

# “Windows” - LESSON 1

## “Window of Opportunity”

### Main Focus:

We must make the most of every window of opportunity.



### Power Verse:

“So be careful how you live. Don’t live like fools, but like those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days.”

– Ephesians 5:15-16



### Whatchagaddaknow:

“I Will Make The Most Of Every Opportunity!”

## LEADER’S INFO

In this lesson we are talking about windows. More specifically, taking advantage of “windows of opportunity” to spread the gospel throughout the world.

There are a lot of countries around the world, and every country is either open or closed to hearing the Gospel of Jesus. We need to be looking for every window of opportunity to partner with missionaries and make a huge difference in the lives of people around the world.

In this lesson, the children will learn from the story of Missionary David Livingstone that God can open ANY window - even if it seems impossible! God has called us to look for windows of opportunity and proclaim the love of God to the world!



### “The Spark” Intro Video

“Why Talk About Windows?”



### “Whatchagaddaknow” Video

Boudreaux teaches “Whatchagaddaknow”



### Character Skit

“Walter Streakfree”



### Offering Time



### Game Time!

“We CAN Work Together”



### Missions Story

“David Livingstone”



### Power Verse Video

“So be careful how you live. Don’t live like fools, but like those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days.”

– Ephesians 5:15-16



### Call To Action

“Window of Opportunity”



### Rewind!

Review Game



### Small Group Experience

### Main Focus:

We must make the most of every window of opportunity.



### Power Verse:

“So be careful how you live. Don’t live like fools, but like those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days.”  
– Ephesians 5:15-16



### Whatchagaddaknow:

“I Will Make The Most Of Every Opportunity!”

### Lesson 1 Materials Needed:

#### “The Spark” Intro Video

- “Lesson 1 - 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  
- “We CAN Work Together” Graphic  
- Two Empty Soda Cans  
- Two Chairs

#### Bible Story

- “David Livingstone” Graphics

#### Power Verse Video

- “Lesson 1 Power Verse” Video

#### Call To Action

- “Window of Opportunity” Graphics

#### Rewind!

- “REWIND!” Bumper Video  
- “REWIND!” Lesson 1 Graphics

#### Small Group Experience

- Missions Story Pictures  
- Bible

#### “The Spark” Intro Video

“Why Talk About Windows?”

#### “Whatchagaddaknow” Video

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#### Character Skit

“Walter Streakfree”

#### Offering Time

#### Game Time!

“We CAN Work Together”

#### Missions Story

“David Livingstone”

#### Power Verse Video

“So be careful how you live. Don’t live like fools, but like those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days.”

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#### Call To Action

“Window of Opportunity”

#### Rewind!

Review Game



## **Introduction to “The Spark” Intro Video**

**Leader:** Hey, kids! Today, we are starting a new series called “Windows.” Now, you might be wondering, “Why in the world are we talking about windows in church?”

Well, the windows we are talking about are “windows of opportunity.” That’s a phrase that basically means “a really good chance to do something awesome.”

We are going to talk about windows of opportunity, today. But first, check this video out...

**(play “The Spark - Intro Video Lesson 1”)**

**Leader:** We must always be looking for opportunities to share God’s love with the world. It might be someone at school, someone in our neighborhood, or even someone across the world through Missions. No matter what, we must look for windows of opportunity and take advantage of them.

For instance, when a country on the other side of the world is open to the gospel and allows missionaries to come share, that’s a window of opportunity. We need to thank God for that open window and partner with that missionary.

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 looks for windows)* Now, where are those windows? Oh, yes. *(Examining the windows)* Oh my! This is serious. It seems I have arrived just in time. You should have called G.L.A.S.S. on this one! Yes, yes. This glass is a special glass. Made from the gum of a Yogi Smogi tree from the distant island of Guam. Very rare indeed.

**Leader:** May I help you sir?

**Walter:** The name is Walter. Walter Streakfree is my name, glass care is my game. It's a good thing I showed up when I did. This glass is on its last sparkle, but I will see what I can do.

**Leader:** Oh! You're a window washer!

**Walter:** *(Pointing his squeegee at the leader)* Is something wrong with being a window washer sir?

**Leader:** Oh no, no, no. It's an wonderful trade. Nice to meet you, Walter Streakfree. What did you mean when you said I should have called glass?

**Walter:** It's our emergency number for window care. I thought everyone knew that.

**Leader:** What does G.L.A.S.S. mean?

**Walter:** Its an acronym. It means Giggling Llamas Always Sleep Soundly.

**Leader:** That has absolutely nothing to do with glass!

**Walter:** That's right! But that's all we could come up with. Well, we also came up with Giraffes Licking A Spicy Salsa, but we went with the first one.

