



**BIG IDEA**

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

JAMES | LIVING IT | WEEK 4 OF 4

# Church

**GOD STORY**

Prayer, Confessions, and  
the Church

*James 5*

**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 series focuses on  
James's letter. The letters in  
the Bible (aka the Epistles)  
have a lot going on in them,  
and there are many things  
you could highlight. That's  
why we have a Big Idea for  
each lesson. It emphasizes  
one thing that we really want  
the kids to learn, understand,  
and apply to their own lives.

## My Story

**1 | CONVERSATION STARTER** (2 minutes)

Lead into today's lesson by chatting about what the church is, then introduce the Big Idea.

**2 | INTRO ACTIVITY** (5 minutes)

Review pictures and facts about the global church.

## God Story | Life Story

**3 | WEEKLY VIDEO** (12 minutes)

Watch the video, which includes host, God Story, Key Verse, and Life Story segments. Recap and discuss the teaching together.

## My Story

**4 | SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY** (12 minutes\*)

Use the Spiritual Gifts activity page to get the kids thinking about how they could use their skills and gifts to contribute to the church.

**5 | WRAP-UP ACTIVITY** (8 minutes)

Encourage everyone to consider how they could become active as part of the church, then close together in prayer.

## Our Story

**6 | DISMISSAL**

Connect with parents and give them take-home materials.

\*Extend as needed and adjust the timing for other activities.



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## My Story

### 1 | Conversation Starter

**SUPPLIES**

- None

**LEADER TIP**

- As the kids arrive, welcome them and find out how their weeks have gone.

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- Gather everyone together.
- Ask:
  - What is the church? (Not a place! It's the people!)
  - What do you think it means to be a part of the church? Are you a part of the church?
- Depending on the size of your group, have the kids share their answers with the people sitting closest to them or with everyone.
- Explain that we are a part of a church much bigger than The Meeting House [or your church]. We are a part of the church that extends all the way around the world! Everyone who follows Jesus as Lord is part of this big church family.
- Discuss: Why do you think the church is sometimes called the body of Christ?
- Introduce today's Big Idea: **Living for Jesus means being a part of his body, the church.**

### 2 | Intro Activity

**SUPPLIES**

- Churches Around the World activity pages
- Wall-safe tape

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY**

- Place the activity pages around your group's space before the kids arrive.

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- Guide the kids to group up with a leader or a friend who can read well.
- Direct everyone to move from activity page to activity page. Encourage them to look at the pictures, read the information, and discuss the questions on the pages.



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## God Story | Life Story

### 3 | Weekly Video

**SUPPLIES**

- Video file

**LEADER TIP**

- Sit with the kids and encourage them to focus on the video.

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- Play the video. It includes:
  - Host segment
  - God Story (Prayer, Confession, and the Church, James 5)
  - Key Verse segment
  - Life Story (Jacob was born without an 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.)
- Discuss:
  - What is the Key Verse for this series? (Colossians 3:12)
  - What was the Life Story about in today's video?
  - What was the God Story about?
  - How do you think these two stories and today's Big Idea (**Living for Jesus means being a part of his body, the church**) connect?

## My Story

### 4 | Small Group Activity

**SUPPLIES**

- Spiritual Gifts activity pages

**LEADER TIP**

- Share your own example of something that God made you especially good. Encourage the kids to think of something special they're naturally inclined at because God made them that way. Everyone's answer will be different—and they're all exciting!

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- Gather your small group to sit together.
- Briefly discuss: What's your "thing"? For example, are you a great baker? Are you artsy? Are you good with words? Are you sensitive to how other people feel? Are you extra patient? Are you great at building things?
- Highlight that everyone is good at something! We are also made to need one another, so it's okay not to be good or gifted in the same ways as others. We're all different parts of the body of Christ.
- Give each person an activity page.
- Review the page together.
- Discuss: How can you use your skills and gifts as part of the body of Christ? How do you think God want you to be used?



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## My Story

### 5 | Wrap-Up Activity

**SUPPLIES**

- None

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- Remain in your small group.
- Guide everyone to pair up.
- Ask the partners to think of ways they could be an active part of the church. Prompt them to consider serving, encouraging, giving, etc.
- Invite the kids to share their ideas with the rest of the group.
- To wrap up, pray for each member of your group by name. Ask God to help them follow through with the things you discussed today.

## Our Story

### 6 | Dismissal

**SUPPLIES**

- Crafts
- Take-home cards
- Key Verse cards
- Key Verse colouring pages

**LEADER TIP**

- Organize the take-home materials so they're easy to access. It may be helpful to sort them before the lesson, then set out any crafts later. Consider having one leader focus on handing out everything.

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- Greet parents as they arrive to pick up their kids. Take a moment to share a highlight or two from your time together today.
- Give everyone a weekly take-home card.
- Offer a Key Verse card and a colouring page to anyone who has not gotten them this month.
- Remind the kids to take their crafts.
- Make sure their security numbers match before they leave your group's space.