

DISCIPLEMAKERS

VOLUME 4 • LIVING MY PURPOSE



GOD

ENCOUNTERS

SMALL GROUP LESSONS



Gospel Light

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Gospel Light

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Contents



Section One • Overview of God Encounters Lesson

Leading God Encounters Small Groups.....	5
Lesson Summary	5
Discussion Questions	5
God Encounter	5
The Jesus Factor	5
Small Group Activity	5
Take-Home Challenges.....	6



Section Two • God Encounter Lessons

Unit 1 • In the World

Lesson 1 • Living For God	9
Lesson 2 • Living For Others.....	15
Lesson 3 • Used By God	21
Lesson 4 • Doing God's Work	27

Unit 2 • Above the World

Lesson 5 • Peer Pressured?	35
Lesson 6 • A Forgiving Heart	41
Lesson 7 • Loving the Unlovable	47
Lesson 8 • All Around Us	53

Unit 3 • For the World

Lesson 9 • It's All About Jesus!	61
Lesson 10 • Word Victory.....	67
Lesson 11 • Standing Strong.....	73
Lesson 12 • God's Direction.....	79

Volume 4 Review • Living My Purpose

Lesson 13 • The Main Event!.....	85
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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 *Living My Purpose* Units—In the World, Above the World, and For the World—along with fun, active games. At the end of Unit 3, 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.

Memory Verse
 "But more than anything else, put God's work first and do what he wants. Then the other things will be yours as well."
 Matthew 6:33

Ages 6-7

Living for God

In today's Bible lesson, you met a boy who's not so different from you. He had a small sack lunch, but instead of keeping it, he gave it to Jesus. This boy taught us that God wants us to live for Him. It may seem like a little gift in your hands. But when you give it to God, He does something awesome with it!

Your Challenge:
 Do one thing from the "Good to Do" section of your Smorgasbord activity. Ask your parents if you need help. As you do it, pay attention to how it makes you feel to serve God. Watch the expression on the face of the person who you're serving. When you're done, pray for the person you touched by serving God. Think about other opportunities you might have to live for Him.

Power Point
 God wants me to live for Him.

Lesson 1
Bible Lesson:
 John 6:1-13

God created us with many different needs—food, sleep, family and friends, and Him. As you grow up, you will learn how to prepare your own food, get enough sleep, and make new friends. But make sure you learn to lean on God, too! He is the Bread that will always fill you up.

Unit 1 THC (Ages 6-7 shown)

MEMORY VERSE
 Don't be like the people of this world, but let God change the way you think. Then you will know how to do everything that is pleasing to Him.
 Romans 12:2

AGES 8-10

PEER PRESSURED?

One of life's biggest trials is peer pressure. Will you do what pleases God, or will you cave to the crowd? Daniel and his three friends faced this critical choice thousands of years ago. God met their needs by giving them all the energy they needed, even without the palace's rich, forbidden food. Life may be a lot different today, but peer pressure hasn't changed. Trust God to help you stand strong.

YOUR CHALLENGE
 Think back on a time you faced a difficult test to your faith. Picture that time as being like the "furnace" of the kiln you learned about this week. Make a model kiln out of an empty coffee or drink can. Glue red, orange, and yellow tissue paper around the inside edge of the can to represent the flames of trials. When you feel tried by peer pressure, write down your temptation on a piece of paper and place it in the kiln.

POWER POINT
 God will help me overcome peer pressure.

LESSON 5
Bible Lesson:
 Daniel 1:5-21

No one likes to go through trials, especially having your faith tested by peer pressure. But just like the clay must go through the kiln, we must endure difficult times to become vessels of God's glory. When others tempt you to sin, think on Daniel's example and trust in God to bring you peace.

Unit 2 THC (Ages 8-10 shown)

Ages 11-12

Lesson 9

Bible Lesson:
 Revelation 21:1-8

It's All About Jesus

How do you like to stay in touch? Text messages, phone calls, or e-mail? The apostle Paul stayed in touch with the early believers through letters. He urged them to follow his example in tearing down barriers to faith. He pointed out that Jesus had thrown out the Book of Law that made people feel condemned, replacing rules with relationship. Many people today still think that God only cares about rules. But you can change that by sharing your caring, loving Friend with them.

Your Challenge:
 Make a list of the reasons you have heard people give for not going to church. Are some of these reasons barriers, set up by the people who already attend church? Make another list of things that you could do to welcome non-Christians to church. Pray that God would work on the hearts of people who don't believe, that they would see their need for Him. Pray that God would fill the hearts of believers with more love for the lost, so that they can remove the barriers to belief. Let Jesus show you the way to share Him with others.

Power Point: I will let Jesus show me the way.

Memory Verse:
 "I am the light for the world! Follow me, and you won't be walking in the dark. You will have the light that gives light."
 John 8:12

Some people have the blessing of growing up in a Christian home. Others come to faith in Christ later in life. What made them decide to join God's family? More often than not, the kindness showed to them by Christians. Think about how God could show His love for unbelievers through you.

Unit 3 THC (Ages 11-12 shown)