

APPEARANCE

God Story:

Jesus Appears | John 20:19-29

Big Idea:

We can believe without seeing.

Key Verse:

Lead a life of love, just as Christ did. He loved us. He gave himself up for us. | Ephesians 5:2a (NIRV)

Leader Tips:

- The teaching videos are usually 12 to 15 minutes long. Map out your time and plan accordingly! Make sure you can complete the full activity after the video at the very least.
- Emphasize that even those closest to Jesus had doubts—and doubts are okay. Like Thomas, we can take our doubts to Jesus.

Ms My Story

- 1. Conversation Starter** **2 minutes**
Lead into the lesson by talking about things the kids believe in even though they've never seen them.
- 2. Intro Activity** **5 minutes**
Play a game in which someone who's blindfolded must decide whether to believe a leader's description of what the rest of the group is doing.

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. Then look for a hidden message on an activity page and draw something that will help the kids remember what they learned today.
- 5. Prayer Activity** **8 minutes**
Read John 20:29 and discuss it. Then pray together.

Os Our Story

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

* Extendable activity

Ms My Story

1. CONVERSATION STARTER

Supplies:

- None

Leader Tip:

- 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.
- Ask:
 - What are some things you believe in without seeing them (e.g., wind, Antarctica)?
 - If you can't see them, how do you know these things are real?
- 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: **We can believe without seeing.**

2. INTRO ACTIVITY

Supplies:

- Blindfold

Instructions:

- Gather everyone to stand in a large circle.
- Invite one person to be blindfolded and stand in the middle of the circle.
- Strike a pose! Direct the kids to copy what you're doing without giving any specific instructions aloud.
- Decide whether to be truthful and then say, "We are [describe the pose...or make up something]"
- Ask the person who's blindfolded, "Do you believe me without seeing it for yourself?"

- Once they decide, remove the blindfold to reveal how the group is posed.
- Repeat with other kids in the middle and do a variety of poses.
- To wrap up, note that we may or may not believe things without seeing any proof. However, we can always believe Jesus—even without seeing him—because of our faith in him!

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 (Jesus Appears | John 20:19-29)
 - Life Story (When Sean left university to pursue acting, he trusted that God had a plan for him.)



4. SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

Supplies:

- Frame activity pages
- Markers
- Pens

Leader Tips:

- You don't have to be able to answer every question the kids ask. Model that it's okay not to know it all!
- Make sure everyone's names are on their pages.

Instructions:

- Gather your small group to sit together.
- Discuss:
 - What's this month's Key Verse? (Ephesians 5:2)
 - What was the Life Story about in today's video?
 - What was the God Story about?
 - Is there anything about Jesus, God, the church, etc. that you have questions about?
- Give everyone an activity page.
- Place the other supplies where everyone can reach them easily.
- Review the page together.
- Challenge the kids to find the message hidden in the picture frame.
- Direct them to draw a picture inside the frame that represents something they cannot see but know is real. Encourage everyone to think creatively (i.e., What might wind look like? Could you draw a picture of hope, joy, or love?)
- Invite the kids to share their work with one another.

5. PRAYER ACTIVITY

Supplies:

- Bibles

Instructions:

- Remain in your small groups.
- Make sure everyone has a Bible. Share them if needed.
- Guide the kids step-by-step to look up John 20:29.
- Read the verse together.
- Discuss:
 - What did Jesus mean in this verse?
 - What does this mean for us?
- Pray together. Pray that when doubts swoop in, the kids would have faith in Jesus and know that **we can believe without seeing**.

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:

- a. Greet parents as they arrive to pick up their kids.
- b. Give everyone take-home cards.
- c. Offer Key Verse cards and colouring pages to anyone who has not gotten one yet this month.
- d. Remind them to take any crafts.
- e. Make sure the security numbers match before the kids leave with their parents.