



3. SMALL GROUP Lesson

THE INWARD WITNESS

No props needed



Small Group Notes

SMALL GROUP LESSON:

- God speaks to us through the inward witness.
- The inward witness is not a voice, it is an inward sense.
- The Bible says it like this, “the Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit.”
- You may be thinking about doing something and it just doesn’t seem right or it may even seem wrong.
- It is kind of like an inward stoplight. You start to make a decision and you get a red light on the inside. What is that? That is the inward witness.
- Or you may have a warm, good feeling when making a decision. That is the inward witness saying yes.

SPIRITUAL EXERCISE:

- Have the children sit and get quiet, closing their eyes. It works well to softly sing a worship song.
- Tell the children to keep their eyes shut and listen to the words you say.
- Say these words, “Jesus loves you.” “God wants to make you sick.” “God has good things in store for you.” “God does not love you.”
- Have the children open their eyes.
- Ask them what they “felt” when you said, “Jesus loves you.”
- What about when you said, “God wants to make you sick.”
- Allow for them to respond.
- They will be actually sensing what it “feels” like to experience the inward witness.

SMALL GROUP SCHEDULE

1. Pre-Service Activity
2. Bible Time
3. Small Group Lesson
4. Activity Page
5. Dismiss

HOLY SPIRIT: DOES GOD SPEAK TO KIDS?

MEMORY VERSE:

Romans 8:16, “The Spirit himself beareth witness with our spirit that we are the children of God.” (ASV)

BOTTOM LINE:

The Holy Spirit leads me by the inward witness.



1. PRE-SERVICE Activity

- During the Pre-Service Activity, group leaders will direct conversation and games to help kids make friends at church.
- As a group leader you have the choice of Ice Breaker Questions or Game to use as the children arrive.

ICE BREAKER Questions:

Question #712:

- Have you ever gone on a boat or ship?
- Where to?

Question #322:

- What is your favorite meal?

ICE BREAKER Game:

“I’ve Never”

- Have the children sit in a circle.
- Pick one child to start by saying their name and then saying something they have never done.
- For example, “My name is Joseph and I’ve never been to the ocean.” If anyone in the group has done what Joseph says he’s never done, they stand up and it becomes their turn to share something they have never done.
- Continue until everyone in the circle has named something they haven’t done and they are all standing.

2. BIBLE Time

READ THE BIBLE:

1st-2nd Grade - Day by Day Bible: A Ship Goes Down (page 385)
3rd Grade and up - NIV Bible: Acts 27:9-26

- Have each child read one verse out loud.
- Go around the room.
- This works best if everyone uses the same, easy-to-read translation of the Bible.

BIBLE STORY:

A Ship Goes Down

BIBLE CONNECTION:

Paul was a prisoner and was aboard a ship. Paul was impressed by the Holy Spirit with a warning. He told the guards about the warning that if they sailed they would be destroyed along with the ship. They didn’t listen and set sail despite the warning. As he had warned there was a huge storm, they were being tossed back and forth and were shipwrecked; everyone was afraid they would die.

BIBLE QUESTIONS:

1. How did Paul know there would be a shipwreck? (the Holy Spirit warned Paul)
2. Why did the Holy Spirit warn Paul? (He was protecting Paul)
3. Will the Holy Spirit speak to you? (yes, He will)

POINT TO MAKE: *An angel of the Lord spoke to Paul and told him even though the ship was coming apart they would be saved. The Lord had things he wanted Paul to do and much more ministry in his future; He protected him and those with him.*