

“Family Mechanics” - Lesson 3

“When The Family Breaks Down”

Main Focus:

God can help us through the pain of divorce!



Power Verse:

“Give your burdens to the Lord, and he will take care of you...”

- Psalm 55:22



Whatchagaddaknow:

“When I Don’t Know What To Do,
God Will See Me Through!”

LEADER’S INFO

Divorce is one of the most painful experiences a child can walk through and unfortunately, many of the kids in your church have already faced it or are facing it right now. They may not always talk about it, but the hurt, confusion, and sense of loss run deep. This lesson is designed to meet them in that pain and remind them of an unshakable truth: God is with them, and He will carry them through.

When the family breaks down, it can be devastating. Kids sometimes blame themselves for their parents’ divorce. This can really cause problems throughout their life if they don’t handle it properly.

In this lesson, the children will learn that God can bring them through the challenging experience of divorce. Despite the pain, God can heal their hearts and help them grow stronger day by day.



“The Spark” Intro Video

“We Have A Breakdown”



“Whatchagaddaknow” Video

Disco Dave teaches “Whatchagaddaknow”



Character Skit

“Otto Mobile”



Offering Time



Game Time!

“Puzzle Mania”



Modern Life Story

“Jeff’s Family Breaks Down”



Power Verse Video

“Give your burdens to the Lord, and he will take care of you...”

- Psalm 55:22



Call To Action

“When The Family Breaks Down”



Rewind!

Review Game



Small Group Experience

Main Focus:

God can help us through the pain of divorce!



Power Verse:

“Give your burdens to the Lord, and he will take care of you...”

- Psalm 55:22



Whatchagaddaknow:

“When I Don’t Know What To Do,
God Will See Me Through!”

Lesson 3 Materials Needed:

“The Spark” Intro Video

- “Lesson 3 - The Spark” Intro Video

“Whatchagaddaknow” Video

- “Whatchagaddaknow” Teaching Video
- “Whatchagaddaknow” Trigger Video

Character Skit

- “Otto Mobile” Theme Graphic/Music

Offering Time

- “Offering Time” Bumper Video

Game Time!

- “Game Time!” Bumper Video
- “Puzzle Mania” Graphic
- Two Puzzles

Modern Life Story

- “Jeff’s Family Breaks Down” Graphics

Power Verse Video

- “Lesson 3 Power Verse” Video

Call To Action

- “When The Family Breaks Down” Graphics
- Three Volunteers

Rewind!

- “Rewind!” Bumper Video
- “Rewind!” Lesson 3 Graphics

Small Group Experience

- Modern Life Story Print Piece
- Crayons, Pencils, Or Markers
- Potato
- Marker
- A Way To Play Music
- Psalm 55:22 Print Piece

“The Spark” Intro Video

“We Have A Breakdown!”

“Whatchagaddaknow” Video

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Character Skit

“Otto Mobile”

Offering Time

Game Time!

“Puzzle Mania”

Modern Life Story

“Jeff’s Family Breaks Down”

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Call To Action

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Rewind!

Review Game

Small Group Experience



Introduction to “The Spark” Intro Video

Leader: Today, we are continuing with our series called “Family Mechanics.” We are giving our families a Biblical tune-up to keep them running smooth!

Let me ask you something. Have you ever been on a road trip when the car suddenly broke down? You’re cruisin’ along, snacks in hand, windows down, music up... Then — BAM! CLANK! PSSSSHHHHH!!! Smoke everywhere. Dad’s talking to the engine like it’s a person. Mom’s calling for a tow truck. And your little brother or sister keeps yelling, “I have to go to the bathroom!”

When your car breaks down, it is the WORST. Everything was going fine — and then, out of nowhere, it all stops working. Well, sadly, sometimes that happens to the family. Some families go through hard times and can definitely feel like they are broken down on the side of the road.

Let’s check out this video to see a little more of what I am talking about...

(play “The Spark - Intro Video Lesson 3”)

Leader: Hopefully you never find yourself in a situation where your family breaks down. But I realize many of you have already experienced this. Your parents divorced, and it left you super confused and sad. Here’s the good news...you’re not alone!

God loves you, and He hasn’t forgotten about your family. No matter how confusing or painful things get, He’s right there beside you to comfort you, strengthen you, and give you hope. We are going to learn all about how awesome God helps us - even if our family breaks down.

But, before we do that, we need to find out “Whatchagaddaknow.”

(play “Whatchagaddaknow” Teaching Video)



CHARACTER SKIT

Character: “**Otto Mobile**” *(He is a passionate car enthusiast! He loves ALL thins cars and can’t stop talking about them. He is dressed in loud colors, a hat, and sunglasses.)*

Otto: *(Enters with a toy car)* Vroom-vroom! Look at this beauty! The Flashy Firebolt 5000! It’s so fast it practically redefines the word “zoom”!

Leader: Hey there, Otto! I see you’re in high gear today! Here to introduce us to another piece of your car collection?

