

“The Forgotten” - LESSON 1

“Why Do We Forget?”

Main Focus:

We must never forget about the lost.



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



Watt’s Up:

“I’ll Never Forget The Forgotten!”

LEADER’S INFO

It’s human nature to forget stuff. We forget things all the time - our keys, our phone, our wallet, our dentist appointment, our friend’s birthday, or our anniversary.... Forgetfulness is all too common, even in spite of our countless reminders!

In this lesson, the children are going to learn the importance of remembering forgotten people - the people around the world who don’t know Jesus that we often forget exist.

In this lesson, the children will learn WHY they forget those people and how they can help make a difference for missions!



“The Spark” Intro Video

The Forgotten



“Watt’s Up?” Teaching

Teach the “Watt’s Up?” statement



Character Skit

“Forgetful Fran”



Offering Time



Game On!

“Chin Ball”



Missions Story

“Miracle In The Middle East”



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

“Why Do We Forget?”



Brain Drain

Review Game



Small Group Experience

Main Focus:

We must never forget about the lost.



Power Verse:

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Watt’s Up:

“I’ll Never Forget The Forgotten!”

Lesson 1 Materials Needed:

“The Spark” Intro Video

- “The Forgotten Lesson 1 Intro” Video

“Watt’s Up?” Teaching

- “Watt’s Up?” Graphic

Character Skit

- “Forgetful Fran” Theme Graphic/Music
- Pieces of string
- Cell phone

Offering Time

- “Offering Time” Bumper Video

Game On!

- “Game On!” Bumper Video
- “Chin Ball” Graphic
- Six tennis balls
- Two small buckets
- A table

Missions Story

- “Miracle In The Middle East” Graphics

Power Verse Video

- “Power Verse” Video

Call To Action

- “Why Do We Forget?” Graphics
- A short to-do list
- A very long to-do list

Brain Drain

- “Brain Drain” Bumper Video
- “Brain Drain” Lesson 1 Graphics

Small Group Experience

- Missions Story Pictures
- The Forgotten Print Piece
- Bibles
- Scrap paper
- Pencils, markers, or crayons

“The Spark” Intro Video

The Forgotten

“Watt’s Up?” Teaching

Teach the “Watt’s Up?” Statement

Character Skit

“Forgetful Fran”

Offering Time

Game On!

“Chin Ball”

Missions Story

“Miracle In The Middle East”

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

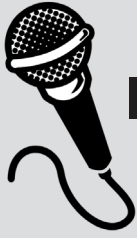
Call To Action

“Why Do We Forget?”

Brain Drain

Review Game

Small Group Experience



Introduction to “The Spark” Intro Video

Leader: Hey, kids! Welcome to our series - “The Forgotten.” Have you ever forgotten something? I mean something REALLY important - like your dad’s birthday or your science project? What are some important things you have forgotten? *(allow a few children to respond)*

Wow - that must have been tough when you realized you forgot those things! Today we’re talking about something way more important that we often forget! But before we get into our lesson, let’s check out this video!

(play “The Spark” Intro Video)

Leader: This world is full of people who don’t know Jesus. As Christians, we need to always remember these people and work hard to help them find out about Jesus and give their lives to Him. We must not forget them! Right now, it’s time to find out “Watt’s Up?”

(Teach “Watt’s Up?” Statement)



CHARACTER SKIT

Character: “Forgetful Fran” (an absent-minded gal who uses strings tied around her fingers to help her remember things)

FRAN: (Enters, talking on the phone loudly) I know, I know! There will be no forgetfulness here! You can always count on this old gal! Listen, I’m super busy - gotta go. (Hangs up. Runs to a wall and starts taking selfies in front of it)

Leader: Umm, Fran? Hey, what are you doing?

FRAN: (still taking pictures) I’m trying to get the perfect Instagram wall pic for my new Insta account, but my little brother keeps calling me to make sure I remember to look for his pet...his pet...ostrich...or kitten? Well, I forgot which one it is, but I am SUPER B-U-S-Y, BUSY!!!

Leader: You sure seem busy. WAIT! Pet OSTRICH?

FRAN: You have a pet ostrich? Well, that’s interesting!

Leader: No, I don’t have a pet ostrich. You said your brother might... never mind. (shakes head, exasperated)

FRAN: (looks at phone) Another text! Seriously, little brother, my Insta is way more important than finding your pet rhino.

Leader: Say what? A pet rhino!

FRAN: (still looking at her phone) I bet that’s EXPENSIVE!

Leader: What’s expensive?

FRAN: Taking care of your pet rhino.

Leader: (looking confused) I don’t have a pet rhino. I don’t have a pet ostrich. As a matter of fact, I don’t have any pets. Your brother is the one with a pet...something. Can’t you remember what kind of pet you’re supposed to be helping your brother find?

