

“Windows” - LESSON 3

“When Windows Are Locked”

Main Focus:

Nothing can stop God's plan!



Power Verse:

“Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone.”

– Mark 16:15



Whatchagaddaknow:

“Closed Locked Windows DON'T STOP GOD!”

LEADER'S INFO

Many missionaries have a country they so badly want to get in to share the love of Jesus, but they can't even get in the country because the window of opportunity is not just closed, but locked. Countries like North Korea, The Maldives, and Southern Sudan are just a few of the countries where the window of opportunity to share the name of Jesus is *locked*.

These countries have windows that are so locked they won't even let a missionary get in. So, how can they ever get in? To be honest, they need a miracle. The missionaries to these countries need Jesus to come unlock the window so that they can have the opportunity to share his name. Jesus can unlock these windows of opportunity!

In this lesson, the children will learn through the story of Missionary J.W. Tucker that God is able to unlock ANY window of opportunity!



“The Spark” Intro Video

“The Window Is Locked”



“Whatchagaddaknow” Video

Boudreaux teaches “Whatchagaddaknow”



Character Skit

“Walter Streakfree”



Offering Time



Game Time!

“Knock ‘Em Down”



Missions Story

“J.W. Tucker”



Power Verse Video

“Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone.”

– Mark 16:15



Call To Action

“When Windows Are Locked”



Rewind!

Review Game



Small Group Experience

Main Focus:

Nothing can stop God’s plan!



Power Verse:

“Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone.”

– Mark 16:15



Whatchagaddaknow:

“Closed Locked Windows DON’T STOP GOD!”

Lesson 3 Materials Needed:

“The Spark” Intro Video

- “Lesson 3 - The Spark” Intro Video

“Whatchagaddaknow” Video

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

Character Skit

- “Walter Streakfree” Theme Graphic/Music

Offering Time

- “Offering Time” Bumper Video

Game Time!

- “Game Time!” Bumper Video
- “Knock ‘Em Down” Graphic
- One Pair Of Panty Hose
- Two Tennis Balls
- Ten Empty Soda Cans
- Scissors

Bible Story

- “J.W.Tucker” Graphics

Power Verse Video

- “Lesson 3 Power Verse” Video

Call To Action

- “When Windows Are Locked” Graphics

Rewind!

- “REWIND!” Bumper Video
- “REWIND!” Lesson 3 Graphics

Small Group Experience

- Missions Story Pictures
- Mark 16:15 Print Piece
- Scissors

“The Spark” Intro Video

“The Window Is Locked”

“Whatchagaddaknow” Video

Boudreaux teaches “Whatchagaddaknow”

Character Skit

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Offering Time

Game Time!

“Knock ‘Em Down”

Missions Story

“J.W.Tucker”

Power Verse Video

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Call To Action

“When Windows Are Locked”

Rewind!

Review Game

Small Group Experience



Introduction to “The Spark” Intro Video

Leader: Hey, kids! Today, we are continuing our series called “Windows.” We are learning about how to take advantage of windows of opportunity around the world to share the love of Jesus!

Remember how we talked about opening windows that seemed stuck? We talked about how frustrating that is. BUT - have you ever tried to open a window from the outside of your house, but it was *locked*? (allow response) Isn't that so frustrating? You really want to open the window, but you can't possibly because it is locked - and you are on the *outside* of the window!

We are going to talk about how to handle it when windows of opportunity are locked, today. But first, check this video out...

(play “The Spark - Intro Video Lesson 3”)

Leader: It may seem impossible when the windows of opportunity are locked. But God is able to do the impossible! In fact - NOTHING is impossible for God!

You're going to learn all about that in your lesson, today. But right now we need to find out “Whatchagaddaknow.”