Otto: *(Excitedly)* You bet! Each car is a classic! I could talk about them all day—like when I raced my toy cars down the ramp and ended up in a pile of pillows!

Leader: *(Laughing)* That sounds like a soft landing! But I want to talk to you about something important today.

Otto: *(Curious)* Important? Is it about a new model car I need to add to my collection? ‘Cause I’m always ready to rev up my engine for that!

Leader: Not quite! I want to talk about something a little more serious. Today, we are talking about when families go through tough times.

Otto: Tough times? Like when someone spills a milkshake in the back seat, or when your car stereo stops working, and all you hear is static for an hour?

Leader: Kind of! But more like emotional tough times than sticky and staticky ones.

Otto: *(Looking thoughtful)* Hmm... so like when you run out of gas on the side of the road and your parents are arguing about who was right about when they should have stopped for gas?

Leader: It sounds like you’ve experienced that before! But, yes! Sometimes, your family, just like that car, breaks down.

Otto: *(Sadly)* Oof. That stuff really stalls your joy, huh?

Leader: It sure can. But here’s the big idea: When your family is going through something hard, it’s not your fault. And it’s not the end.

Otto: So... I don’t have to try and fix it with duct tape and a tiny tree air freshener?

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CHARACTER SKIT

(Continued)

Leader: Nope. That's not your job! Those problems your family face are not your fault, and there isn't really anything you can do about them. The grown ups have to figure those out.

Otto: But, what if the problem makes me sad? And no one can make me feel better?

Leader: Well, I have some good news! There is **NOTHING** that is too big for God! He is the One who brings healing and help. He's always with you—even when things break down.

Otto: So, God's like... the master mechanic?

Leader: That's right! The best in the business. He sees what's wrong, He knows how to help, and He brings comfort when things aren't running right.

Otto: Whoa! He can do all that?

Leader: He sure can! And when things feel confusing or painful at home, remember: God hasn't left you. He's riding with you the whole time.

Otto: That's good. 'Cause I was starting to feel like my emotional transmission was stuck in reverse.

Leader: *(Smiling)* You're not stuck, Otto. God can help families heal. And in the meantime, He gives us people to talk to, a church family to lean on, and His Word to remind us that He never leaves us.

Otto: YES! I may not understand all the inner workings, but I know one thing—I can trust the One behind the wheel!

Leader: You sure can. And remember, no matter what kind of bumps or twists your family faces, God is always with you.

Otto: It's time to take on the highway of life! VROOOM! See ya soon, speedsters! Until next time, I am Otto Mobile! Always use your blinker! Bye now!

(EXITS WHILE THEME MUSIC PLAYS)



GAME TIME

“Puzzle Mania”

Items Needed For Game:

Two puzzles (*20 pieces or less*)

.....

Preparation:

Choose an equal number of boys and girls to play the game.

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How To Play:

Show the puzzles to each team (*so they know what they are supposed to look like*). Then, dump the pieces in front of them. When you say, “Go!” the teams work together to put their puzzle back together again. The first team to complete their puzzle wins!



Modern Life Story

“Jeff’s Family Breaks Down”

Materials Needed:

The graphic slides for Lesson 3; begin with the slide that says “Modern Life Story”; follow the instructions below, changing the slides to follow along with the story (*as shown*)

Preparation:

Familiarize yourself with the story; tell it with feeling.

The Story:

Today’s story is about a young boy named Jeff. (*show pic*) Jeff was an average, happy six-year-old. He was the son of two amazing parents. Jeff’s parents loved him very much. They did almost everything together. They had picnics, went to the movies, went on vacation - you name it.



Jeff loved his parents, and they really loved him. They raised Jeff to know that God loved him and had a big plan for his life. They wanted what was best for Jeff, and Jeff knew that his parents would always be there for him when he needed them.



(*show pic*) One day, when Jeff got home from school, he noticed his parents were in the kitchen talking very seriously to each other. Jeff wondered what was going on, but he didn’t say anything. He was very quiet. Then, his mom and dad sat him down and began to talk to Jeff about something very important.



They told Jeff they had been having trouble getting along for a very long time. There were some things that had happened that caused their marriage to fall apart. Suddenly, they mentioned the word Jeff hoped he would never hear... “divorce.”



(*show pic*) Jeff couldn’t believe it. His parents were getting a divorce. He ran to his bedroom and began to cry. He could have cried for hours. His family was broken, and he was so full of pain. He didn’t think he would ever be the same again. He wondered if it was his fault that his parents were getting a divorce. They assured him it wasn’t, but how could he know that for sure?

Jeff began to do what he always did when he was facing something big in life and began to pray. He prayed and asked God to help him make sense of all the pain he was feeling. He prayed for God to heal his broken heart and help him be strong through this very hard time. Do you know what? (*show pic*) As Jeff prayed, God surrounded Jeff with His love. God healed his broken heart and reminded him how special he is. God reminded Jeff that He would always be there for him - no matter what. Even through the difficult pain of divorce, God strengthened Jeff and helped him get through it.

