

CHURCH

God Story:

Getting Together | Acts 2:42-47; Hebrews 10:24-25

Big Question:

Why do we go to church?

Key Verse:

Let us consider how we can stir up one another to love. Let us help one another to do good works. | Hebrews 10:24 (NIRV)

Leader Tips:

- If one of your group's regular leaders is away, take the time to help whoever fills in become familiar with your usual routines.
- Emphasize that we can watch online teaching about Jesus or get together with a few friends and pray, but we must also continue to be the church together. We need one another and we're at our best together!

Ms My Story

- 1. Conversation Starter** **2 minutes**
Talk about activities that are easier and better to do in a group than alone. Introduce the Big Question for this week.
- 2. Intro Activity** **5 minutes**
Play a game that emphasizes being in church together.

Gs God Story Ls Life Story

- 3. Weekly Video** **12 minutes**
The video includes host, God Story, Life Story, and Key Verse segments.

Ms My Story

- 4. Small Group Activity** **12 minutes ***
Review the video teaching and Acts 2:42-47. Then create a group campfire craft that highlights today's Big Question.
- 5. Key Verse Activity** **8 minutes**
Review the new Key Verse, then practise stirring. End your time together in prayer.

Os Our Story

- 6. Dismissal**
Connect with parents and give them the take-home materials.

* Extendable activity



1. CONVERSATION STARTER

Supplies:

- Container
- Example cards

Before the Activity:

- Place the example cards in a container before the kids arrive.

Leader Tip:

- The Conversation Starter is a great way to help everyone feel welcome and build community! Use it to set the tone for your group's time together.

Instructions:

- As the kids arrive, welcome them and gather everyone in a group.
- Discuss: Can you think of something that's easier and better to do in a group than alone?
- Use the example cards to prompt the kids with ideas. Ask them to consider whether each activity is better done together or alone.
- Introduce this week's Big Question: **Why do we go to church?**
- Discuss: Is it better to worship God, learn about him, and serve others alone or together? Why?
- Depending on the size of your group, have the kids share their answers with the people sitting closest to them or with everyone.

2. INTRO ACTIVITY

Supplies:

- Masking tape

Before the Activity:

- Tape two squares on the floor in the middle of your group's space: a large one that's about two metres by two metres (six feet by six feet) and a smaller one that's about half that size. If needed, adjust the sizes to work well for your group.

Instructions:

- Gather everyone around the squares on the floor.
- Explain that the squares are the "big church" and the "little church."
- Tell the kids that when you say, "big church," everyone should get into the larger square as quickly as possible, then freeze. When you say, "little church," they should get into the smaller square and freeze. When you say, "out," everyone should leave the square and do the actions you assign them.
- Direct the kids to the two different squares. Emphasize that it may be squishy in the "little church" so they'll need to make room and help their friends. Point out how much fun it is to be in the church together!
- When you say, "out" and they leave a square, encourage everyone to have fun moving around your group's space. For example, direct everyone to pretend to swim around, to crawl, do a silly dance, march like a soldier, hop like a bunny, move like a robot, fly like a bird, etc. Do the actions alongside the kids to set the tone.
- To wrap up, invite everyone to share some of their favourite things about going to church.



3. WEEKLY VIDEO

Supplies:

- Video file

Instructions:

- Play the video. It contains:
 - Host segment
 - God Story (Getting Together | Acts 2:42-47; Hebrews 10:24-25)
 - Life Story (Kids sit around a campfire and chat about some big questions that most people encounter in their lives. This week's question is: **Why do we go to church?**)



4. SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

Supplies:

- Markers
- Craft paper
- Bibles
- Marshmallow cutouts
- Construction-paper sticks
- Glue sticks
- Tissue paper
- Wall-safe tape

Before the Activity:

- Draw a large campfire outline on the craft paper.

Instructions:

- Gather your small group to sit together.
- Discuss:
 - What question did they talk about in the video?
 - What was the God Story about?
- Make sure everyone has a Bible. Share them if needed.
- Demonstrate how to look up Acts 2:42-47.

- Start by looking up Acts in the table of contents.
- Read the passage aloud. If your group has some good readers, invite them to read.
- Discuss:
 - What do these verses tell us about what life was like for the people in the early church? (they liked being together, shared everything, were happy, helped people in need, praised God)
 - Does this sound like a group that you would want to hang out with?
 - What does it mean to be saved (see verse 47)? (Jesus made a way for us to know God and be in relationship with him; we can accept God's love and live our lives the way Jesus shows us to)
- Give each person a marshmallow cutout and a construction-paper stick.
- Place the glue sticks and markers where everyone can reach them.
- Encourage the kids to think of one reason why we go to church, then draw or write about it on their marshmallows.
- Guide everyone to glue their marshmallows onto the ends of their sticks.
- Place the craft-paper campfire and tissue paper in the middle of your workspace.
- As the kids finish up, ask them to start creating flames by gluing on the squares of tissue paper.
- Direct everyone to glue their completed marshmallows with sticks all around the campfire.
- Discuss the kids' answers to today's Big Question.
- Display the completed poster where parents will see it at pick-up time.

5. KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

Supplies:

- Key Verse sign
- Wall-safe tape
- Wooden spoon

Before the Activity:

- Hang the Key Verse sign where everyone can see it.

Instructions:

- Gather everyone back together.
- Read this month's Key Verse out loud, then encourage everyone to repeat it with you.
- Discuss:
 - What does it mean to "stir up one another to love"? (encourage one another to be loving and kind)
 - What are some good things we can do to encourage one another? (share, use kind words, be gentle and helpful, listen, include everyone, work together to help others, etc.)
- Direct everyone to stand up and spread out.
- Hold up the spoon, then dramatically stir an imaginary pot in front of you.
- Encourage the kids to say the verse again while following your example and pretending to stir.
- Have everyone sit down again.
- Ask the kids to think of one person who they can stir up (encourage) to love.
- Take turns thanking God for these people.
- Wrap up the prayer by asking for God's blessing on the kids.

Os Our Story

6. DISMISSAL

Supplies:

- Kids' crafts
- Take-home cards
- Key Verse cards

Before Dismissal:

- Place any crafts and take-home materials where everyone can access them easily.

Leader Tip:

- Take a moment to share with parents about their kids' experiences. Many parents will only hear about the morning from you.

Instructions:

- Greet parents as they arrive to pick up their kids.
- Give everyone take-home and Key Verse cards.
- Remind them to take any crafts.
- Make sure the security numbers match before the kids leave with their parents.