

“EVERY SOUL MATTERS TO GOD” - LESSON 2

“What Does It Matter?”

Main Focus:

Jesus died for EVERY person in the world!



Power Verse:

“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.” – John 3:16



Whatchagaddaknow:

“Jesus Died Because You Matter To God!”

LEADER’S INFO

This world is full of people putting each other down. The world is constantly telling you you’re not good enough, you’re not smart enough, you’re not pretty enough or strong enough - you don’t matter!

However, in this lesson, the children will learn that God says that EVERY SOUL matters! They are going to learn that God thinks THEY matter and He can use them to do some special things for the Kingdom of God.

When the children embrace this important truth that they (along with everyone else in the world) matter to God, they will see God begin to do some amazing things in their lives.



“The Spark” Intro Video

“It Matters!”



“Whatchagaddaknow” Video

Boudreaux teaches “Whatchagaddaknow”



Character Skit

“Ron D. Race”



Offering Time



Game Time!

“Higher or Lower”



Missions Story

“The Son of the Devil”



Power Verse Video

“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.”

– John 3:16



Call To Action

“What Does It Matter?”



Rewind!

Review Game



Small Group Experience

Main Focus:

Jesus died for EVERY person in the world!

**Power Verse:**

“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.” – John 3:16

**Whatchagaddaknow:**

“Jesus Died Because You Matter To God!”

Lesson 2 Materials Needed:**“The Spark” Intro Video**

- “Lesson 2 - The Spark” Intro Video

“Whatchagaddaknow” Video

- “Whatchagaddaknow” Teaching Video
- “Whatchagaddaknow” Trigger Video

Character Skit

- “Ron D. Race” Theme Graphic/Music
- Running clothes

Offering Time

- “Offering Time” Bumper Video

Game Time!

- “Game Time!” Bumper Video
- “Higher or Lower” Graphics

Missions Story

- “The Son Of The Devil” Graphics

Power Verse Video

- “Lesson 2 Power Verse” Video

Call To Action

- “What Does It Matter?” Graphics
- A mirror
- A Bible
- A collectible baseball or basketball card

Rewind!

- “Rewind” Bumper Video
- “Rewind” Lesson 2 Graphics

Small Group Experience

- Missions Story Pictures
- Materials that can be used for a “trash to treasure” project (e.g. food boxes, plastic bottles, scrap paper, etc.)
- Pencils, crayons, or markers
- Tape
- Glue
- Scissors
- Price Tag Print Piece
- Bibles
- Scrap paper

“The Spark” Intro Video

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Character Skit

“Ron D. Race”

Offering Time**Game Time!**

“Higher or Lower”

Missions Story

“The Son of the Devil”

Power Verse Video

“For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.” – John 3:16

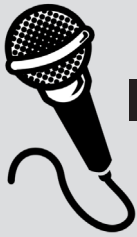
Call To Action

“What Does It Matter?!”

Rewind!

Review Game

Small Group Experience



Introduction to “The Spark” Intro Video

Leader: Hey, kids! Welcome back to our series, “EVERY SOUL MATTERS TO GOD!” What does the word “matter” mean? If I were to tell you that you matter, what am I saying about you? (*allow a few children to respond*) Those are great answers! When I say you matter, I mean you are important to me. You are valuable to me. You mean a lot to me. You are worth a lot to me.

However, today, we’re not learning about the fact that I think you matter - we’re learning that God Himself says YOU matter! In fact, God says every soul, or everyone, matters to Him! But before we get too far into our lesson, I want you to check out this video of our friend Damaris!

(play “The Spark - Intro Video Lesson 2”)

Leader: Wow! It’s SO important to understand that every soul matters to God - even you! God thinks YOU matter! God says you can do amazing things with your life! The world may not say that, and you may not always feel like that, but it’s true! Today you’re going to learn a lot more about that in your lesson! But right now, I want you to listen to our friend Boudreaux as he teaches you “Whatchagaddaknow.”

(play “Whatchagaddaknow” Video)



CHARACTER SKIT

Character: “Ron D. Race” *(an excited runner who is a bit confused about the difference between “soul” and “sole”)*

RON: *(comes out dressed in running clothes, holding shoes in hand instead of wearing them on his feet; exhausted from a race and sad he lost)* What does it matter? I just don’t have the PEP in my step to WIN!

Leader: *(confused)* Uh? Ron D. Race? Is that you? Why are you so BUMMED?

RON: *(sits down beside where the leader is standing, defeated)* Yeah, it’s me, Ron D. Race, but I lost the race I was in this morning. I am DEFEATED! I want my MOMMY! *(puts face in hands)*

Leader: *(pats Ron on head)* There, there, Ron. It’s okay....

RON: *(looks up at leader, super sad; interrupts)* Call me “Sugar Pie!” That’s what Mommy calls me. It will help me feel better. Oh, and can you rock me too? Rocking helps.

Leader: *(steps behind Ron and awkwardly grabs shoulders; gently rocks Ron)* There, there, “Sugar Pie.”

