

FROM ABOVE

God Story:

Greater | John 3:22-36

Big Idea:

Jesus is greater than everything else.

Key Verse:

"God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life." | John 3:16 (NIRV)

Leader Tip:

This week emphasize that there's no greater person to have ever walked the earth than Jesus. Jesus is God and God is number one!

Ms My Story

- 1. Conversation Starter** **2 minutes**
Lead into the lesson by discussing people who the kids think are great. Explain that **Jesus is greater than everything else!**
- 2. Intro Activity** **5 minutes**
Play a game of Would You Rather? to highlight that it can be difficult to choose which things are the greatest.

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 ***
Do a rapid-fire recap of the video teaching and then get creative making a Jesus mosaic.
- 5. Key Verse Activity** **8 minutes**
Challenge everyone to come up with a way to use a variety of props to teach John 3:16 to younger kids.

Os Our Story

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

* Extendable activity



1. CONVERSATION STARTER

Supplies:

- None

Leader Tips:

- Consider bringing in a picture of the person you admire as a visual for the kids.
- The Conversation Starter is a great way to make 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.
- Tell them about someone you admire.
- Ask:
 - Who is the greatest person you have ever met?
 - What makes that person so great?
- Depending on the size of your group, have the kids share their answers with the people sitting closest to them or with everyone.
- Note that there are many people who have done great things, but today we're focusing on the greatest person EVER!
- Introduce today's Big Idea: **Jesus is greater than everything else.**

2. INTRO ACTIVITY

Supplies:

- None

Instructions:

- Gather the kids to stand in the middle of your group's space.
- Tell them that they're going to play Would You Rather? You will give them two options. To choose between them, the kids will move to the area where you direct them.
- Give two options that are both great, for example:
 - Would you rather eat a one-pound gummy bear or one thousand chocolates?
 - Would you rather be able to fly like a bird or swim like a dolphin?
 - Would you rather have super strength or super smarts?
- For each round, point the kids to one side of your group's space for the first option and to the other side for the second option.
- Continue playing for as long as time and interest allow.
- Gather everyone back together.
- Ask the kids if it was ever difficult for them to choose between the two options. Explain that sometimes in life there are multiple things we think are great. Sometimes it's hard to know which is the greatest! Remind everyone that **Jesus is greater than everything else.**
- Let them know that today's Bible story is about someone who was great (John the Baptist) —but someone who came after him was even greater (Jesus)!

Gs God Story

Ls Life Story

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 (Greater | John 3:22-36)
 - Life Story (We're back in the Central African Republic to hear about two kids from different backgrounds who are working for peace.)

Ms My Story

4. SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

Supplies:

- Jesus activity pages
- Glue sticks
- Paper squares
- Markers

Leader Tip:

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

Instructions:

- Gather your small group to sit together.
- Discuss: What was the Life Story about in today's video?
- Tell the kids that you're going to do a rapid-fire recap of the God Story.
- Ask one of the following questions and then prompt the kids to shout out their answers quickly:

- Which book of the Bible is today's God Story from? (John)
 - Last week, we heard about Nicodemus. Jesus told him he had to be...what? (born again)
 - Before Jesus came to the Jordan River, who was baptizing people there? (John the Baptist)
 - Who did John say had to become more important to everyone? (Jesus!)
 - What did John compare Jesus to when he explained Jesus' importance to his disciples? (a groom; if the kids need a hint, hum "Here comes the bride")
 - What was John's job? (to point people towards Jesus)
 - Our job today is the same as John's was back then. What was it again? (to point people towards Jesus!)
- Let the kids know that the rapid-fire recap is done.
 - Discuss:
 - How could you point people towards Jesus when you're at school or at home or at other activities?
 - If we really believe that **Jesus is greater than everything else**, how does that change our priorities? How does it shape our lives?
 - Pray for what the kids just shared and discussed.
 - Give each person an activity page.
 - Place the other supplies where everyone can reach them easily.
 - Direct the kids to make a Jesus mosaic craft (see sample below). Encourage them to be creative!
 - Suggest that everyone place their craft somewhere they will see it often and be reminded of what they learned today.



5. KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

Supplies:

- Key Verse sign
- Wall-safe tape
- Plush heart and sun
- Globe ball
- Peacock picture

Before the Activity:

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

Instructions:

- Remain in your small group.
- Hold up the peacock picture and explain that this bird was a symbol of eternal life for early Christians.
- Show everyone the rest of the supplies.
- Challenge the kids to come up with a creative way to use all the supplies to teach John 3:16 to kids who are younger than them.
- Give everyone up to five minutes to prepare.
- Gather all the small groups back together.
- Invite each group to share what they came up with.

Os Our Story

6. DISMISSAL

Supplies:

- Kids' crafts
- Take-home cards
- Key Verse colouring pages
- 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 cards and a Key Verse colouring page.
- Offer Key Verse cards to anyone who has not gotten one this month.
- Remind them to take any crafts.
- Make sure the security numbers match before the kids leave with their parents.