

MESSAGE JOURNEY LESSON: A Heart That Is On Fire

SLIDE 1:

FOR TODAY:

In today's lesson the kids will learn God wants them to have a heart that is on FIRE for Him. As you initiate discussion with the kids throughout the lesson you will be helping them see that:

- We need to give ourselves a spiritual heart checkup.
- If we see our heart is not on FIRE we need to make some changes so our heart can be revived.
- The Early Church shows us what people with their heart on FIRE look like.
- FIRE doesn't burn without some work.
- Daily attention to our heart condition keeps the FIRE burning.
- God does His part and expects us to do ours.
- It makes a difference when other people see the FIRE in our hearts.

NOTE: The words in italics following questions are some answers you are looking for the kids to give. If they don't seem to understand the questions, guide them by giving one or two of the suggested answers.

FOR TODAY'S GAME:

- No extra materials are needed.
- If you have a small group and this game doesn't work out well for you USE the Fire and Ice Game at the end of the Lesson under Additional Activities. **You will need a long rope or something to mark a long line for this game.**

FOR TODAY'S MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

You will need:

- a stick,
- paper towel roll, or rolled up newspaper

FOR ADDITIONAL GAMES/ACTIVITIES:

- Long Rope or Something To Mark A Long Line
- One Coin - for Heads or Tails Game
- Connect 4 Game
- Watch/ timer or your phone

GETTING STARTED:

- Check out the website for general instructions.
- You can use this lesson in numerous ways.
 - Present it on a computer.
 - Present it on a mobile device.
 - Cast it to your tv.

When you are ready you can **MOVE ON TO THE NEXT SLIDE:**

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SLIDE 2:

VIDEO

Acts 2 Bible Trivia

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wTkeGxqLddU&list=PLtogIH3NLJjm0cEPFRfKHJAJnJVl4-993&index=5>

PARENT NOTES:

- PLAY VIDEO. During the video - interact with the kids asking them the questions and what they think the answers are.
- After video go to NEXT SLIDE.
- Use the DISCUSSION QUESTIONS to talk about this video.

SLIDE 3:

VIDEO DISCUSSION

Acts 2 Bible Trivia

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- How many answers did you get right?
- Where is the Book of Acts in the Bible? *New Testament, Right after John*
- If you wanted to know more about the questions on the Video what Chapter in Acts could you read? *Chapter 2*

- Move to NEXT SLIDE for GAME - Pulling Up

SLIDE 4:

NOTE: If games do not work with your group/family size, find an activity to participate in together. Check out some of the extra activities at the end of the lesson to see if any of them will work.

GAME: PULLING UP

ITEMS NEEDED:

One of the Praise and Worship Songs or a Worship song played from your mobile device.

GAME PREPARATION:

- NONE

GAME INTRODUCTION:

SAY: This is a competition between the guys and girls.

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- The girls score a point if there are more boys standing in the middle of the circle when the music stops.
- The boys score a point if there are more girls in the middle.

GAME INSTRUCTIONS:

- Have the group sit down on the floor in a large circle.
- If your group is large enough ask for 3 girl volunteers and 3 boy volunteers.
- If this take most of your group then use 2 girls and 2 boys.
- Have the volunteers stand in the middle of the circle.
- When the music starts, each of the girls in the middle must find someone of the opposite sex, grab his/her hand and pull him/her to a standing position and then sit in in his/her place.
- This switching of places continues in a fast-paced manner.
- The person sitting in the circle must STAND when someone grabs his/her hand.
- After a short time, stop the music.
- Count the number of guys and the number of girls in the middle.
- The team that has the LEAST number of people standing gets one point.
- Play several rounds of this game before declaring a WINNER.
- Start each new round with the people who are standing in the middle when the last round ended.
- At the end of the game have the kids sit down in a circle so that you can briefly discuss the game using these DISCUSSION QUESTIONS.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What was hard about this game?
- What was easy about this game?
- God wants to reach out for

GAME WRAP UP:

- **SAY:** Go to NEXT SLIDE to begin Praise and Worship.