RON: *(quickly wraps arms around leader’s ankle, crying)* Waaaaaaaa, Moooooooooommmmmmmmyyyyyyyyy! If I can’t win the race, nothing matters to me and I don’t matter to anyone! Waaaaaaaa!

Leader: *(serious)* Ron! That’s just NOT true! Get up here and listen. *(gives Ron a hand up)*

RON: *(takes hand and gets up, looking at leader sheepishly)* It’s not true? I matter even though I’m a race LOSER?! *(holds arms out, wanting the leader to hold him)* Mommy....

Leader: Ron, no. I’m not “Mommy,” and you aren’t my “Sugar Pie.” HOWEVER, you aren’t a loser just because you lost the race. Only one person WON the race, but that doesn’t make everyone else a loser.

RON: But it was just me and one other person - my cousin, Amy.....she’s eight.

Leader: *(shocked)* You lost a race to an eight-year-old little girl?!

RON: *(ashamed)* We have strong women in my family.

Leader: Look, none of THAT matters. What does MATTER is YOU! Everyone matters to God. JESUS died because you MATTER TO GOD!

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CHARACTER SKIT

(continued)

RON: *(stands up straight and smiles)* Really?

Leader: Yes, REALLY! Every person matters to God. Jesus died for EVERY person in the WORLD!

RON: *(high steps in place quickly; excited)* OH YEAAAAH! This is EXCELLENT NEWS!

Leader: *(smiles)* There's the Ron we all know and LOVE!

RON: *(freezes in place)* You LOVE me?! *(runs around the room to different kids, saying, “You love me?!”)*

Leader: Oh, Ron. Ron D. Race? Excuse me...

RON: *(still running around)* Well, gotta go to have a snack with Amy, but I'll spread the word about God and Jesus and that EVERYONE MATTERS TO GOD! *(runs out)*

Leader: *(intrigued)* Alright. Uh, bye! Have a yummy snack with that speedster, Amy!

RON: *(runs back in)* Thanks! I WILL! Later, tater. *(gives two thumbs up and exits as his theme music plays)*

Leader: Cool! Oh... After awhile, ceiling tile? *(smiles and shrugs)*



GAME TIME

“Higher or Lower”

Items Needed For Game:

“Higher or Lower” Graphics

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Preparation:

None

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How To Play:

Choose one boy and one girl to play this game. The audience will be able to help them. In classic “The Price Is Right” fashion, show each item to the contestants, one at a time, using the provided graphic slides. Give details about the item, including a “suggested” price. The player must decide whether the actual retail price of the item is HIGHER or LOWER than the price you suggested. The audience can help them decide by yelling “Higher!” or “Lower!” while they think about it. Once the contestants decide, be sure it is their FINAL answer. If they guess correctly, they get a point. Once both players have had the chance to make their guesses about an equal number of items, the player with the most points wins.

After the game, say, “Boys and girls, in this game we looked at the items and decided on their value. Some of you thought the value was higher; some of you thought it was lower. It’s the same with our real lives sometimes. Some people think higher of themselves than others. Others think of themselves as less than others. But our TRUE VALUE is determined by God. Every soul matters the same to God!”



Missions Story

“The Son of the Devil”

Materials Needed:

“The Son of the Devil” Graphics; begin with the slide that says “Missions Story”; follow the instructions below, changing the slides to follow along with the story (*as shown*)

Preparation:

Familiarize yourself with the story below

The Story:

Today’s story is about an African man, named Pastor Daniel, who decided to visit the people living in the jungle nearby. He wanted to find out how he could help the church there. He took clothes, soap, and bags of rice for them. The journey was dangerous and difficult. Many times, Pastor Daniel was stopped and questioned by people at war in the jungle. He was held at gunpoint and had to flee fighting more than once.

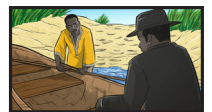
All along the way, Pastor Daniel discovered churches being started. As soon as he arrived at one village’s church, the people began worshiping and praising God. He preached and prayed for them, and, after service, (*show pic*) he got in a canoe for a four-hour trip to another village to have another service.

Pastor Daniel sat in the canoe and listened to the captain of the canoe talk. He kept hearing him say something about “the Devil” and wondered what he was talking about. (*show pic*) He discovered that the captain of the canoe was an evil man whose name actually meant “Son of the Devil.”

Pastor Daniel knew he needed to tell this man about Jesus, so he spent the rest of the canoe ride preaching to the man named “Son of the Devil” about how every soul matters to God - even his! During their four-hour canoe trip up the river, the man ended up confessing his sins and accepting Jesus as his Savior. (*show pic*) When they landed at the next town, the church people gathered around and this man was baptized in the river. It was a powerful moment! His life was changed, and he wanted everyone to know!

(*show pic*) In fact, because his life had changed, he decided to change his name from “Son of the Devil” to “Angel of Light.” He was overjoyed by his new name! He was excited to know that he **MATTERED** to God!

Today, in your lesson, you’re going to learn that Every Soul Matters to God, just like the captain of the canoe did. Even people who seem like they **SURELY** don’t matter to God - like a man named “Son of the Devil” - absolutely **DO** matter to God. He loves everyone the same, and that means **YOU** matter to God!





