



**BIG IDEA**

When we get to know Jesus, he helps us see who we really are.

**MATTHEW | JESUS | WEEK 4 OF 5**

# Identity

**GOD STORY**

Peter Says Jesus Is  
the Messiah  
*Matthew 16:13–20*

**KEY VERSE**

[Jesus] said, “Whoever wants  
to be my disciple must say  
no to themselves. They must  
pick up their cross and  
follow me.”  
*Matthew 16:24b (NIRV)*

**LEADER TIP**

This series follows Jesus in  
his life on earth through the  
eyes of Peter. We see how  
God partners with who we  
are for his purposes. Each  
week explores what it looks  
like for us to follow Jesus.

## My Story

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

Lead into the Intro Activity by discussing which three words the kids would use to describe themselves and to describe Jesus. Introduce the Big Idea.

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

Play a game of Who Am I? to introduce today’s God Story.

## 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\*)

Review the Getting to Know Jesus activity page together.

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

Make a craft that highlights the Key Verse for this series.

## 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**

- If anyone feels shy about describing themselves, lead the rest of the kids to come up with some encouraging descriptions for them. This is a great opportunity to illustrate the positive role that our community can play in helping us discover who God created us to be!

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- a. As the kids arrive, welcome them and gather everyone together.
- b. Ask:
  - Which three words would you use to describe yourself?
  - Which three words would you use to describe Jesus?
- c. Depending on the size of your group, have the kids share their answers with the people sitting closest to them or with everyone.
- d. Introduce this week's Big Idea: **When we get to know Jesus, he helps us see who we really are.**



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## My Story

### 2 | Intro Activity

**SUPPLIES**

- None

**LEADER TIP**

- You could invite the kids to come up with their own people (e.g., from the Bible or popular stories) and clues.

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- Gather the kids to sit on the floor in an open area.
- Tell them that in today's God Story, Jesus asks his disciples who people say the Son of God is.
- Explain that you're going to read a series of clues. The first person to stand up can guess who you are. If they're correct, award them a point. If they're wrong, they must remain standing until the next round.
- Read the following clues until someone guesses your identity (Luke Skywalker):
  - Clue 1: I have a sister who's a princess.
  - Clue 2: I have a friend named Han.
  - Clue 3: I use a lightsaber.
  - Clue 4: I use the force.
- If no one guesses, tell the kids you're Luke Skywalker!
- Read the following clues for Mickey Mouse:
  - Clue 1: I am very old.
  - Clue 2: There are songs about me.
  - Clue 3: I'm a mouse.
  - Clue 4: I'm usually with Minnie.
- If no one guesses, reveal that you're Mickey Mouse!

- Read the following clues for Wonder Woman:
  - Clue 1: I wear a costume.
  - Clue 2: I am from the DC comic universe.
  - Clue 3: I use a lasso.
  - Clue 4: I have an invisible plane.
- If no one guesses, tell the kids you're Wonder Woman!
- Read the following clues for Moses:
  - Clue 1: I am in the Bible.
  - Clue 2: I lived long before Jesus' birth.
  - Clue 3: God gave me the Ten Commandments.
  - Clue 4: I told the Pharaoh in Egypt to let my people go.
- If no one guesses, tell the kids you're Moses!
- To wrap up, note that Jesus played a version of Who Am I? with his disciples—but he wasn't playing a game. He wanted to see if the disciples understood who he really was.
- Let the kids know that when Jesus asked, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" his disciples answered, "Some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, some say Jeremiah or one of the prophets." But Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God!"



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## God Story | Life Story

### 3 | Weekly Video

**SUPPLIES**

- Video file

**LEADER TIP**

- Get the kids' initial reactions right after watching the video. Ask what stood out to them and clarify ideas as needed.

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- Play the video. It includes:
  - Host segment
  - God Story (Peter Says Jesus Is the Messiah, Matthew 16:13–20)
  - Key Verse segment
  - Life Story (Zuriel struggled to find a place where he could truly be himself.)
- Recap the video teaching. Discuss:
  - What stood out to you in today's Life Story? How about the God Story?
  - What do these stories have to do with today's Big Idea (**When we get to know Jesus, he helps us see who we really are**)?

## My Story

### 4 | Small Group Activity

**SUPPLIES**

- Getting to Know Jesus activity pages

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- Gather your small group to sit in a circle.
- Discuss:
  - When Peter said that Jesus was the Son of God, what did Jesus say to Peter? (Jesus told Peter who he was—and who Peter was going to be!)
  - If someone asked you who you think Jesus is, what would you tell them?
- Explain that Christians believe Jesus is the Lord. Christians are literally people who follow Christ, which means we try to do things the way Jesus would. Just like Peter, **when we get to know Jesus, he helps us see who we really are.**
- Point out that since we're all so different, the way one of us tries to be like Jesus will be different than the way someone else tries to be like Jesus!
- Give each person a Getting to Know Jesus activity page.
- Review it together.
- Encourage everyone to take home their page and do what it says.
- Pray for each person in your small group.



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## My Story

### 5 | Wrap-Up Activity

**SUPPLIES**

- Key Verse sign
- Wall-safe tape
- Twine
- Clothespins
- Person cutouts
- Cross cutouts
- Speech bubble cutouts
- Markers
- Pens

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY**

- Display the Key Verse sign where everyone can see it.

**LEADER TIPS**

- Make sure everyone's names are on their crafts.
- If you run out of time, explain what to do with the craft supplies and send them home with the kids.

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- Gather everyone back in a large group.
- Give each person a length of twine, three clothespins, and one of each of the cutouts.
- Place the other supplies where everyone can share them.
- Demonstrate how to tie loops at each end of the twine (see photo of sample craft).
- Prompt the kids to decorate their cutouts with the markers if they wish.
- Guide everyone to use their clothespins to attach each cutout to their twine.

- As the kids work on their crafts, review the Key Verse together. Discuss:
  - What does it mean to be a disciple?
  - What does it mean to say no to yourself?
  - What does “pick up their cross” mean in this verse?
- Encourage everyone to hang up their craft at home and use it to help them remember what Jesus says in Matthew 16:24.





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## 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**

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