FRAN: Well, no - I can’t remember if it’s a bear, a toad, or some kind of dinosaur that’s lost. I’m sure someone will find it, though.

Leader: You can’t remember if it’s a DINOSAUR or not?!?!)

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CHARACTER SKIT

(continued)

FRAN: *(waves at the kids)* Hi, kids! I’m Fran. You can follow me on Insta...

Leader: *(interrupts)* Fran! Hello-o-o! Your poor little brother has lost his pet! You really shouldn’t forget to help him find it.

FRAN: Find what? *(looks back at Instagram on her phone)*

Leader: Oh, dear. Fran, I think you should hang around backstage and listen to today’s lesson. It’s called “Why do we forget?”, and I think you’ll find it helpful for your current situation.

FRAN: *(looks at leader with a look of shock)* Current situation? Helpful? Explain yourself!

Leader: You seem to be too busy with something you think is more important than helping a poor, lost pet. You’re acting like someone else will do what you should be doing. Today’s lesson is about Christians acting the same way instead of telling lost people about Jesus.

FRAN: Hmmm, I suppose I could hang around to hear more, but first *(shows phone to leader)*, which pic do you think has the best lighting?

Leader: Fran! I really don’t think that’s very important right now, do you?

FRAN: *(has a puzzled look)* Do what?

Leader: Never mind, Fran. Why don’t you hang out backstage while the kids learn more about the importance of never forgetting about the lost. I’ll even help you look for your brother’s lost pet... whatever animal it may be... after service is over. Does that sound good to you?

FRAN: Sounds GREAT! *(shakes leader’s hand)* Hi! I’m Fran. Do you have an Instagram? I do. You can follow me at...

Leader: Everyone say, “Goodbye, Fran!” *(leads Fran towards backstage while Fran goes on about Instagram)*

FRAN: I love this picture of myself in front of the garbage dumpster. The green really sets off my eyes, don’t you think? *(leader pushes Fran gently backstage as her theme music plays)*



GAME ON!

“Chin Ball”

Items Needed For Game:

six tennis balls; two small buckets; a table

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Preparation:

Choose three boys and three girls to compete in this game. Place the tennis balls on the table. Place the two buckets about two feet apart from each other at the other end of the room.

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How To Play:

When you say, “Go!”, this relay game begins. The players will each run to the table, one at a time, pick up a ball (*without using their hands*), and place it under their chin. As they hold the ball in place using only their chins, they will run to the other side of the room and drop the ball into their team’s bucket. Then they will run back and tag the next person in line. Continue in this manner until all three players from a team have completed the task.



Missions Story

“Miracle In The Middle East”

Materials Needed:

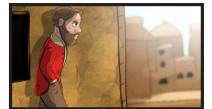
The graphic slides for Lesson 1; begin with the slide that says “Missions Story”; follow the instructions below, changing the slides to follow along with the story (*as shown*)

Preparation:

Familiarize yourself with the story; tell it with feeling

The Story:

Today I’m going to tell you a Missions Story about a miracle in the Middle East. (*show pic*) There was a missionary who wandered the main street in the city he was working in, and he asked God to lead him to someone who was ready to hear and receive the truth about Jesus. At that moment, he saw a man named Zoumi. (*show pic*) He knew that was God’s answer. He sat down at a table near Zoumi and joined him in eating.



Over the next few hours, (*show pic*) the missionary shared the Gospel, and Zoumi kept wanting to know more! The missionary told him that there was more in the Bible, and Zoumi asked where he could get one! God had made it SO obvious that He had led the missionary to Zoumi!



Zoumi had some phone troubles, and the missionary wasn’t able to arrange a follow-up meeting, so the missionary prepared to go out in search of Zoumi again. He prayed, “God, if You are working in Zoumi’s life, lead me to him again.” He continued to pray as he walked around the city of one million people. Within ten minutes, he found Zoumi! Zoumi’s first words were: “Did you bring me the Bible?”



As they walked to a quieter part of the city to start reading the Gospel of Mark, a stranger greeted them on the road. After a quick “Hello,” he turned to Zoumi, pointed at the missionary (*show pic*), and said, “This man has something to teach you. Listen to him.” Wow!

A few days later, the missionary and Zoumi met up again. Zoumi shared that he had finished reading the book of Mark and was ready for more! Zoumi had decided not to join his friends in the mosque so that he and the missionary could have some time to talk. “Can I go to church with you?” he asked. “Why?” the missionary replied. “Because I want to be a Christian.”

As they walked home, the missionary asked Zoumi if he had decided to follow Jesus. Zoumi said that he had, (*show pic*) so they prayed, and Zoumi accepted Jesus as his Savior.

What an incredible story - a true story of God doing a miracle in the Middle East! Listen closely to your lesson today, and you’ll see that you too can be a part of the miracles God is doing around the world!