In your lesson today, you’re going to learn that God can help kids whose families break down. He will always help, heal, and strengthen you - no matter what!



Call To Action

“When The Family Breaks Down”

Materials Needed:

The “When The Family Breaks Down” graphics; three volunteers

Preparation:

Begin with the slide titled, “When The Family Breaks Down”; Choose ahead of time one very small child, one taller and older child, and one big, strong Kids Church worker

The Message: *(title slide)*



All of us probably know someone whose parents have gotten a divorce. It might be someone at school, in church, or even you. Raise your hand if someone you know has had their family go through a divorce. *(almost all hands should go up)* As you can see, today’s lesson applies to just about everyone in this room. Even if you never have to go through the pain of your parents divorcing - and we pray that you never do have to go through that - you probably know someone who will have to go through it. Today, we are going to learn some things we can share with those who have had to go through this awful experience of when the family breaks down.

The first thing you need to remember is...

It’s Not Your Fault *(slide)*



The saddest thing that could happen through a divorce is that a child begins to think it was their fault their parents got a divorce. They begin to think, “If only I had done more, acted better, or not gotten in trouble so much...then Mom and Dad would have stayed together.” Boys and girls, hear me very clearly...if your parents are divorced...it’s not your fault!

Parents have to make decisions they feel are best. Even though they may not want to hurt the children by getting a divorce, sometimes they make that choice because they think it’s what is best. It’s important for you to know there is **NOTHING** you could have done to keep it from happening. You didn’t make the decision for them. That was something they chose on their own because they thought it was the best decision.

Parents make decisions that kids have no “say” in. Did you choose what color of socks your dad put on this morning? Probably not. Did you choose the way your mom fixed her hair this morning? Nope! Why is that? It is because parents make decisions for themselves. It is **NOT** your fault that your parents chose divorce. Never let the devil lie to you and tell you that you could have done something to prevent it. You couldn’t have. It was not your decision, and it is **NOT** your fault. Also, you need to remember...

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Call To Action (Continued)

It's Not Your Problem (slide)



The Bible says that Jesus hurts when we hurt. He desires to help us and comfort us in our pain. All we have to do is give our pain to Him. He knows divorce hurts us. He knows how sometimes you lay in bed at night, crying yourself to sleep. Don't try to handle this pain on your own. It's way too big for you to handle by yourself.

(bring the small child volunteer up on the stage) Take this kid, for example. Let's say he represents you. *(bring the bigger kid up on the stage)* And this person represents the pain of divorce. Now, we could try to handle the problem of the pain of divorce on our own...but it's not going to get us very far. *(instruct the small child to pick up the large child and carry them across the room)* It's not working very well, is it? *(this could end up being really funny as the small child attempts to carry the large child - it's okay; let them laugh about it)*

Now, what God wants us to do is call on Him, because there is no pain or problem in the world that is too big for God to handle. *(bring up the big, strong Kids Church worker)* This person is going to represent God. You know what God wants to do? He wants to respond when we call on Him. If we will ask for His help, He will carry the pain for us. *(instruct the worker to pick up the large child and carry them out of the room)* And He will take the pain completely away! Let's give God a hand!

You see? You don't need to try to carry the pain on your own. It's not yours to carry. It's not **your** problem; it's **God's** problem. Just give it to Him, and He will carry it for you. Finally, if your family is broken down by divorce, you must remember...



It's Not The End (slide)

Just because your parents have gotten a divorce...that doesn't mean your life is over. That doesn't mean it's the end of all your happiness. You get to choose whether you let this pain beat you or not. What God wants you to do is pick up the pieces, let Him put your heart back together again, and learn from the mistakes of others so that you can become all God wants you to be. I believe you can do it! God believes you can do it!

Once you let God take control of the situation, you will begin to see Him working miracles in your life. You can choose to give this pain to God and come out on top, ready to let God take control of your life and shape you into what He wants you to be.

ALTAR RESPONSE *(play soft music)*

Allow children to give their pain to God and let Him put their hearts back together again. Remind them they don't have to carry this burden themselves. This is not the end. God has a plan for the rest of their lives!



Materials Needed:

“REWIND!” Lesson 3 Graphics; “REWIND!” Bumper Video

Preparation:

Play the “REWIND!” Bumper Video; Begin with the slide titled “REWIND!”; there is a slide for each question

1. Whatchagaddaknow today?

Answer: “When I Don’t Know What To Do, God Will See Me Through!”

2. How old was Jeff in our story?

Answer: Six

3. What did Jeff’s parents tell him they were doing?

Answer: Getting A Divorce

4. True or False: Jeff’s family never had happy moments.

Answer: False

5. What did Jeff do first when he found out his parents were getting divorced?

Answer: He Cried

6. Who comforted Jeff while he prayed?

Answer: God

7. According to our lesson today, “It’s Not Your _____.”

Answer: Fault

8. According to our lesson today, “It’s Not Your _____.”

Answer: Problem

9. According to our lesson today, “It’s Not The _____.”

Answer: End

10. Where was our Power Verse found?

Answer: Psalm 55:22