**Leader:** Did someone call and schedule you to come clean windows?

**Walter:** You bet they did! I was told to come here on Monday, right at this time!

**Leader:** This is not Monday, Walter.

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## **CHARACTER SKIT**

*(Continued)*

**Walter:** Is it not? Oh my! I'm so busy that I'm getting my days mixed up. But, since I am here, I might as well get busy. Time is of the essence, and this glass needs some special attention. You just go ahead and do whatever you do. I have everything under control.

**Leader:** Well, we're trying to have church here. We have a very important series we're starting today called "Windows."

**Walter:** *(Stops cleaning and turns around in shock)* Did you say, "Windows?" That's my favorite word in all the English language! There are approximately 220,000 words in the English language, and you just said the name of this series is my favorite one! Looks like I'm in the right place after all.

**Leader:** These lessons we will learn are amazing and exciting!

**Walter:** Of course they are! Every kid needs to learn about windows! There are right at 28 different makes of windows. There is sing hung, double hung, hopper windows, center pivot windows... But don't worry! Walter Streakfree is here to supply all the information you need!

**Leader:** We appreciate that Walter, but we aren't learning about actual windows.

**Walter:** Oh, really? Well, that's confusing.

**Leader:** We are going to learn about windows of opportunity! We need to look out for the opportunities that God has given us to reach people with the Good News of Jesus!

**Walter:** I'm not really sure what all that means, but I tell ya what... since you have to "look out" these windows, I better make sure that they are clean and all. I'll just do my thing and you can do yours.

**Leader:** Sounds good, Walter. Make sure you come back and learn about these windows of opportunity.

**Walter:** I just might do that! Well, I have a lot of real windows to clean and care for, so I better get on my way. Nice to meet you all! I am Walter Streakfree. With my bucket and squeegee in hand, all windows will sparkle no matter where I land!

*(EXITS WHILE HIS THEME MUSIC PLAYS)*



## **GAME TIME**

### **“We CAN Work Together”**

#### **Items Needed For Game:**

Two empty soda cans; Two chairs

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#### **Preparation:**

Choose an even number of players per team to play in this relay game. Place the two chairs several feet apart from one another on the other side of the room.

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#### **How To Play:**

The players from each team need to pair up. Each pair will race against a pair from the other team, placing one can between their heads (*foreheads to can, not touching the can with their hands at all*) and walking together from the starting point to the chair, around the chair, and back to the starting point. Then, the next pair goes, and so on.

The first team to work together as a team and have ALL their players make it back to the starting point will be declared the winning team!



# **Missions Story**

## **“David Livingstone”**

### **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 want to tell you a story of a man named David Livingstone. David Livingstone was a man from London, England, who felt called to be a Missionary to Africa. When he arrived on the continent of Africa, he was so saddened by what he saw. (*show pic*) There were entire villages burned to the ground. They had been attacked, and every person who lived in the village had been taken as slaves. David saw many African natives beaten and left for dead beside the road. Livingstone was so upset, he made it his life’s mission to end the African slave trade.



David Livingstone found his way to the island of Zanzibar off the coast of East Africa. There, he found a terrible thing. Slaves were tied to a post and whipped (*show pic*). Over and over, they were beaten in order to make them obey whatever their masters told them to do. David Livingstone was sad, but also angry. He knew that Africans were God’s children as much as anyone else. They should not be treated like this. David Livingstone saw a “window of opportunity” to put an end to slavery. So, Livingstone told the world about these terrible things being done to the slaves. Because of his work, the slave trade from Africa was ended. WOW!



After years of being a missionary, David Livingstone died in Africa. Two brave African men wrapped up his body and carried it from the Congo to a church in Zanzibar, so it could be shipped back to London for burial. These two men risked their lives, carrying the body through the desert (*show pic*). The church of England, grateful to the two men for taking care of Livingstone’s body, thanked them by giving them a large sum of money (*show pic*). The two men took the money, bought a plot of land in Zanzibar, and dedicated it to be used only for a cemetery or a church.

140 years later, a pastor named Dixon wanted to plant a church in the capital city of Zanzibar. The problem was that Zanzibar is over 99% Muslim. No one would sell land to Dixon for a church. Finally, in the center of the city, Dixon found an empty piece of ground that had sat empty for over 140 years. Why? Because, according to the deed, only a church could be built there. It was the same land bought by the two African men.