(play “Whatchagaddaknow” Teaching Video)



CHARACTER SKIT

Character: **“Walter Streakfree”** *(He is a passionate window cleaner who always has his bucket and a squeegee while sporting a work jumpsuit. He is a loveable goofball who looks for dirty windows to clean while quizzing people about the science of glass.)*

Walter: *(Enters in very discouraged)* Hello, junior window washers. *(Sighs deeply)*

Leader: Hi, Walter Streakfree. Is the glass in your life not very shiny today?

Walter: Oh, you noticed? You are very observant. *(Huge sigh)*

Leader: Come on now, Walter. What seems to be getting you down?

Walter: How did you know I was down?

Leader: Really? You sound like a cow mooing!

Walter: Yes. Thanks for noticing.

Leader: It's kind of hard not to notice, Walter.

Walter: I'm just so discouraged right now.

Leader: And why is that?

Walter: Locks!

Leader: Socks? What's wrong with your socks? I heard a funny sock joke. Maybe this will cheer you up. What is a sock's favorite snack? *(Walter stares blankly)* Toe-sti-toes! You know, the chips? Haha!

Walter: Yes. Very funny indeed.

Leader: Oh. One more. What is a sock's favorite sport? Huh? Any guess? No? Sock-er!

Walter: Funny. But I didn't say socks. I said LOCKS!

Leader: Oh. You're discouraged because of locks?

Walter: Yes! Exactly!

Leader: Can you explain?

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CHARACTER SKIT

(Continued)

Walter: There are closed, locked windows, and I do not have a key. They are locked, and they are up so high I cannot reach them! I can wash the inside but not the outside. If one side remains dirty, then the window is not clean! It's such a disaster! Maybe I will hang up my squeegee and bucket.

Leader: No! If anyone was ever born to wash windows, it's you, Walter Streakfree! Just listen to your name!

Walter: Oh, believe me! It would destroy me if I couldn't wake up every day and fulfill my heart's desire to make sure the windows I clean are as clean as they could ever be.

Leader: Why don't you get on one of those lift things that scale the buildings and clean the outside as well?

Walter: You have to have a special license called an OLTWCL for that. I don't have it.

Leader: What does that stand for?

Walter: Outside Lift Thing Window Cleaning License.

Leader: Well, that's easy to remember! Walter, do what you can! Just because you can't clean every window on the outside doesn't mean you aren't doing your job. Let people with the license get those windows clean on the outside. Just because you can't doesn't mean you should quit!

Walter: You're right! How silly of me. There are plenty of windows that I can clean on both sides. Thanks for the power lift! I needed that. Plus, I'm terrified of heights! There's no way I'm getting on one of those lift things!

Leader: We are learning something very similar today. There are many locked windows all over the world. Sometimes, there is a place we want to share Jesus, but that window is locked.

Walter: Oh? What do you do?

Leader: That's what we are going to learn today! It's going to be awesome!

Walter: That sounds amazing! Well, I'm behind now, so I better get going. I am Walter Streakfree. With my bucket and squeegee in hand, all windows will sparkle no matter where I land! Even if it's just one side!

(EXITS WHILE HIS THEME MUSIC PLAYS)



GAME TIME

“Knock ‘Em Down”

Items Needed For Game:

One pair of panty hose; Two tennis balls; Ten empty soda cans; Scissors

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Preparation:

Take the scissors and cut the panty hose at the top (open end) of each leg, removing the waistband. Place a tennis ball inside each leg of the hose. Push both balls down until they settle at the bottom of each leg. Set up ten soda cans in random places on the opposite side of the room from the starting line.

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How To Play:

Choose five boys and five girls to participate in this relay game. Hand each team one of the legs of the hose with a tennis ball in it. When you say, “Go!” the contestants must each place the hose over their head, place their hands behind their back, run to the other side of the room, and, with their hands behind their back, attempt to knock down a can. Then, once they knock down a can, they must run all the way back to tag the next person in line. The first team to knock down five cans will be declared the winner!



