

BIGGER

God Story:

The Golden Calf and God's Law | Exodus 32-34

Big Idea:

God's love is bigger than our mistakes.

Key Verse:

My faithful God, answer me when I call out to you. Give me rest from my trouble. Have mercy on me. Hear my prayer. | Psalm 4:1 (NIRV)

Leader Tip:

During the activities this week, emphasize that God's love for us is bigger and much more powerful than any mistake we could ever make.

Ms My Story

- 1. Conversation Starter** **2 minutes**
Lead into the lesson by discussing mistakes and introducing the Big Idea.
- 2. Intro Activity** **5 minutes**
Challenge the kids to play a game in which it's easy to make mistakes. Then wrap up by chatting about what happens when we make mistakes.

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 decorate bookmarks that the kids can place in their Bibles.
- 5. Prayer Activity** **8 minutes**
Use paper in an illustration to help the kids visualize Lamentations 3:22-23. Then give them their own papers to take home as reminders.

Os Our Story

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

* Extendable activity



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's the funniest mistake you've ever made?
 - How do you react if you make a mistake?
 - Have you ever tried to cover something up and then been found out later?
- 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: **God's love is bigger than our mistakes.**

2. INTRO ACTIVITY

Supplies:

- None

Instructions:

- Gather everyone to sit in a circle on the floor.
- Tell the kids that today they're going to hear about how God's people totally messed up—but he gave them another chance.
- Explain that you're going to play a game in which they must do your PREVIOUS action every time you shout, "Change!" For example, if you start by clapping your hands, the kids should do nothing. Then, when you shout, "Change," they should begin to clap their hands as you start your new action.
- Continue changing your actions for as long as the kids are interested and time permits.
- To wrap up, discuss:
 - How did you feel when you made a mistake? Did anyone get mad at you?
 - Did you get another chance?
 - What happens when we make more serious mistakes? Do you get in trouble?
- Remind everyone that **God's love is bigger than our mistakes!**



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 (The Golden Calf and God's Law | Exodus 32-34)
 - Life Story (Kids answer questions about mistakes)

- What was the Life Story about in today's video?
 - What was the God Story about?
 - The Israelites made a really big mistake. What was it? Why do you think they did it? How did God respond?
 - When you make a mistake, how do you usually feel?
 - What does God want us to do when we mess up? Is it always easy?
 - How does it feel to know that God's love is always bigger and stronger than our mistakes?
- Give each person a bookmark.
 - Place the other supplies where everyone can reach them easily.
 - Encourage the kids to decorate their bookmark to place in their Bible. They can add decorative tape and/or draw on it.
 - Direct everyone to punch a hole at the top of their bookmark and attach tassels.



4. SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

Supplies:

- Bookmarks
- Decorative tape
- Hole punch
- Tassel materials
- Markers

Leader Tips:

- This is a great opportunity to ask the kids if they have a Bible of their own. If they do not, speak to your pastor or coordinator about getting one for them.
- Make sure everyone's names are on their bookmarks.

Instructions:

- Gather your small group to sit together.
- Discuss:
 - What is this month's Key Verse? (Psalm 4:1)

5. PRAYER ACTIVITY

Supplies:

- Paper
- Markers or pens

Instructions:

- Remain in your small group.
- Hold up a blank sheet of paper.
- Invite the kids to scribble on or rip the page. They can mess it up as much as they would like.
- In your own words, explain that sometimes our mistakes can make us feel like this paper: messed up and beyond repair. But **God's love is bigger than our mistakes!** In a book of the Bible known for its lament (i.e., sad crying out) to God, there's a verse that says, "The Lord loves us very much... his loving concern never fails. His great love is new every morning" (Lamentations 3:22-23, NIRV).
- Hold up a fresh sheet of blank paper.
- Note that each day, we get to begin fresh with God—no matter how many mistakes we made the day before.
- Give each person a blank page.
- Tell the kids to take it home and place it somewhere they will see it when they wake up (e.g., their bedside table). It will be a reminder that **God's love is bigger than our mistakes**, and each day we get a fresh start.
- Close in prayer together. Ask if anyone would like to pray for the group.

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.
- Offer Key Verse colouring pages and/or 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.