

# Ms My Story

## 1. CONVERSATION STARTER

### Supplies:

- None

### Leader Tips:

- Use the Conversation Starter to set the tone for your group's time together.
- Be prepared to get the discussion started by sharing your own answers to the questions below.

### Instructions:

- As the students arrive, gather them together in a group.
- Say, "This month we talked about how when we follow Jesus it means living a different way. We also learned that what we say matters and that we should care more about what God thinks than what people think. This week's Big Idea is **living for Jesus means living as a part of his body, the church.**"
- Discuss:
  - Imagine a huge family all living together: grandparents, parents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and so on! What do you think it would be like?
  - What would be awesome about it?
  - What would be hard about it?
- Depending on the size of your group, have the students share their answers with the people sitting closest to them or with the whole group.
- Say, "We're all members of one big family—God's family. We contribute different things. Together, we learn what it means to love God and to invite others to follow Jesus."

## 2. INTRO ACTIVITY

### Supplies:

- None

### Instructions:

- Say, "If we're trying to learn about baseball and we only watch the pitcher, are we going to understand it? No! We need to watch all of the players to see the whole game. Even better, we would sit in the dugout—or play! In a similar way, it's difficult for us to learn what it means to follow Jesus on our own. As part of the church (the body of Christ), we better understand how to follow his way of living and being."
- Discuss:
  - What or who makes up the church?
  - How can we learn about following Jesus from the many different people who make up the church?

# Gs God Story Ls Life Story

## 3. WEEKLY VIDEO

### Supplies:

- Video file

### Instructions:

- Play the video. It contains:
  - Host segment
  - God Story (Prayer, Confession, and the Church | James 5)
  - Life Story (Jacob was born without a right arm but he never felt different from other people. He wasn't treated differently and was always well supported growing up as a missionary kid in Japan. However, when he left to finish school in Canada, Jacob had a hard time connecting until he found his home in the body of Christ.)



## 4. ACTIVITY

### Supplies:

- Bibles
- "Together" activity pages
- Pens

### Leader Tip:

- Take time to ensure the students know how to look up the verses in their Bibles.

### Instructions:

- Discuss:
  - What's this month's Key Verse? (Colossians 3:12)
  - What was the God Story about in today's video?
  - What was the Life Story about?
- Make sure that everyone has a Bible.
- Look up and read James 5:13-20 together. As you read, prompt the students to shout "Together!" or make a "Woot!" sound when something is read that could be done with others as the body of Christ.
- Give each person an activity page and a pen.
- Make a list of things that you could do together when it comes to prayer, confession, and simply being the body of Christ. Encourage the students to write the ideas on their activity pages.
- Discuss:
  - Of these things we listed, what don't we do together very often? Why?
  - Which things would you like to do more often? Why?
- Encourage the students to circle one thing they commit to doing this week.
- Pray that everyone in your group would be active members of the body of Christ.

## 5. ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

### Supplies:

- Rocket candies

### Leader Tip:

- Have one leader keep score while another leader facilitates this activity.

### Instructions:

- Divide the students into teams of two to three people.
- Ask each team to create their own "buzzer" sound.
- Explain that you will read a phrase, and then the teams should buzz in to give an answer or finish the sentence. The first team to buzz in and answer wins one point. However, each team will have the opportunity to answer. The best answer also gets a point.
  - If the church is the body of Christ, then...
  - Our role in the body of Christ is...
  - The best way for the church to work together is for us to...
  - One thing I wish adults knew about my role in the body of Christ is...
  - The thing that I don't really get about the church being the body of Christ is...
  - I think the church should do (fill in the blank) better.
  - The church could learn a lot from...
  - I can encourage others in the church by...
- Briefly, clarify and discuss the answers after each round.

# Os Our Story

## 6. DISMISSAL

### Supplies:

- Take home cards
- Key verse cards

### Instructions:

- a. Take a few moments to pray for the students if you have not already done so.
- b. Remind everyone about any upcoming events or relevant announcements.
- c. Make sure the students have their take home materials.
- d. Ensure the adult teaching is over before dismissing the students.