

# DIFFERENT

## God Story:

James's Letter | James 1-2

## Big Idea:

Living for Jesus means living a different way.

## Key Verse:

You are God's chosen people. You are holy and dearly loved. So put on tender mercy and kindness as if they were your clothes. Don't be proud. Be gentle and patient. | Colossians 3:12 (NIRV)

## Leader Tip:

This month, we're doing something less story-like by covering a letter. The letters in the Bible (aka the Epistles) have a lot going on in them, and there are many different things you could focus on. That's why we have a Big Idea for each lesson. The Big Idea helps bring into focus one thing that we really want the kids to learn, understand, and apply to their own lives.

## Ms My Story

- 1. Conversation Starter** **2 minutes**  
Lead into today's lesson by discussing differences in the kids' lives.
- 2. Intro Activity** **5 minutes**  
Challenge everyone to spot the differences in two pictures and then introduce this week's Big Idea.

## 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 then create a craft that emphasizes today's lesson and Big Idea.
- 5. Key Verse Activity** **8 minutes**  
Learn the new Key Verse and then practise saying it together as the kids play with a beach ball.

## Os Our Story

- 6. Dismissal**  
Connect with parents. Remember to give them take home cards!

\* Extendable activity





## 1. CONVERSATION STARTER

### Supplies:

- None

### Leader Tip:

- Use the Conversation Starter to set the tone for your group's time together.

### Instructions:

- a. As the kids arrive, gather them together in a group.
- b. Discuss:
  - What's one thing you do differently than most of your friends? (e.g., Do you put ketchup on something unusual? Do you keep something strange in your pocket?)
- c. 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:

- "Spot the Difference" pictures
- Wall-safe tape

### Before the Activity:

- Place the pictures at opposite ends of your group's space.

### Leader Tip:

- There are five differences between the two pictures.

### Instructions:

- a. Instruct the kids to work together to figure out the differences between the two pictures.
- b. Once they find all the differences, review and discuss them. Note that even the smallest differences become obvious after you notice them.
- c. (If time allows) Return to the Conversation Starter discussion question: What's one thing you do because you follow Jesus that's different than some of your friends who don't follow him?
- d. To wrap up, introduce today's Big Idea: **Living for Jesus means living a different way.**



### 3. WEEKLY VIDEO

#### Supplies:

- Video file

#### Leader Tip:

- Sit with the kids and encourage them to focus on the video as necessary.

#### Instructions:

- Play the video. It contains:
  - Host segment
  - God Story (James's Letter | James 1-2)
  - Life Story (Stephen studies drama and ballet in college. In that "me-centered" world, he tries to live for God, not himself.)



### 4. SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

#### Supplies:

- Tinfoil squares
- "Mirror" activity pages
- Markers
- Glue sticks

#### Leader Tip:

- Make sure everyone's names are written on their crafts.

#### Instructions:

- Gather your small group together.
- Discuss:
  - What was the God Story about in today's video?
  - What was the Life Story about?
  - God wants us to become more and more like Jesus. What are some ways that we could live differently than many other people because we love like Jesus?
- Give each person a tinfoil square and an activity page.
- Place the markers and glue sticks where everyone can reach them.
- Direct the kids to draw themselves on the tinfoil square as if it was a mirror.
- Guide them to glue their finished "mirrors" onto the middle of the activity page.
- Review the text on the activity page together.
- Encourage everyone to circle one or two things that they'd like to work on this week. Also, encourage them to brainstorm additional ideas to add to the page.
- When most of the kids are finished, invite them to share their pictures and discuss what they circled.
- Pray together as a small group.

## 5. KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

### Supplies:

- Key Verse sign
- Wall-safe tape
- Beach ball

### Before the Activity:

- Place the Key Verse sign somewhere that everyone can read it easily.

### Instructions:

- Gather everyone together in a large circle.
- Read Colossians 3:12 on the Key Verse sign.
- Discuss:
  - Who are God's chosen people? Who are the "dearly loved"? (you and me!)
  - What are we told to put on? (tender mercy and kindness) As if they were what? (our clothes)
  - Then the verse says, "Don't be..." what? (proud) What does "proud" mean? (feeling overly good about your own accomplishments)
  - What are we supposed to be instead of proud? (gentle and patient)
- Say the first sentence of the Key Verse and then throw the beach ball to someone. Prompt them to say the next sentence in the verse and then throw the ball to someone else. Continue until everyone has had a chance to say part of the verse. If time allows, trying speeding up!

## Os Our Story

## 6. DISMISSAL

### Supplies:

- Take home cards
- Key Verse cards
- Crafts

### Before Dismissal:

- Place all take home materials where everyone can access them easily.

### Leader Tip:

- Briefly tell 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 take home and Key Verse cards to parents.
- Remind kids to take any crafts with them.
- Make sure the kids' security numbers match parents' numbers before they leave.