

CLOSER

God Story:

Friend of God | James 4

Big Idea:

When we live for Jesus, we care more what God thinks than what people think.

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 what happens when the kids like things that their friends don't like.
- 2. Intro Activity** **5 minutes**
Discuss who the kids turn to when they have a problem and then work together to prioritize whose opinions matter the most to them.

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 today's video teaching and then create a door hanger to take home as a reminder of James 4:8.
- 5. Key Verse Activity** **8 minutes**
Race to collect Key Verse cards, place them in order, and use fly swatters to slap out the verse.

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:

- As the kids arrive, gather them together in a group.
- Discuss: What's something you like that your best friend doesn't like? What happens when your friend doesn't like something you think is really cool?
- Depending on the size of your group, have the kids share their answers with the people sitting closest to them or with everyone.
- Introduce today's Big Idea: **When we live for Jesus, we care more what God thinks than what people think.**

2. INTRO ACTIVITY

Supplies:

- Marker
- Masking tape
- Blocks

Instructions:

- Discuss: When you have a problem or want someone's opinion, whom do you go to (e.g., parent, sibling, friend, babysitter, grandparent, teacher, God)?
- Write each answer on a piece of tape and place it on a block. Be sure to write "God" on one, too.
- Direct the kids to work together to stack the blocks in the order of whose opinions matter most to them. Facilitate as needed, but let them discuss their ideas and come to their own conclusions.
- When they have a consensus, review their reasoning.
- To wrap up, remind them that today's Big Idea is: **When we live for Jesus, we care more what God thinks than what people think.**



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 (Friend of God | James 4)
 - Life Story (Clara is a young girl who is living differently because of Jesus.)

Ms My Story

4. SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

Supplies:

- Cardstock door hanger
- James 4:8 labels
- Markers
- Stickers

Leader Tip:

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

Instructions:

- Gather your small group together.
- Discuss:
 - What is this month's Key Verse? (Colossians 3:12)
 - What was the God Story about in today's video?
 - What was the Life Story about?
- Say, "Sometimes we care too much about what other people think and not enough about what God wants for us. We're going to create something to remind us to keep growing closer to God."
- Give each person a door hanger and a label.
- Place the markers and stickers where everyone can reach them easily.
- Direct everyone to decorate their door hanger.
- As the kids work on their crafts, discuss:
 - How do you think you could get closer to God?
 - What do you think could happen when you are closer to God?
- When most kids have finished working on their door hanger, pray together. Ask God to help the kids draw closer to him and care more about his way.

5. KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

Supplies:

- Key Verse sign
- Wall-safe tape
- Key Verse cards (two sets in different colours)
- Fly swatters

Before the Activity:

- Place the Key Verse sign where everyone can read it.
- Mix up the Key Verse cards and scatter them in an open area on the floor.

Instructions:

- Divide the kids into two teams.
- Give each team a fly swatter.
- Assign them each one of the Key Verse cards colours.
- Challenge the teams to race to collect their cards, put them in order, and then use the fly swatter to slap each card and say Colossians 3:12 as a group.

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.