

Small Group Experience

LESSON 1 - “Window Of Opportunity”



Whatchagaddaknow?:
“I Will Make The Most Of Every 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**

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 so you’re familiar with the talking points. Once you’re with the group, hold up the pictures individually and discuss the story together. This mission story is 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 life of David Livingstone. I am going to hold up pictures from the mission 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-

David Livingstone Story Highlights:

- He was from London, England, and felt called to be a missionary to Africa
- David saw villages in Africa burned and Africans taken as slaves
- He made it his life mission to end the African slave trade
- On Zanzibar, he was shocked to see the Africans being beaten; he knew Africans were God’s children and should not be treated this way
- He traveled around the world talking about the awful things he witnessed in Africa
- Because of his work, the African slave trade was ended
- After years of being a missionary, David died in Africa
- Two African men carried his body from Congo to Zanzibar

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- The Church of England was thankful and gave the men a large sum of money
- The men used the money to buy land in Zanzibar and dedicated the land to be a church or cemetery
- 140 years later, Pastor Dixon wanted to build a church in Zanzibar, but they would not sell him land
- He found the land purchased by the two African men 140 years earlier and was able to buy it and build a church in the middle of Zanzibar
- All of this happened because of David Livingstone’s love for the African people and God

Say- What an amazing story! Thousands of people’s lives were changed because of one man’s love for Christ and dedication to helping others.

Ask- What do you think might have happened if David Livingstone had ignored God’s call on his life?

-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:

* No additional supplies needed

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Have the kids stand in a circle or sit if space is tight. Choose one person to be the “Window Watcher.” This person will stand in the middle of the circle. The “Window Watcher” should call out a specific word, phrase, or action (for example: “wave your hand” or “say ‘hello’”). The goal of the game is for the kids to follow the command ONLY when the “Window Watcher” says “Open window” before it. For example, if the “Window Watcher” says, “Open window, wave your hand,” the kids should do it. But if they say, “Wave your hand,” without the “Open window” phrase, the kids shouldn’t follow the command. If someone does the action when they’re not supposed to, they are out for that round. Continue playing until you have a winner, and then start a new round with a new “Window Watcher.” This game is a fun way to learn more about each other and reinforces our lesson. You can play multiple rounds if time allows.

Say- Alright, everyone, let’s get ready to play a game called “Window Watchers!” I want everyone to stand in a circle. In this game, I’ll choose one of you to be the “Window Watcher,” and they’ll stand in the middle of the circle. The “Window Watcher” will give commands like, “wave your hand” or “say ‘hello,’” but you’re only supposed to follow the command if they say “Open window” before it. For example, if they say, “Open window, wave your hand.” But if they just say, “Wave your hand,” don’t do it! If you do the action when they don’t say “Open window,” you’ll be out for that round. We’ll keep playing until we have a winner, and then we’ll start a new round with a new “Window Watcher.” Let’s see how well you can pay attention and spot the open windows! Ready? Let’s go!

-Allow time for everyone to stand in a circle and choose the first “Window Watcher.” Play the game, and continue for multiple rounds if time allows-

Group Sharing**SUPPLY LIST:**

* Bible

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- Hey, everyone! During our new series, we’re going to talk about something really cool: windows. No just the ones in your house but also the windows of opportunity God gives us to share Jesus with others. Think about a window for a second. It can be closed to keep things out or wide open to let things in. In the same way, there are people and places that can be open or closed to hearing about Jesus.

Ask- Have you ever felt like you were supposed to say something about Jesus but weren’t sure if it was the right time?

-Allow time for responses and discuss their thoughts as a group-

Say- Some places in the world or even people you know are like closed windows—they don’t want to hear about Jesus. This can happen for a lot of reasons.

Ask- Why do you think some people are closed to hearing about Jesus?

-Allow time for responses and discuss their thoughts as a group-

Say- It’s true that some people are closed off for different reasons. Maybe they’ve had bad experiences, or maybe they just don’t understand yet. That’s okay. Even when windows are closed, God might be working in ways we can’t see. So, while we may not be able to get through now, we can pray that their windows will open one day. Then there are times when someone’s window is wide open! They’re ready to hear about Jesus and might even be looking for answers. This is where we have to be bold and share God’s love with them.

Ask- How do you know when someone is open to hearing the truth?

-Allow time for response, discuss thoughts with the group-

Say- Remember, not every opportunity will be obvious, but when you feel a nudge from God, don’t ignore it. Sharing Jesus is one of the most important things we can do. When someone’s window is open, it’s a chance we don’t want to miss. It’s like being on a team and having the perfect moment to score—you have to make the most of it. Let’s look at a verse that talks about this. I need a volunteer to read Ephesians 5:15-16.

-Allow time for someone to read aloud-

Ask- What do you think this verse means? What does this verse say makes us wise?

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-Allow time for response, discuss thoughts with the group-

Ask- What are some reasons we might hesitate to share when we have the chance?

-Allow time for response, discuss thoughts with the group-

Ask- I have one final question for you. What might happen if we don't make the most of the opportunities we get to share about Jesus?

-Allow time for response, discuss thoughts with the group-

Prayer Time

Say- Great job discussing today's lesson! Let's close in prayer, asking God to help us see those windows of opportunity and give us the courage to share Jesus when the time is right. 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- Windows don't stay open forever, so we need to be ready when we see one. Just like a window can let in light and fresh air, our words and actions can help bring the light of Jesus into someone's life. When the opportunity comes, don't hesitate—share Jesus with those who are open to hearing about Him. Remember, the Holy Spirit is with you and will guide you when to speak and what to say. Let's make the most of every chance we get to bring God's love to others. You never know how much one moment of sharing could change someone's life forever. Also, commit to praying for closed people and places. Ask God to open windows of opportunities for them to know Jesus! Thanks for being here today, and I'll see you again soon.





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