

**BIG IDEA**

Living for Jesus means being a part of his body, the church.

JAMES | LIVING IT | WEEK 4 OF 4

MIDWEEK NOTES

# Church

## 1 | Hangout

### SUPPLIES

- Paper
- Drawing supplies

### INSTRUCTIONS

- Gather your group to sit in a circle.
- Give each person a piece of paper.
- Place the drawing supplies where everyone can share them.
- Let the kids know that you're going to play a fun drawing game. They will work together to create some seriously silly people!
- Direct them to draw a person's head near the top of their page. It can be as silly as they want. They should also draw lines below it for the neck.
- Guide everyone to fold their paper so the head is hidden. Only the neck lines should be visible.
- Prompt the kids to pass their drawings to the person on their right.
- Direct everyone to draw a body, but not the legs.
- Guide the kids to fold the drawings so only the bottom of the body is showing.
- Prompt them to pass their drawings to the right.
- Direct everyone to add legs to the drawing.
- Instruct the kids to unfold the pictures.
- Look at how the drawings turned out!
- Introduce today's Big Idea: **Living for Jesus means being a part of his body, the church.**
- Explain that we're part of a church much bigger than The Meeting House (or your church). It extends around the world! Everyone who follows Jesus as Lord is part of this big church family.
- Watch this week's video from the Now Playing Kids playlist on the One Story YouTube channel.

## 2 | Hear

### SUPPLIES

- Bible

### INSTRUCTIONS

- Let the kids know that today's God Story is from the last part of James's letter to believers. In today's passage, James teaches that following Jesus is something we do best together, as the church.
- Look up James 5:13-16 and read about prayer, confession, and the church.
- Review and discuss:
  - In verse 13, what does James say we should do when we face hard things in life? (Pray)
  - What does James say we should do when we are happy? (Sing praises, which means thanking God)
  - What does James say we should do if we're sick? (Ask church leaders to pray for us)
  - Verse 16 says that we should confess our sins to each other. What does this mean? (Admitting when we've done something wrong and asking for forgiveness)
- Explain that praying, praising, confessing, and forgiving are ways that we can live for Jesus as the body of Christ.
- Discuss:
  - How is the church like a human body with many parts that do different, equally important jobs?
  - What would happen if one part of a body was cut off from the rest? Could it still do its job?
  - What would happen to the rest of the body without it?

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Living for Jesus means being a part of his body, the church.

## 3 | Huddle

**SUPPLIES**

- Large piece of craft paper (or blank side of wrapping paper)
- Drawing supplies

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- Invite one of the kids to lie down on the paper.
- Ask another group member to trace loosely around the shape of their body.
- Have the first person get back up.
- Print "The Body of Christ" above the outline.
- Divide the body into random parts of roughly equal size. Make sure there's one section for each person in your group.
- Place the drawing supplies where everyone can share them.
- Gather the group around the paper.
- Assign each of the kids a section within the body.
- Encourage everyone to decorate their space with colours, words, and drawings that represent who they are. Help with spelling as needed.
- As the kids work, emphasize that the church is the body of Christ. The kids are each an important part!
- Discuss: What's your favourite thing about belonging to the church?
- Highlight that together we can better understand how to follow Jesus' way of living and being.
- To wrap up, invite everyone to pray.
- Pray, "Thank you, Jesus, for each of these amazing kids [mention them by name] and for who you've created them to be. Lord, I pray that you would help each of us feel at home in your church as we grow in you. We love you! Amen."

## Journal Activity Page

Draw or write what living for Jesus means to you!

**Draw or write what living for Jesus means to you!**

To me, living for Jesus means....

[illegible]