

DISCIPLEMAKERS

VOLUME 1 • RELATING TO GOD



GOD

ENCOUNTERS

SMALL GROUP LESSONS



Gospel Light

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K.I.D.S. Church DiscipleMakers

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Overview of a God Encounters Lesson

Leading God Encounters Small Groups

Following the large group lesson, kids will be divided into three small groups: Ages 6-7, Ages 8-10 or Ages 11-12. Small-group leaders will follow the God Encounters lesson for their age level. Each two-page, age-level lesson has five elements, providing 15-40 minutes of ministry time. If you have less time, you may shorten or omit elements. See below for descriptions of each element. Full-color reproducible pages for some activities are on the *Take-Home Challenges* CD-ROM.

Lesson 13, *The Main Event!* is a game day review. This special lesson modifies the regular large and small-group activities. *The Main Event!* combines three rounds of questions about the *Relating to God* Units—Prayer, The Word, and Worship—along with fun, active games. At the end of Unit 3, Worship, kids will be given questions from the three units to review for the following week. (See *The Main Event!* beginning on page 153 in the *Leader's Manual*.)

Lesson Summary

The small-group lesson begins with a summary section that includes the Power Point (the main message of the lesson), Scripture Memory Verse, Bible Lesson Scripture and an overview of that text. These components correlate with the large-group *DiscipleMakers* lessons. This provides an overview for small-group leaders who were not present in the large group time. It also offers a review to reference during the small group time.

Discussion Questions

The next element is a series of Bible review and Power Point life application questions. Use these questions for one-on-one discipleship with kids.

These questions begin by reviewing the lesson with “who, what, when, and where” questions. Next, the kids are asked to think more deeply with “why” and “how” questions. Finally, children are asked a personalized question that leads into a time of ministry. Allow time for kids to share during the closing questions. That is what your small group will be praying about in the God Encounter section that follows.

God Encounter

This is a vital time of guided reflection and prayer, encouraging kids to respond to God and His Spirit. Building relationships with God and one another is the goal of this element. Using the responses from the above questions, use this time to draw kids into God's presence and challenge kids to respond to God. Use simple objects, pictures or ideas as a point of contact to help the kids focus, and try a variety of prayer postures (kneeling, holding hands in a circle, placing hands on a partner's shoulder, etc.) during this time of prayer. Create an atmosphere that encourages prayer through instrumental praise and worship music.

The Jesus Factor

The lesson continues with an activity designed to reveal Jesus throughout the whole Bible, using a Scripture that shows how Jesus connects with the Bible lesson and Power Point. Children will see Jesus through both the Old Testament and New Testament books of the Bible. God's eternal plan of redemption is seen from Genesis to Revelation, and The Jesus Factor will introduce this idea to your kids. Refer to this verse as you teach this section.

Small Group Activity

The lesson concludes with a game, craft or activity—something your kids can make or do that reminds them of the Power Point, and of decisions made in the God Encounter prayer time.

Take-Home Challenges



Each God Encounters lesson includes a challenge for the kids to take home with them. The *Take-Home Challenges* CD-ROM includes 12 Take-Home Challenges for each age group: Ages 6-7, Ages 8-10, Ages 11-12. This page includes grayscale reproductions of the design for each unit. Within

each unit, each age level uses a different color combination for easy reference. These PDF files can be printed to send home with kids, or may be e-mailed. Written in a kid-friendly style, these pages will also provide parents/guardians with a summary of the lesson, along with a fun and challenging activity to help the child apply the lesson throughout the week. Follow-up on these at-home activities is encouraged each week in the small group ministry time.

Note: There is no Take-Home Challenge for Lesson 13: *The Main Event!*. See page 23 of the *Leader's Manual* more for information about this lesson.

AGES 6-7

God loves us. He wants to talk to us every day. One way we can talk to God is through prayer. In today's lesson, we learned that a woman named Hannah prayed to God and asked Him to give her a baby. She trusted God's love for her and knew that He would hear her prayers! The next year, Hannah had a baby boy. She named him Samuel.

I can pray to God because I have a relationship with Him.

Who's My Father?

Your Challenge This Week...

Think of some friends or family members that you would like to thank God for. Write their names on separate sheets of paper. Decorate the names using gel pens, markers, glue and glitter, etc. Tape the names on your mirror, or with your parent's permission, on your bedroom wall. Pray for each person daily, thanking God for giving you special people who love and care for you.

Sometimes we only think about praying when we have a problem or something is wrong, but God wants to talk to us every day. God cares about us. He wants us to tell Him about what we are doing and the choices we are making.

BIBLE VERSE:
Our Father in heaven, we pray your name will always be kept holy.
 Matthew 6:9

Unit 2 THC (Ages 6-7 shown)

Word Respect

When you are talking to your mom, you listen to what she says. And when you are talking to your friends, you pay attention so that you don't miss anything important that they might say. In the same way, God wants us to listen and pay attention to what He says. His Words are more important than any others and He doesn't want us to miss anything He might be trying to tell us. God's Words need to be honored and respected. Many times though, we are so busy or we are thinking about other things and we miss what God is trying to tell us. When we pay attention to what God says, we are respecting and obeying His Words.

I will respect and obey God's Word.

Your Challenge

Use some time that you would normally spend watching TV, playing a video game, or playing with your friends and read your Bible instead. In your Bible, underline the verses that you like and repeat them several times so that you learn them. Try to find ways to do what the verses say. When you do what God's word says you are respecting and obeying God. Then, pray and thank God for His love. Thank Him for speaking to you through His Word and ask Him to help you to pay attention and to hear Him when He speaks.

Bible Lesson:
Exodus 2:23—3:10

Lesson 6

Memory Verse:
 I tremble all over when I think of you and the way you judge.
 —Psalm 119:120

Ages 8-10

Unit 2 THC (Ages 8-10 shown)

Lesson 10

Bible Lesson:
1 Kings 18:15—39

Worship Is?

True worship is giving God my all.

Think of someone that you like to spend time with every day—Someone who you enjoy being with. It could be your best friend or a family member, but chances are, it's not your little brother or sister! You'd feel pretty badly if that person told you he/she wanted to spend time with you and then talked to someone else on the phone or watched T.V. instead of paying attention to you. He or she might be in the room with you, but his or her heart and mind would be focused on other things. Sometimes that's how we treat God. We say we love Him and want to spend time with Him, but we don't give Him our full attention.

Your Challenge

Keep a written record of how you spend your time this week. Include in your journal how you treated others and the things that you thought about. At the end of the week, read your journal to find out what you spent the most time doing, how you treated others, and what you think about most. This will help you see that whatever you spend most of your free time doing and thinking about is what is really important to you. Take some time to talk to God about what you discover, and ask Him if these things bring honor to Him and show a life of worship. Take some time to be still and allow God to speak to you and show you ways that you could worship Him in your everyday life.

Memory Verse

He is wonderful! Praise him and bring an offering into his temple. Worship the LORD, majestic and holy.
 1 Chronicles 16:29

Our Power Point says true worship is giving God my all—All of my heart, mind, and body. That means we choose to show Him how much we love him by making sure our thoughts, actions, and what we do with our bodies will bring honor to Him.

Ages 11-12

Unit 3 THC (Ages 11-12 shown)