

# Small Group Experience

## LESSON 3 - “When Windows Are Locked”



**Whatchagaddaknow?:**  
“Closed, Locked Windows DON’T STOP GOD!”



**Power Verse:**  
“Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone.”

- Mark 16:15

### Retelling The Missions Story

#### SUPPLY LIST:

\* Missions Story pictures (provided; print one set)

#### TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

*Before your small group begins, print the Missions Story pictures and review the key highlights to familiarize you with the talking points. Once you’re with the group, hold up the pictures one by one and discuss the story together. This Missions Story is both inspiring and thought-provoking, addressing challenging topics and deep concepts. Be ready to guide the conversation, listening carefully to their thoughts. Allow God to work through you as you help prepare the next generation 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 the story of J.W.Tucker. I will hold up pictures from the Missions 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-**

JW Tucker Story Highlights:

- J.W.Tucker felt called to missions, so he moved his family to the Congo in Africa
- They preached in tiny bush villages, worked at a Bible School, trained workers, and established a church
- J.W.Tucker and his family came back to the United States for a visit. While they were home, they heard rebels were attacking villages in the Congo.
- J.W.Tucker knew he must return to Congo. Men from his church begged him not to go back; they said it was too dangerous.
- J.W.Tucker knew God was calling him back to the Congo, so he left his family and returned to Africa.
- J.W.Tucker’s village was captured by the rebels, and he was taken prisoner
- He told the men holding him captive all about the love of Jesus
- J.W.Tucker was killed by the rebels on Thanksgiving Day

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- They threw his body into the Bomokandi River, where it was eaten by crocodiles
- A few months later, an Army Colonel returned to the river. Before he died, J.W. Tucker had led this Colonel to become a follower of Christ
- The Colonel tried to share Jesus with the people there, but they would not listen
- Then, the Colonel discovered a tradition of the people. “If a man’s blood flows in the Bomokandi River, you must hear his message.”
- He reminded them of what happened to J.W. Tucker at the river, and the people then agreed to hear the message of Jesus
- Because of J.W. Tucker’s body being thrown in that river, the people were able to hear about the love of Jesus
- There is now a church that stands on the river, and it is full of people who love Jesus
- J.W. Tucker’s sacrifice made a way for windows that were closed and locked to be open so people could hear the message of Jesus

**Say-** What an amazing story! Because one man was willing to go, God opened a window so the people of Congo could hear about Jesus!

**Ask-** What do you think might have happened if JW Tucker didn’t go back to Congo?

**-Allow time for response; discuss thoughts with the group-**

**Ask-** What did you learn from this story?

**-Allow time for response; discuss thoughts with the group-**

## **Game/Activity**

### **SUPPLY LIST:**

- \* Mark 16:15 Print Pieces (*provided; print one set*)
- \* Scissors

### **TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:**

*Before the small group begins, print and cut the Mark 16:15 Print Pieces and gather the necessary supplies. This activity is a scavenger hunt for the power verse. Print multiple copies of the Mark 16:15 Print Pieces, considering the size of your group. Cut out the parts of the verse and place them around the room. When activity time begins, have the kids look for the words. Once a word is found, they must work together with their teammates to complete Mark 16:15. Once a team completes the verse in its correct order, including the reference, they win! This game can be played in multiple rounds as time allows.*

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**Say-** Today's Power Verse teaches us a lot about God's heart for people, so let's spend time learning it together! I am dividing you into teams. I've placed the words to the power verse throughout the room. When I say go, search for the words to the power verse, working with your teammates to ensure you have all the words you need. Once you have everything you need, lay the pieces out in their correct order. The first team to correctly complete the Power Verse wins!

**-Play Power Verse Scramble. This can be played in multiple rounds as time allows-**

### **Group Sharing**

#### **SUPPLY LIST:**

\* No additional supplies needed

#### **TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:**

*Group sharing aims to empower kids to engage in meaningful discussions and connect the lesson concepts with their own experiences. Help facilitate and guide the discussion time.*

**Say-** We've been talking about "open windows" during our missions series. Today, we're diving into something really important. You've probably heard about places in the world where people aren't allowed to hear about Jesus. In some countries, it's illegal to be a Christian, and missionaries can't go there. It might feel discouraging, but the good news is that closed, locked windows don't stop God. He has opened up places like that before, and He can do it again.

**Ask-** Let's start with this question: Why do you think some countries are closed to the gospel? Have you ever wondered why people in power might try to keep the message of Jesus out?

**-Allow time for responses; discuss thoughts with the group-**

**Say-** It's tough to think about, but some leaders are afraid that if people know Jesus, they might not be as easy to control. Or maybe they have different beliefs and don't want their people to hear something new. But no matter the reason, we know one thing—God's truth is bigger than any locked windows.

**Ask-** Has anyone heard stories of places that were closed to the gospel, but God made a way for His message to get through? It might be something you've heard in church or through missionaries.

**-Allow time for responses; discuss thoughts with the group-**

**Say-** Even if we can't physically go into some countries, God is still working. He can speak to people's hearts through dreams, the internet, or even people who visit those countries for other reasons. He always finds a way! Now, here's the big part for us. What should we do in response to this? Maybe we can't go to these places right now, but one of the most powerful things we can do is pray.

**Ask-** Why do you think praying is so important?

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***-Allow time for responses; discuss thoughts with the group-***

**Say-** When we pray for these countries, we ask God to work in ways we can't. We can pray for the people living there to hear about Jesus, even if it's in ways we wouldn't expect. We can pray that believers who are there will have courage and wisdom. And we can pray for the leaders of those countries that their hearts will soften, and they will allow the gospel to be shared. Praying is not a small thing. It's one of the most important ways we can be involved in helping people hear about Jesus, even in places where it seems impossible. God moves when we pray, and nothing can stop His power.

### **Prayer Time**

**Say-** Great job discussing today's lesson! Let's close by practicing what we just learned: PRAYER! Specifically, pray for countries that have closed or locked windows to the gospel. Ask God to open windows! Would anyone like to lead us in prayer?

***-Allow time for a volunteer to pray. If no one volunteers, you can lead the prayer-***

**Pray**

### **Closing**

**Say-** As we end, remember that closed, locked windows don't stop God. He has a plan for every country and every person, even where it's hard to be a Christian. Our role is to pray for these places and trust God to work in ways we can't see. So this week, let's commit to praying for the people living in closed countries, knowing that God is more powerful than any closed or locked window. Thanks for coming today. I will see you next time!











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