Call To Action

“What Does It Matter?”

Materials Needed:

“What Does It Matter?” Graphics; A mirror; A Bible; A collectible baseball or basketball card

Preparation:

Begin with the slide titled “What Does It Matter?”



The Message: *(title slide)*

Today, we’re learning about how EVERY soul MATTERS to God! Not a single person, even you, is unimportant to God. He sees everyone as important. Everyone matters to God, but, sadly, not everyone knows that.

Many people don’t feel like they matter at all. *(hold up the mirror)* When you look at yourself in the mirror, what do you see? Do you see a loser or a winner? Do you see someone who is valuable or someone who is worthless?

One of the main reasons people view themselves as worthless is because they don’t see themselves the way GOD sees them. They have allowed themselves to listen to what others say about them or what they THINK others believe about them—their mind is filled with the wrong thoughts about their worth.

If your mind is filled with wrong thoughts about yourself, for whatever reason, you have to battle those wrong thoughts with THE TRUTH. Where do we find the truth? *(hold up the Bible)* Right here in the Bible. The Bible tells us that...



God Designed Every Person *(slide)*

The Bible says in *Jeremiah 1:5*, “*I knew you before I formed you in your mother’s womb....*” This is God letting us know He formed us in our mother’s womb. He took His time on every part of you - your eyes, your nose, your personality, your gifts and talents. God designed each of us individually. We are His masterpieces. Like an artist who designed a beautiful painting, God took His time on every part of us as He created and designed us. We have to learn to see ourselves from His perspective; then we will see how wonderful we really are.



It’s kind of like this. I bought a beautiful painting the other day. I couldn’t bring it with me, but I have a picture of it. Check it out. *(put up the graphic of the painting that is very zoomed in)* Isn’t that beautiful? Oh, I guess you’re looking at it too close. Let me back it up. *(put up the graphic of the painting that is a little further*

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Call To Action (Continued)

out) Well, it still doesn't look quite right. Let me show it to you from the perspective of the artist. *(put up the graphic of the full painting)* When you see the painting the way the artist saw it as he painted it, you can see that it is very beautiful. It's the same way with us. When you see yourself the way God, the Master Artist and your designer, sees you, you will begin to see how much you matter. Here is another important thing the Bible tells us about how much we matter...



God Paid A High Price For Every Person *(slide)*



Some kids think they are worthless. They think that they are worth nothing at all. But how do you know what something is worth? *(hold up the basketball/baseball card)* How much do you think this is worth? You might think it's not worth much at all, since it is just a piece of cardboard. But many baseball cards are sold for thousands of dollars. In fact, one baseball card was even sold for \$2.5 million. What makes it worth that much? Simply the fact that someone is willing to pay that price for it. If no one was willing to pay that much for it, it wouldn't be worth that much. It's only worth whatever someone is willing to pay for it.

The Bible says in *1 Corinthians 6:19-20*, “...You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price....” What price is that? He sent His one and only Son to die in our place. When we deserved to die because of our sin, God paid the price for our freedom by sending His Son to die in our place. So the next time you think you're worthless, remember that you are worth a lot to God - you **MATTER** to Him.



Jesus Died To Prove That YOU Matter *(slide)*

Our Power Verse says, “For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.” – *John 3:16* You matter so much to God that He sent His Son, Jesus, to die for you - to pay the price for your sin. So it's time to understand God's message to us - “Every Soul **MATTERS** to God!” Don't look at yourself through the wrong thoughts we discussed today. Instead, look at yourself the way God does. See yourself as a masterpiece designed by God, paid for by the life of His Son, Jesus, and loved more than anything else in this world. You matter. **EVERY** soul matters to God!

ALTAR RESPONSE: *(play soft music)*

Pray for the children who suffer from low self-esteem. Pray that they will begin to see themselves through God's eyes. Pray that the wrong thoughts will be replaced by the truth of the Word of God. Also, pray that as they begin to understand that **THEY** matter to God, they would also understand that **EVERY** soul matters to God. Pray that they will begin to have a heart for the **WORLD**!

**REWIND!****Materials Needed:**

The graphic slides for Lesson 2; “Rewind” Bumper Video

Preparation:

Play the “Rewind” Bumper Video; Begin with the slide titled “REWIND!”; there is a slide for each question

1. Whatchagaddaknow today?

Answer: “Jesus Died Because You Matter To God!”

2. What was the name of the pastor in our Missions Story?

Answer: Pastor Daniel

3. How did Pastor Daniel travel to the next village?

Answer: By Canoe

4. What was the name of the captain of the canoe?

Answer: “Son of the Devil”

5. What did the captain of the canoe change his name to after accepting Jesus?

Answer: “Angel of Light”

6. True or False: Some people are more special to God.

Answer: False

7. According to our lesson today, “God _____ Every Person.”

Answer: Designed

8. According to our lesson today, “God Paid A _____ For Every Person.”

Answer: High Price

9. According to our lesson today, “Jesus Died To Prove That YOU _____.”

Answer: Matter

10. Where was our Power Verse found?

Answer: John 3:16