

Large Group



I Wonder...

LESSON 11: LARGE-GROUP

Why does God want me to respect my teacher and why do I need school?

MAIN IDEA

Students today do not automatically respect their teachers as an authority in their life. The truth is that God has established the teacher as an authority in the lives of the children, and the teacher is a gift who brings the light of learning to each one. Also, students may feel that they are learning useless information in school, but they do not know what their future holds. They may well need the things they are learning some day—for work, in an emergency, or just for fun and general well being.

BIBLE PASSAGES

- Romans 13:1
- James 4:14-15
- Proverbs 5:13-14
- Psalm 139:16b

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:

- Light bulb, wrapped up in nice wrapping paper
- Paper, 1 sheet per child
- Pens or pencils, 1 per child
- Blank note cards, 1 per child
- Assortment of markers

Large Group



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

REVIEW

Quickly review last week's lesson and Bible verse:

- We have the power to stop arguments by refusing to answer and walking away.
- We can also prevent arguments by working to build others up with what we say instead of tearing them down.
- Review Proverbs 15:18

OBJECT LESSON: A VALUABLE GIFT?

Before the activity begins, give the wrapped light bulb to one of the other leaders. As you are finishing up your review of the (optional) Bible verse, have the other leader ready to leave the room and then re-enter carrying the light bulb.

The other leader will say, **Someone in the hall wanted me to give you this gift.**

Act surprised and excited about the gift. Open it slowly and with great anticipation. You may even let a student or two help you open it. Try to raise the level of excitement and anticipation as high as you can.

Once it is open, say, **A light bulb? A light bulb! Who would give us a light bulb? What kind of a silly gift is that?**

At this point, the leader who brought the gift into the room should again interrupt and suggest, **Well, a light bulb is very useful.**

Say, **You are right. It is pretty useful.**

Ask the students, **What do light bulbs do? How often do you use a light bulb in your house? What would life be like without light bulbs?**

Say, **Let's try a couple things with the lights on and with the lights off.**

Turn the lights off, and ask each student to find a partner. Ask them to study their partner's shoes and to describe them. Turn the lights on. Were they accurate in their description?

Give each student a piece of paper and a pen(cil). Ask them to write, "Light bulbs are a useful gift" on their papers. Now turn the lights on. How did their writing turn out?

Say, **Sometimes we receive gifts that we may not be very excited about, but they are very useful and helpful gifts.** Read Romans 13:1 aloud with the students, and explain that God has given us authorities in our lives as a gift to us.

WHO ARE THE AUTHORITIES IN YOUR LIFE?

Ask the students to think about whom God has put in their life as an authority besides their parents. Lead them to conclude that their teacher is one of the most important authorities in their lives besides their parents. Their teachers are a gift from God.

Ask these questions about their teachers:

- **Who are some of the teachers that God has put in your life?**
- **Is it always easy to respect them?**
- **What are some of the things they have taught you?**
- **What can you do to show more respect and gratitude?**

WRAP IT UP

Distribute a blank note card (or construction paper) and some markers to each child. Ask them to write a brief thank you note to their teacher and give it to them the next day.

Pray with the students and dismiss them into small groups. (Note: The (optional) Bible verse will be introduced in small group today.)