SLIDE 5:

PRAISE & WORSHIP

ONE WAY

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G689PIEXiXk&list=PLF40DBBF6A6E09FDC&index=14>

WORSHIP NOTES:

- Tell kids to turn so they can see TV.
- Press PLAY to begin Praise and Worship
- Have kids stand up for Praise and Worship
- Sing with kids and encourage everyone to participate.
- Encourage the kids to clap and be active in their praise.
- After song has finished MOVE to NEXT SLIDE for the lesson.

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SLIDE 6:

TEACHING

PARENT NOTES:

- When you go to the doctor why does he always listen to your heart?
- Why is a healthy heart important?
- What about your spiritual heart? Does it ever need a checkup?

- Click NEXT SLIDE for SCRIPTURE READING.

SLIDE 7:

SCRIPTURE READING

Test yourselves to make sure you are solid in the faith. Don't drift along taking everything for granted. Give yourselves regular checkups. You need firsthand evidence, not mere hearsay, that Jesus Christ is in you. Test it out. If you fail the test, do something about it. **2 Corinthians 13:5 (MSG)**

PARENT NOTES:

- Read the scripture to the kids or have individual kids read parts of the scripture.
- What would a checkup for your spiritual heart look like?
- God wants us to have a heart that is ALIVE and on FIRE for Him.
- We can give ourselves a heart checkup by asking ourselves some simple questions.

- Go to next SLIDE for SPIRITUAL HEART TEST.

SLIDE 8:

SPIRITUAL HEART TEST

- Have kids answer these questions one at a time.
- After they are finished - move to the NEXT SLIDE to continue DISCUSSION.

1. When I do something wrong

- I say I am sorry and ask for forgiveness quickly
- I try to blame someone else
- I act like I didn't do anything

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2. I read my Bible
 - Every day
 - Almost every day
 - Once in awhile
 - Never
3. I pray and talk to God
 - Every day
 - Only when I have a problem
 - When I eat
 - Only when someone tells me to
4. I _____ tell others about Jesus
 - Love to
 - Am afraid to

SLIDE 9:

SPIRITUAL HEART TEST TEACHING

PARENT NOTES:

- **SAY:** We can tell by the way we answered those 4 questions what condition our heart is in.
- If we are excited about God and the things that God has for us to do we have a heart that is ALIVE and on FIRE.
- But a heart that isn't excited about God and the things that God has going on needs to be REVIVED or brought back to life. The fire has gone out or is about to go out. We need to do something to get the flames burning again.
- The people in the Early Church give us good examples to follow when we want a heart that is on FIRE.
- Their hearts were dead and then God did some spiritual CPR and brought them to life.
- Let's watch our next video to see what it looks like to have a heart on FIRE.

- Go to next SLIDE for VIDEO.

SLIDE 10:

TEACHING VIDEO

The Early Church

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rms6KePjIZ8>

PARENT NOTES:

- After the Video go to NEXT SLIDE for LOGO.

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SLIDE 11:

TEACHING

PARENT NOTES:

- When you build a fire you have to do some work to get that fire started and then there is work involved to keep the flames burning nice and bright.
- To have a heart that is on FIRE we have to do some work!

- Go to NEXT SLIDE for Let's Start a FIRE!
- You will spend some time teaching about each SLIDE.

SLIDE 12:

LET'S START A FIRE! -

Our time together at church on Sunday mornings is not enough to keep our heart flames burning.

PARENT NOTES:

- A fire doesn't burn that gets attention just once a week.
- Go to the NEXT SLIDE for the NEXT POINT!

SLIDE 13:

LET'S START A FIRE! -

Read your Bible.

PARENT NOTES:

- The people in the Early Church devoted themselves to the apostles teaching. The apostles were teaching about Jesus.
- The word devoted means they spent a lot of time listening and learning.
- Your Bible is where God teaches us and speaks to us about who He is and what He wants us to do, but we need to be devoted!
- The men on the Road to Emmaus said in Luke 24:32 "When Jesus talked to us on the road, it felt like a fire burning in us. It was exciting when he explained the true meaning of the Scriptures."
- Hearing God talk to you personally through His Word is exciting!
- Get Mom and Dad to help you come up with a plan for reading your Bible.

- Go to the NEXT SLIDE for the NEXT POINT!

