

LESSON 16

What Does God's Team Look Like?

(Purpose 2: Belong)

Lesson Objective:

To know what it means to belong to God's family, to be a Christian. Also, to understand that God's family (or team) is made up of many different people who are united by salvation through Jesus Christ.

Prayer as You Prepare:

Lord, thank You that through Jesus we can belong to Your family. Help us to understand that while we may be different, that it is our common bond of salvation through Christ that makes us all the same. Amen.

IN THE CLASSROOM

Begin the Journey:

Make sure the parallel between baseball and the church are clear.

ACTIVITY PAGE: GOD'S TEAM JERSEY

Most of your students belong to a team of some sort—sports, theater, scouts, etc. Whatever word you use, each is a group of people coming together to make a team, and every team has a uniform or jersey. This activity page will have a plain t-shirt on it. Your students will create their own uniform for God's family or "God's Team Jersey." Take time to discuss each student's creative team jersey.

On the back of this handout will be the five Quiet Time Check-in review questions for Mark 1:1–Mark 2:28. They are on to the second of the Gospels! YAY!

Did You Know?

The church is not based upon the building but rather the gathering together of people. Emphasize this point to your students.

OBJECT LESSON: FIRST BASE

Let's continue our study of the "Base System" by taking a look at first base— belong. Our second step to growing in our relationship with Jesus to get to know Him; we can do that by asking Him into our heart. Once you have accepted Jesus as the boss of your life, you belong to God's family!

Seek the Treasure:

"He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together." (Colossians 1:17)

Uncover the Truth:

Draw more parallels between baseball and the church. Compare coaches or leaders your students have with God as the coach of His team.

Also, think outside the box with action steps for these situations. Encourage your students to brainstorm and help each other out as they may have personally experienced some of these situations. These are great opportunities for growth through Biblical application. Below are some examples of basic responses, but again think outside the box for more creative responses to "What would you do?"

The Situation

What would you do?

A boy in your group is having a hard time in school.

Offer to help him with his homework, pray with him in class or write him an encouraging note.

A boy in your group has a family problem.

Answers will vary. Ask him if he wants to talk about it and offer to listen, invite him to your house for dinner or pray for him.

A girl in your group gets an "A" on a math test.

Answers will vary. Congratulate her on her good test score, ask her to help you with your studying so you could get a good grade on a test, too, or give her a pat on the back.

Your small group leader is sad.

Answers will vary. Write them a card with an encouraging Bible verse, give them a hug, offer to pray for them or cook them a special homemade treat.

A friend gets a new bike and is really happy.

Answers will vary. Tell them their new bike is awesome, tell them that you are happy that they got a new bike, ask where they got it or go out for a bike ride together.

A classmate lost his dog.

Answers will vary. Help him hang signs around the neighborhood, ask if you can pray that he finds his dog or call the local animal shelter.

Find the Purpose:

If you tend to break into smaller groups, bring all of your students together as one whole small group tonight. Take this opportunity to move your students out of their comfort zones to meet someone new. What a great way for your students to grow as God's team! Help everyone feel like they belong to God's team, especially this small group.

- Who is in your small group? Write down their names.
Answers will vary. Write down full names, which means your students will definitely need some help in spelling.
- Do you feel like you can share your feelings in your small group? Why or why not?
Answers will vary. Hopefully your students feel safe and comfortable to be honest. If they can, your students will rejoice at such a safe place to go and talk. If not, what can you do to remedy this situation so small group is a place where they can share their feelings?
- Do you think you will grow closer to your small group each year you are together? Why or why not?
Answers will vary. Hopefully your students will respond with "Yes, because we will get to know each other better." Also, this will be dependent upon you as the leaders. Are you ready and willing to commit to being their leader through the next few years? Pray about it and trust God's guiding hand.
- Write the name and phone number of one person in your small group that you can call if you need to talk.
Answers will vary. Make sure every student has at least one other student's contact info. This may be a good opportunity to "assign" prayer partners, causing the "normal pairs" to break up and support other friends.
- Circle **TRUE** or **FALSE**:
*All answers are **TRUE**.*

GAME: TEAM UP!

Objective—To be challenged to work together as a team in order to bring all students onto one platform for a period of time.

Materials—2 X 4 piece of wood and timer

Instructions—Move chairs and tables against the wall and place the 2 X 4 piece of wood in the center of the classroom. Tell your students that their objective is to get everyone on the piece of wood. Their feet cannot touch the ground for three whole seconds. Challenge them to do whatever it takes and to take as much time as needed to come up with a plan. After they have successfully completed the three second time limit, increase the time limit to five seconds and then to ten seconds. Encourage your students to creatively contribute and to use kind words to build up their fellow teammates as they try to successfully complete this task.

NOTE:

- There cannot be any pushing or rough housing during this time as it could result in injury and even more so only contradict the point of what it means to “belong.”
- You can always change the difficulty of the game by adding additional conditions such as—only one foot on the board per student, everyone must have their hands in the air or do it with their eyes closed.

Discussion –

1. How did each team member contribute to the success of the team? Who would you pinpoint as the team leader? Who provided the creative solutions? What was it?
2. What kind of words did you use to build up your team? How did you feel once you accomplished the task?
3. When you realized that your time limit was going to be increased, how did you react? Did you think it was possible or impossible? Did you succeed? Why or why not?

FOLLOW-UP:

Consider looking up some team building exercises online that you could use in order to continue to challenge your students to work on growing together as a team. Plan a fun time outside of regularly scheduled Kids Small Groups to apply these team building activities.