENTS BY ENCOURAGING YOUR SIBLINGS

Say, **One of the best ways to avoid arguments is to build others up with our words instead of tearing them down. Often, arguments start when another person feels threatened or disrespected.**

Ask the students if anyone has ever called them a not-so-nice name. How did this make them feel?

OBJECT LESSON: DOMINOES ARE EASY TO KNOCK DOWN, HARD TO SET UP

Ask the students to set up the dominos on their end in a chain. Make the chain as long as possible.

After they have set up the dominos, push one over and watch how many fall.

Ask the students: **Which was easier—to set up the dominos or to make them fall?**

The dominos represent our words. Each of the dominos standing up represents a kind word that we said to another person. It can be challenging and take a lot of time to choose careful words for our brothers and sisters, but kind words build one another up and prevent arguments. With just one silly argument or by calling someone a name, we can tear down so much of the good that we have done. We can make lots of the dominos fall over. Bottom line: kind words build up, and mean words tear down.

OUR WORDS MATTER

Read Ephesians 4:29 out loud.

Ask, **Do you think that your choice of words matters to God? Why does God care so much about what we say to others?**

Discuss with the students these questions:

How can you respond when someone says something unkind to you? (Ignore them, forgive them, explain to them why that is wrong, etc.)

What can you do when you feel like saying something mean to your brother or sister? (Ask God for help, move away from them until you calm down, etc.)

ACTIVITY: KIND WORDS FLOWER

Discuss with the students what kind words are and why they are important. Examples of kind words can include “please”, “thank you”, “you’re welcome”, “I’m sorry”, and compliments. Example of compliments: “You’re really good at [specific activity]”, “You have such a positive attitude”, “You’re a good listener”, “I appreciate your honesty”, etc.

Have each student cut out flower petals from Printout 1 (consider pre-cutting these petals depending on your space or group). On blank petals, students can write a kind word or phrase they can use or use Printout 2 and glue or tape the kind words to the petals. Give each student a piece of colored construction paper. You may also consider printing petals in Printout 1, on colored or construction paper to give more color to the flowers.

As students complete their petals, help them tape or glue them to the colored construction paper. Encourage the students to use the kind words from their flowers throughout the day (this includes their siblings).

Say, **When we learn to encourage others, see how they might have different ideas that we could learn from, we can create a place where everyone can succeed. It’s not always easy to be patient with siblings but it’s important that we love and forgive them. We can ask God to help us be more patient and to forgive our brothers and sisters when they do or say something that hurts us.**

Hands



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

Small Group Session 2

WRAP IT UP

Take the students' prayer requests and pray with them. Be sure to pray that they will know how to determine if an argument is important or foolish and to walk away from foolish ones. Also pray that they will learn to speak kind words and not to tear others down. Encourage them to take their flower home and place it in their room or the fridge, or give it to a brother or sister.

RESPONSE & REFLECTION

Take the students' other prayer requests and pray with them.

(Optional) If time permits, review the Bible verse with the students.