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SLIDE 14:

LET'S START A FIRE! -

Pray

PARENT NOTES:

- Make time for God. Make Him #1. This takes some real work, but it will definitely fan those heart flames if you will spend time talking to God and listening to Him everyday.
- Set aside time just for God.
 - Talk to Him before you leave for school or before you get your schoolwork started.
 - Talk to Him throughout the day.
 - Talk to Him before you go to bed.
 - Talk to Him about everything!
- If you think you don't have time for God figure out what is using up all your time and make some changes so God gets priority.
- Go to the NEXT SLIDE for the NEXT POINT!

SLIDE 15:

LET'S START A FIRE! -

Repent

PARENT NOTES:

- Don't let sin get in your way. Ask God to forgive you as soon as you do something wrong. Ask other people to forgive you as well and then move on.
- Go to the NEXT SLIDE for the NEXT POINT!

SLIDE 16:

LET'S START A FIRE! -

Spread the Flame

PARENT NOTES:

- The best way to keep your FIRE burning bright is to obey what God is telling you to do.
- God is giving you lots and lots of opportunities every day to share Him with other people. These opportunities are small things you can do for someone else. Listen and look around for what God wants you to do. It even be as simple as a smile. Just do something!
- Be bold! You have a FIRE on the inside of you.
- Go to the NEXT SLIDE for DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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SLIDE 17:

TEACHING

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What are some things that keep you from spending time with God each day?
- What is one small change you can make to give you time to work on your spiritual heart condition?
- Why do you think it is important for us to spend time with God every day? *A fire won't keep burning if you don't add wood to it. Time with God makes your heart strong. Your heart needs the fuel that comes from spending time with God in order to burn brightly.*
- What condition would your heart be in if Sunday morning is the only time you spend with the Lord? *Weak, no power, not excited about Jesus, no FIRE*
- What did the men on the road to Emmaus say about their heart after Jesus explained the scriptures to them? *They said it felt like a fire burning inside them. It was exciting when Jesus explained the scripture to them.*
- What is one small thing you did this past week for someone else?
- Why is it important that other people see the FIRE in your heart? *It makes them curious about God, they know they can talk to you about their problems, they need God and can see you can help them find Him.*
- How can you talk to God when you have people all around you? *By silently saying a prayer. You could even whisper a prayer.*

PARENT NOTES:

- God tells us what to do in today's Memory Verse.
- Click NEXT SLIDE for MEMORY VERSE

SLIDE 18:

MEMORY VERSE

*Don't burn out; keep yourselves fueled and aflame. **Romans 12:11 (MSG)***

PARENT NOTES:

- Let's read our Memory Verse together.
- We can ask God for anything. We know He wants us to be excited about Him, to be on FIRE, so let's talk to Him about that during our Prayer Time today.
- Go To the NEXT SLIDE for PRAYER TIME.

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SLIDE 19:

PRAYER TIME

PARENT NOTES:

- Begin Prayer time by having kids spread out and find a place that is not close to anyone else.
- Ask if anyone has something they would like to pray about.
- Ask for volunteers to pray for those requests.
- Lead kids in prayer today giving them a few minutes to pray about each topic:
 - Confess your sin to God - anything you have done against God or others. Ask God for forgiveness.
 - Ask God to revive your heart so that is it on FIRE for Him.
 - Ask God to help you make Him first place in your life.
 - Ask God to help you become devoted to His Word, to have ears to hear what He is saying to you in His Word.
 - Ask God to help you make conversation with Him part of your life everyday.
 - Ask God to fill you with His power and boldness.
 - Thank God for His love and His help in fanning the flames in your heart into a bright fire others can see.
- Go to the NEXT SLIDE for MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY!

SLIDE 20:

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

*Don't burn out; keep yourselves fueled and aflame. **Romans 12:11 (MSG)***

ITEMS NEEDED:

A stick, paper towel tube, or a rolled up newspaper

GAME PREPARATION:

Make sure you have one of the items needed for the game

GAME INSTRUCTIONS:

- Have the kids sit in a circle.
- **SAY:** When you build a fire you need some firewood. Today we are going to pretend that our stick, paper towel tube, or newspaper (whatever you chose) is our firewood.
- Hand the firewood to one person in the circle.
- To practice the verse today - the person with the firewood will say the first word of the verse and then pass the wood to the person beside them in the circle.
- The 2nd person will say the second word in the verse.
- Continue passing the firewood around the circle with each person saying the next word in the verse and the scripture reference.
- When the group has said the entire verse and reference start again.

