

Small Group Experience

LESSON 2 - “What Does It Matter?”



Whatchagaddaknow?:
“Jesus Died Because You Matter To God!”



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

Retelling The Bible Story

SUPPLY LIST:

* Missions Story Pictures (*provided; print one set*)

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Before small group begins, print the Missions Story Pictures and review the story highlights so you are familiar with the talking points. Once small group begins, review the Mission Story by holding up the pictures one at a time and discussing the events of the story together as a group. This story is inspiring and challenging. Be prepared to guide the discussion time. Listen to the kids’ thoughts, and allow God to use you as the next generation is prepared to reach the world for Christ!

Say - I am so excited because today we are discussing MISSIONS! For every follower of Jesus, missions is essential. Let’s begin by taking a closer look at this story that takes place deep in the jungle. I am going to hold up pictures from the story, and we will discuss them together. Share your thoughts, and feel free to ask questions!

-Review the pictures together; use the story highlights as a guide, if needed-

Missions Story Highlights:

- An African man, named Pastor Daniel, decided to visit nearby villages in the jungle.
- He wanted to find out how he could help the church there.
- The journey was dangerous and difficult.
- Along the journey, he discovered churches being started, and he prayed and worshiped with them.
- After visiting a church, Pastor Daniel got in a canoe and started a four-hour journey to another village.
- The captain of the canoe was an evil man whose name meant “Son of the Devil.”
- Pastor Daniel knew he needed to share Jesus with the “Son of the Devil.”
- Pastor Daniel spent the four-hour canoe ride telling the “Son of the Devil” he mattered to God.
- The “Son of the Devil” ended up confessing his sin and asking Jesus to be his Savior.
- When they came to the next village, the church gathered and the man was baptized in the river.
- His life was changed, and he wanted everyone to know it.
- He decided to change his name from “Son of the Devil” to “Angel of Light.”
- The man was so excited to hear that he mattered to God!

Say - What an amazing story! God did a true miracle. A man who dedicated his life to worshipping the devil was saved. All of this happened because one man believed that every soul matters to God and was willing to share Jesus with everyone.

Ask - Pastor Daniel’s journey was difficult and, at times, life-threatening. Why did he keep going?
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-Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their answers with the group-

Ask - How do you think the “Son of the Devil” felt when he learned that he mattered to God?

-Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their answers with the group-

Ask - How does this story show us God’s feelings towards people?

-Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their answers with the group-

Game/Activity

SUPPLY LIST:

- * Materials that can be used for a “trash to treasure” project (e.g. food boxes, plastic bottles, scrap paper, etc.). (You could ask kids to collect items several weeks ahead of time so you have them for this project.)
- * Crayons or markers
- * Tape
- * Glue
- * Scissors

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Once activity time begins, divide the group into teams. This activity is a priceless “trash to treasure” creation challenge. Each team will use the provided recycled supplies to create something new - a priceless creation! Once teams complete their projects, allow them to share with the group. This will be a fun lesson concept reinforcing activity.

Say - I have a challenge for you. I want you to make a priceless creation. The only supplies you may use for your creations are items which some would consider useless or trash. Have fun, and bring life to these seemingly useless and cast aside items!

-Allow time for the teams to complete the task-

Ask - Would anyone like to share their priceless creation?

-Allow time for the teams to share their creations with the group-

Group Sharing

SUPPLY LIST:

- * Price Tag Print Piece (provided; print one set)
- * Bibles (for the group to share)
- * Scrap paper
- * Pencils, crayons, or markers

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Before small group begins, print and cut the Price Tag Print Pieces. Group sharing is focused on encouraging the kids to open up and discuss the lesson concepts and relate those concepts to their lives. Help facilitate and guide the discussion time.

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Say - We are learning about missions and how every soul matters to God. Our Missions Story is such a great reminder that no matter what we may think of a person, their soul matters. Jesus died because they matter. Earlier, I asked you to make a priceless creation from items that might be seen as useless or trash. You may have thought, “There’s no way! This is impossible. You can’t make something priceless from trash.” All too often, we take the same approach with people. We look at someone who’s made bad choices in life and think, “There’s no way! They are impossible. You can’t make something priceless in God’s eyes from their life. It’s trashed!” I don’t want you to answer aloud; just think about this question - “Have you ever thought someone wasn’t a candidate for God?” Maybe you thought they were too far gone to be considered for God’s grace and mercy. There’s no way they’d turn their life around!