Today, on the island of Zanzibar, a church meets in a simple building on that plot of land in the center of the city (*show pic*). On that land, Muslims are becoming Christians, and sinners are being set free. It seemed like the window of opportunity was closed for Pastor Dixon in Zanzibar, but God had a way for the window to be opened that was over 140 years in the making. God is so good!





## **Call To Action**

### **“Window of Opportunity”**

#### **Materials Needed:**

The “Window of Opportunity” graphics; a window

#### **Preparation:**

Begin with the slide titled, “Window of Opportunity”

#### **The Message:** *(title slide)*



Everywhere we go, we see windows. Windows are all around us. In fact, did you know that in this building we have \_\_\_\_\_ *(count all the windows in the building that you’re in so you can have the precise number)* windows? We see windows everywhere we go.

How many windows do you think there are on the Empire State Building? *(show pic)*  
There are 6,514 windows just on that ONE building!



There is a huge building in Dubai called the Burj Khalifa. *(show pic)* It is a magnificent skyscraper standing at 2,722 ft. How many windows do you think THAT building has? There are 24,348 windows! Can you imagine being the window cleaner on that building?



We experience a lot of physical windows in our lives, but we also face a different kind of window as well. Every day we face windows of opportunity to share the love of Jesus. These windows are either OPEN opportunities or CLOSED opportunities. There are countries and people all over the world with this kind of window.

There are several lessons we can learn about spiritual windows by looking at a physical window...

#### **Every Window Has Two Sides** *(slide)*



Windows can be used in two different ways. One way is to let things IN. If you’re in your bedroom and you want some fresh air, what do you do with the window? You open it, because then fresh air can come right in. If you have someone outside your window and you want them to climb in, what do you do? You open the window, right?

The same goes for countries all over the world. There are countries like the United Kingdom, Tanzania, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, and countless others window of opportunity is wide open. Those countries are saying, “Come on in. We are happy for you to share God’s love with our people!”

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## **Call To Action** (Continued)

However, windows also have a back side. Windows can be closed to keep things out. If you ever had a bird flying next to your bedroom window, you probably immediately closed the window. You didn't want that bird to fly into your bedroom, right? Well, the fact is...

### **People Try To Close Windows** (slide)



Just like people close windows because they want to keep people out - countries like Iran, Saudi Arabia, the Maldives, Sudan, and others close the window to Christians. In some of these countries, you could go to jail simply for having a Bible or wearing a cross necklace. No one is allowed to go in and speak the name of Jesus.

You might ask, “Why would people do this? Why would they close the window of opportunity to their country just to keep their people from hearing the name of Jesus?” Leaders and other people of other religions have shut windows in an attempt to keep Jesus out. They are afraid if people hear the truth, they will no longer follow their lies. So, they do everything they can to keep their people IN and Jesus and His people OUT. That is why it is so important that we...

### **Make The Most Of Every Opportunity** (slide)



Our PowerVerse says it so clearly. “So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days.” – Ephesians 5:15-16 We have to live our lives in a way that allows us to look for windows of opportunity and make the most of them.

One thing you can do is pray. Prayer works. The people in these countries need Jesus. You can pray that the window of opportunity will be opened and that missionaries will be able to go to the countries. Pray that the name of Jesus would be known in the countries where windows are closed.

So, today we are going to pray. We are going to pray for God to open windows of opportunity around the world so others can hear of His love!

### **ALTAR RESPONSE:** (play soft music)

Lead the children in prayer. Pray that God will open windows of opportunity around the world! Pray that they will live in such a way that they make the most of every opportunity God gives them.



**REWIND!**

**Materials Needed:**

“REWIND!” Lesson 1 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:** “I Will Make The Most Of Every Opportunity!”

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

**Answer:** David Livingstone

**3. What country was David Livingstone from?**

**Answer:** England

**4. What made David Livingstone so angry when he got to Africa?**

**Answer:** Slavery

**5. What did the two men do with the money given to them by the Church of England?**

**Answer:** Bought Some Land

**6. What stands on that land today?**

**Answer:** A Church

**7. According to our lesson today, “Every Window Has Two \_\_\_\_\_.”**

**Answer:** Sides

**8. According to our lesson today, “People Try To \_\_\_\_\_ Windows.”**

**Answer:** Close

**9. According to our lesson today, “Make The \_\_\_\_\_ Of Every Opportunity.”**

**Answer:** Most

**10. Where was our Power Verse found?**

**Answer:** Ephesians 5:15-16