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- Practice in this way several times.
- When finished working on the verse go to next slide for VIDEO.

SLIDE 21:

WRAP VIDEO

God Uses Little Things

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3CHSb_yP4BY

PARENT NOTES:

- Push PLAY to start the VIDEO.
- After video go to NEXT SLIDE for WRAP UP DISCUSSION.

SLIDE 22:

TEACHING WRAP UP

PARENT NOTES:

- Have the kids sit close to you for Wrap Up.
- **SAY:** It's good for us to give our heart a checkup.
- God wants you to be excited about Him and what He is doing in your life and in the life of the people around you.
- If you aren't excited about Jesus and aren't doing the things we learned about today you have some work to do.
- If you are excited about Jesus you have some work to do too.
- We keep ourselves ready for action every day in God's Kingdom by doing the work of reading and studying the Bible, praying, confessing sin, and being alert and obedient.
- God sees His amazing life on the inside of you and He wants you to see it too.
- He will do His part. Make sure you are doing your part and your heart will have a flame inside it that everyone can see!

- Go to NEXT SLIDE for ADDITIONAL GAMES/ACTIVITIES

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SLIDE 23:

ADDITIONAL GAMES/ ACTIVITIES:

GAME : Fire and Ice

- You will need the piece of black rope from the kids closet.

GAME INSTRUCTIONS:

- Lay the rope across the middle of the floor.
- Have the kids stand next to the rope. Designate one side of the rope to be FIRE and the other side to be ICE.
- You will call out "FIRE" or "ICE".
- On "FIRE" all the kids are to jump to the FIRE side of the rope and move around as if on fire. There should be a lot of movement.
- On "ICE" the kids will jump to that designated side of the rope and freeze. Absolutely NO movement.
- Players are out if they are not moving on FIRE or if they move about on ICE.
- This game gets interesting as you call out directions quickly or repeat the same direction multiple times.
- Kids that are called out must sit out until you have only one or two players remaining.
- This game goes pretty quickly if you are strict about the rules

GAME : Heads or Tails

- You will need one coin (a quarter would probably work best)

GAME INSTRUCTIONS:

- Have everyone stand up.
- Tell the kids they need to select either heads or tails before you flip the coin each time.
- Kids indicate HEADS by putting both hands on their head. They indicate TAILS by putting both hands on their hips.
- Whatever the coin says, those people who chose that stay in the game and advance to the next flip. The kids who chose the opposite must sit down and wait for the next game.
- Repeat this over and over until you are left with one final winner.

TIPS:

- Don't worry, this game moves fast.
- Before you flip, say "ONE-TWO-THREE- Lock it in!" so that the players all lock in their heads or tails at the same time.
- No switching selection after you say, "Lock it in!". If a player does switch they are out.
- Let the winner be the coin flipper for the game after they win.

GAME: ROCK-PAPER-SCISSORS

- *No items are needed for this game*

Have the kids pair up to play this traditional challenge game.

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Rock" is a fist...

"Paper" is a flat hand...

and "Scissors" are the pointer and middle fingers making snipping motions.

- Partners shake their fists three times---and then show their chosen motion on the count of three.
- Winning hands are decided as follows:
 - Rock breaks/dulls scissors...
 - Scissors cuts paper...
 - Paper covers rock.
- Play three or 5 times...and see who has the most wins.

GAME: SPEED CONNECT FOUR

You will need the Connect Four Game and a watch or timer on your phone.

- The two contestants will have one minute to play a game of Connect Four.
- The object is to get four in a row, as usual, but contestants do not have to take turns. Instead, they will race to put as many pieces into the game as they can.
- Judges will stand by and watch, and as soon as one person connects four in a row, a winner is declared.
- If contestants run out of time or pieces with no clear winner, both are disqualified.
- If a winner is declared in the first game, the second pair of players will face off.
- If a winner is declared, the two winners will face off in one final round.
- (Note: if no winner is declared in the first game, then the second pair will automatically be in the final round.) In the final round, if there's no clear winner, count how many black and red pieces are in the game at the end. The person with the most pieces in the game wins.