



MIDDLE SCHOOL RESOURCE

The God Who Sends: Session 12

Sent

Key Statement: According to the Bible 1) the Father sends the Son, 2) the Son sends His people, and 3) the Father and the Son send the Spirit.

::CONNECT::

Option 1: Care Packages

- Write the following list on a board, if you have it (feel free to add additional ideas of your own):
 - Soldier serving abroad
 - Missionary
 - College student
 - Scientist in Antarctica
 - Middle schooler away at summer camp
- Break your students into groups and assign each group one of the items in the list. Their job is to make a list of things for a care package for that person. The sole requirement: the weight limit for the package is 200 pounds.
- Give them some time to make their lists, then let them share their lists. They should also explain why they chose the items they chose. Note how each list is tailored to the recipient.
- Now, break the kids back into the same groups. This time, they are to create the following care packages:
 - from God to us
 - from God to non-believers
 - from God to missionaries
 - The same rules apply: 200-pound weight limit, but otherwise anything. Note that these are supposed to be from God.
- Give them time to make their lists, then have them share them and why they came up with those lists.
- Debrief by explaining the care packages God did send:
 - From himself to us: Jesus
 - From himself to the world: us, the church
 - From himself to missionaries (us): the Holy Spirit
- How did God's "care package" differ from ours? How is his even better than ours? How do God's care packages give us exactly what we need, even better than what we could have come up with?

Option 2: Best Sent Story

- Allow students to form their own groups or to work solo, if they wish. Their assignment is to find or to create the best "sending" story they can. Their story must contain some element of sending (something or someone being sent, for example). They can search the Internet, history, magazines, fiction, or film to find a good story that involves sending in some way, shape, or form (this idea would be good for individuals). Alternately, they can make up their own sending story and show it in a skit, a comic strip, or a brief verbal story. Either (or both) way(s), give the students time to find or prepare their stories.
- I suggest you give them several categories from which to choose. For example:
 - Most comic sent story
 - Most heart-warming sent story
 - Most epic sending story
 - Most original sending story
 - Any other categories you can think of
- Let them prepare and then show or share their stories. Let your students, as a whole, vote on which skit or story should get which category. Talk about why.
- Take the different categories and skits and connect them to the three sending(s) we talked about in the lesson. How does the Father sending Jesus resemble, for instance, the heartwarming sending story? How does Jesus sending the church resemble the epic sending story? How does Jesus and the Father sending the Spirit resemble the most original sending story? Make as many connections as you can, and let the students make as many connections as they can. Talk about how it feels to be part of a great, epic, heart-warming, original sending story as the church.

::CONVEY::

If you are pressed for time this week, consider condensing your time in order make a brief comment on each point.

Remember, this is merely a suggested outline adaptation for a middle school group. If you decide to incorporate one or more option into your group time, you will likely have to be very selective on the material you decide to teach through. Keep in mind that each class is different, and as the leader guide suggests, personalize the lesson content for your class by determining what elements are most applicable. Don't feel pressured to teach through all of the content in a single meeting, but instead help middle school students to see the main overall point and big picture the lesson is conveying.

::COLLIDE::

See Leader Guide