Missions Story

“J.W. Tucker”

Materials Needed:

The graphic slides for Lesson 3; 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 want to tell you a story of a man named J.W. Tucker. (*show pic*) In the late 1930's, J.W. felt God calling him to the Congo. J.W. and his wife, Angeline, were from a small city in Arkansas. Together, with their family, they moved to the Congo, preached in the tiny bush villages, worked at a Bible school, trained workers and established a church in Paulis, a village now known as Isiro.



One year while J.W. was back home in the United States visiting, a large group of rebels began leading what was known as the “Simba Uprising” – a brutal time of attacks and murders - back in the Congo. Several men from his church prayed with J.W. Tucker at the airport and begged him to not go back. They felt it was just too dangerous. (*show pic*) J.W. appreciated the concern these men had for him, but he felt God was calling him to go back to the Congo, no matter how dangerous it may be. He got on the airplane and headed back to the Congo.



Less than a week after returning, their village was captured by the rebels. J.W. Tucker was taken as a hostage by the rebels because they knew he was a missionary. He was held inside an old Catholic Mission (*show pic*) for over two months with no contact with his family or anyone. But, instead of being scared, J.W. began telling the people who were holding him captive all about the love of Jesus. He spent every day in captivity sharing God's love with those who were holding him.

J.W. Tucker was killed by the rebels on Thanksgiving Day, November 24, 1964. The rebels beat him over and over for over 45 minutes. It was a brutal, vicious death. That's the story of J.W. Tucker – a man who gave his life for the Gospel. That would be an amazing story if it ended there. But, there is more to the story...

After J.W. was beaten to death, the rebels put his body and several others in the back of a truck and drove approximately 50 miles to throw the bodies in the Bomokandi River. The bodies were thrown off a bridge into the river, where they were eaten by crocodiles.

A few months later, when the rebellion began calming down, an army colonel, who had been led to Jesus by J.W. Tucker, returned to the river. The river was located in a region where we had no churches, where the gospel was yet to be preached. This colonel went to share Jesus' love, but was rejected by the people. They didn't want him to share his message. The window of opportunity was closed and locked, for sure!

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Missions Story (CONTINUED)

Then, the colonel discovered a belief held by the Mongabato people who lived in that area. It was an ancient tradition that says, “If a man’s blood flows in the Bomokandi river, you are obligated to hear his message.” He reminded the Mongabato people of what happened to J.W.Tucker and said, “His blood flowed in the waters, you must hear his message.” As a result of J.W.Tucker’s death and his body being thrown in that river, the message of the gospel was preached to the Mongabato people.

Today, in that region where the Bomokandi river flows, in those tiny jungle villages, there is a church that stands on the bank of the river. *(show pic)* That church is full of people who love Jesus. J.W.’s sacrifice was NOT in vain. Because one man went, because one man gave, the Mongabato people now know the love of Jesus.



Here comes the coolest part of the whole story! That one church that was started as a result of J.W.Tucker’s death - it has planted over 200 churches in the Congo. *(show pic)* The people of the Congo are being reached with the love of Jesus. J.W.Tucker’s dream of reaching the Congo for Christ is coming true today, because one man was willing to go. The window of opportunity that once was closed and locked - is **WIDE OPEN!!**

In your lesson today, you are going to learn how God can open any window of opportunity - no matter how closed and locked it may be!



Call To Action

“When Windows Are Locked”

Materials Needed:

The “Open The Window” graphics; a window; map of several countries

Preparation:

Begin with the slide titled, “When Windows Are Locked”

The Message: *(title slide)*



Have you ever heard of these countries? *(show slide with name and map location of that country on the screen as you run through the list - there is a slide for each country listed)*

- Somalia
- Eritrea
- North Korea
- South Sudan
- Turkmenistan
- Yemen
- The Central African Republic
- Chad
- Burundi
- The Maldives

As you may know, these are countries from all around the world. They are countries with different cultures, different languages, and different foods. But, there is one thing in common about all of these countries. The window of opportunity to these countries has not yet been opened. The people in these countries have yet to have the opportunity to freely hear about and understand the love of Jesus. It’s sad, but the truth is...