Call To Action

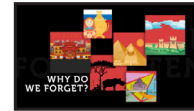
“Why Do We Forget?”

Materials Needed:

The graphic slides for Lesson 1; a short to-do list; a very long to-do list

Preparation:

Begin with the slide titled “Why Do We Forget?”



The Message: *(title slide)*

Have you ever been forgotten? Maybe someone forgot your birthday or they forgot to pick you up at school? Maybe someone forgot to call you? Perhaps someone forgot your name or even who you are? How does that feel? *(allow a few children to respond)* Yeah - being forgotten feels terrible!

What if I told you that there are millions of people around this world who have been forgotten? The truth is - there are people all around the world, some even right here in America, that are forgotten. Sure, they might have people that know them and know they exist, but you and I - we have forgotten them. We have forgotten that they need Jesus. They are lost and don't have the hope of Jesus. We don't think about them. We often forget all about “those people.”

Well, today we're going to answer the question “Why do we forget?” First...

We Are Busy. *(slide)*



I have a very busy life. Sometimes I have so many things to do in a day that I have a hard time remembering everything and keeping it all straight. In order to help me remember all the things I have to do, I keep a “To Do” list. *(pull out your “To Do” list and read off some of the items listed)* As you can see, I'm a pretty busy person.

However, if my “To Do” list looks like that, then what do you think God's “To Do” list looks like? *(pull out the very, very long “To Do” list; read some of the things that might be on God's “To Do” list)* Wow - God is SO busy!

God may be very busy, but He LOVES His people. He has time for them. He remembers them. In fact, the Bible says the words, “God remembered [someone or some people]” 73 times. God remembers EVERYONE and He is SUPER busy. So why do we, with our little “To Do” lists, forget them?

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Call To Action (Continued)

Well, the truth is - we may not have as much to do as God, but we do get caught up in our lives and forget about others. We get caught up in our families, schools, friends, sports, music, hobbies, and everything else we have going on, and we forget to think about the people who don't know Jesus all around us and all around the world. In fact, that brings us to the next reason we forget...

Other Things Are More Important. (slide)



All those things we're too busy doing and buying and thinking about have, sadly, become more important to us than people who don't know Jesus. We don't have time to think of them, and, honestly, sometimes we just don't feel like it. It makes us sad to think about those people who don't know Jesus, so we just do other stuff.

Some people don't even think about how sad it is. They just say, "Why waste my time thinking about those people ALL the way over there in another part of the world? I'd rather think about my favorite TV show or music. I'd rather think about my friends. I'd rather think about sports or music. Those people aren't important to me."

The last reason we forget is because...

We Think Someone Else Is Taking Care Of It. (slide)



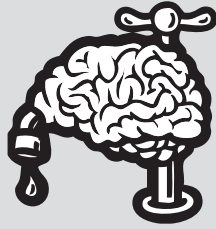
The truth is - there are people sharing Jesus around the world. There are pastors and missionaries all around the world and even here in America, but it's not enough. Jesus called ALL of his followers to share the Gospel.

Jesus said in the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20, "Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." And He really meant He'd be with us always. That's why God sent the Holy Spirit. Acts 1:8 talks about it: "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about Me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

We can't sit around thinking that the pastors and missionaries will take care of the job of reaching the lost. It is the job of each and every one of us! If everyone assumes someone else will take care of it, then it will NEVER get done. That would be horrible! So many lives would be lost. That would break God's heart! That's why we ALL must do our part to never forget the forgotten!

ALTAR RESPONSE: (play soft music)

Pray that the children would never forget the people all around the world who need Jesus. Pray that they would not let themselves become so focused on other things that they forget there are people who are lost. Pray that they would be willing to do their parts to share Jesus with others.



BRAIN DRAIN

Materials Needed:

The graphic slides for Lesson 1; “Brain Drain” Bumper Video

Preparation:

Play the “Brain Drain” Bumper Video; Begin with the slide titled “Brain Drain”; there is a slide for each question

1. Watt’s Up today?

Answer: “I’ll Never Forget The Forgotten!”

2. What was the name of the Middle Easterner in today’s Missions Story?

Answer: Zoumi

3. What did the Zoumi ask the missionary about getting?

Answer: A Bible

4. Who told Zoumi to listen to the missionary?

Answer: A Stranger

5. Did Zoumi decide to follow Jesus?

Answer: Yes

6. True or False: Missionaries are the only people who can be a part of missions.

Answer: False

7. According to our lesson today, we forget because “We Are ____.”

Answer: Busy

8. According to our lesson today, we forget because “Other Things Are More ____.”

Answer: Important

9. According to our lesson today, we forget because “We Think _____ _____ Is Taking Care Of It.”

Answer: Someone Else

10. Where was our Power Verse found?

Answer: John 3:16