-Allow time for the kids to consider the question-

Say - Unfortunately, I think we’ve all been guilty of this judgement. We place value on people like price tags on merchandise in a store. Thankfully, we aren’t doomed to our wrong thoughts and opinions because God shows us a better way! The Bible has a lot to say about our worth, so let’s take a close look at just a few scriptures and see what we can learn. Divide into six teams. I am giving each of your teams a price tag with a scripture verse. Look up the verse, read it aloud, and discuss it together. Write your thoughts about the verse on scrap paper.

-Allow time for the teams to look up their verses and discuss them with their teams-

Say - It’s time to share what you learned. I love studying God’s Word together. The more we read and study God’s Word, the more we understand His heart!

Ask - Who has Romans 5:8? Please read it aloud and tell us your thoughts on the verse.

-Allow time for the team to read the verse and share their thoughts; discuss their thoughts and the verse with the group-

Ask - Who has Jeremiah 29:11? Please read it aloud and tell us your thoughts on the verse.

-Allow time for the team to read the verse and share their thoughts; discuss their thoughts and the verse with the group-

Ask - Who has John 3:16? Please read it aloud and tell us your thoughts on the verse.

-Allow time for the team to read the verse and share their thoughts; discuss their thoughts and the verse with the group-

Ask - Who has Luke 12:6-7? Please read it aloud and tell us your thoughts on the verses.

-Allow time for the team to read the verses and share their thoughts; discuss their thoughts and the verses with the group-

Ask - Who has Jeremiah 31:3? Please read it aloud and tell us your thoughts on the verse.

-Allow time for the team to read the verse and share their thoughts; discuss their thoughts and the verse with the group-

Ask - Who has Ephesians 2:4-5? Please read it aloud and tell us your thoughts on the verses.

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-Allow time for the team to read the verses and share their thoughts; discuss their thoughts and the verses with the group-

Say - God looks at each and every person, no matter who they are or what they've done, and calls them priceless. His Word confirms this, and the gift of Jesus is undeniable proof that every soul matters to God. That includes you! Jesus died because you matter to God. It doesn't matter what you've done or who you are, God calls you priceless. There is no price tag on your life determining your worth because Jesus already paid your debt. How awesome!

Ask - How does it feel to know that, to God, you are priceless?

-Allow time for the kids to share; discuss their thoughts with the group-

Say - Understanding that we are priceless to God helps empower us to share the same good news with everyone, everywhere! If you ever begin to doubt your worth, take some time and look at what God's Word says. You are His priceless creation.

Prayer Time

Say - I am thankful God chose to love us no matter who we are or what we've done. I am thankful to be priceless in my Father's eyes. I want to pray that God will speak to you and confirm your great worth and that the reminder of just how loved you really are will inspire you to share the good news with everyone.

Pray

Closing

Say - Pastor Daniel set out on a dangerous journey. He faced adversity and trouble, but he did not turn back. His trip led to a canoe ride with a man who had given his life to worshipping the devil. This was a man who seemed “too far gone” for Jesus to love. Pastor Daniel didn't look at the “Son of the Devil” and count him out because of his life choices. He understood that every soul matters to God and that Jesus died for everyone. He shared the message of God's unfailing love and the “Son of the Devil” heard the words that every soul on Earth is longing to hear - “You matter to God.” Overwhelmed by God's love, the “Son of the Devil” asked for forgiveness and for Jesus to be his Savior. It's an incredible story and a reminder to us that NO ONE is too far gone for God to love, heal, and save. God doesn't place a value on people based on their choices. There is no one who is too far gone. As long as you have breath, the chance to be forgiven and saved is not lost. No matter who you are, no matter what you've done, you are priceless to God. In fact, He gave His Son's life to prove your worth. You are God's priceless creation, and He created you to share that message with the world. There are people everywhere waiting to hear that they matter to God. Make it your mission to spread that message to everyone, everywhere you go! Thank you for coming today. I will see you again soon.









ROMANS
5:8

Jeremiah
29:11

Jeremiah
31:3

John
3:16

Luke
12:6-7

EPHESIANS
2:4-5