There Are Places The Window Is Closed *(slide)*



What’s the purpose of closing a window? You close it to keep something inside OR to keep something else out! When I think of a country that the window is closed, I think of South Sudan. South Sudan used to be a place where the window was open. Many missionaries were there. But, sadly that all changed in 2012. A civil war broke out in Sudan. Groups in the North of the country began fighting against groups from the south. As a new leader took control of the South, he began going throughout the country threatening to kill Christians. Eventually, missionaries were kicked out of the country, and Sudanese Christians were forced to meet in secret. Before 2012, the window was open. Now, the window is closed. Missionaries can’t get back in the country, and people no longer have the opportunity to openly share the name of Jesus in South Sudan.

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Call To Action *(Continued)*

There Are Places The Window Is Locked *(slide)*



There are some places that the window is completely locked to Christians. Missionaries aren't allowed. In many of those places, if you become a Christian, you are kicked out of your family and thrown out of your home. Pastors are beaten or killed. Bibles are burned.

One of these places is The Maldives. The Maldives is a series of 1,192 islands in the middle of the Indian Ocean with a population of 393,000 people. The official religion of The Maldives is Sunni Islam. The law forces all Maldivians to be Muslim. It's against the law to have any other religion. Because of this, the Maldives is a nation with no Christian churches, no Bible and no true knowledge of Jesus.

The Maldivian government forbids any Bibles or Christian materials from entering the country. Christianity is against the law. In fact, there are signs when you enter the country that say it is illegal to tell anyone about Jesus. It's even illegal to wear a cross necklace. They do not want Christians sharing the name of Jesus. Several have tried. One missionary went there and started a business. His Maldivian "friend" pretended to become a Christian. After six months, his "friend" turned him in to the government and told them he was a missionary. Within 24 hours, this man was kicked out of the country.

Another group was discovered distributing Bibles. Their pictures were put on a web site asking people to turn them in. Within 24 hours, they were all found and kicked out of the country.

Somalia, Eritrea, North Korea, South Sudan, Turkmenistan, Yemen, The Central African Republic, Chad, Burundi, The Maldives - all of these are countries where there is a closed, locked window of opportunity for people sharing the name of Jesus. But, do you know what?

Closed, Locked Windows Don't Stop God! *(slide)*



Right now, these countries are closed and locked to the opportunity to hear the name of Jesus. But, closed, locked window don't stop God. There is no person, no government, no country that can stop God from opening the window. God has done it many times before. For years, Russia and China were closed, locked windows. But, God opened the window and now we have the opportunity to share the name of Jesus.

Some countries might be closed, locked windows for now, but not for long. God has a plan for these countries. He is ready for the name of Jesus to be shared across these countries and for the windows to be open.

ALTAR RESPONSE: *(play soft music)*

Show the slides of the closed, locked countries *(from the beginning of the "Call To Action")* again. As you show each slide, lead the kids in prayer for the country shown. Pray for God to open the windows of opportunity. Challenge the kids to choose one country that they will pray for in the coming weeks.



Materials Needed:

“REWIND!” Lesson 3 Graphics; “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: “Closed, Locked Windows DON’T STOP GOD!”

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

Answer: J.W. Tucker

3. To which country did J.W. Tucker and his family travel?

Answer: The Congo

4. What did the men from J.W. Tucker’s church beg him not to do?

Answer: Go Back To The Congo

5. Where did the rebels put J.W. Tucker’s body?

Answer: The River

6. How many churches have been planted by the church that was built on the river?

Answer: Over 200

7. According to our lesson today, “There Are Places The Window Is _____.”

Answer: Closed

8. According to our lesson today, “There Are Places The Window Is _____.”

Answer: Locked

9. According to our lesson today, “Closed, Locked Windows Don’t _____ God!”

Answer: Stop

10. Where was our Power Verse found?

Answer: Mark 16:15