



BIG IDEA

Following Jesus isn't always easy, but it changes us forever.

MARK | BECAUSE JESUS | WEEK 2 OF 4

Changed

GOD STORY

The Rich and the Kingdom of God

Mark 10:17–31

KEY VERSE

We know what love is because Jesus Christ gave his life for us.

1 John 3:16a (NIRV)

LEADER TIP

This week, the kids will learn that following Jesus doesn't mean that life will be easy. Emphasize that facing hard times with Jesus is infinitely better than life without him. Being Christ-followers changes us forever!

My Story

1 | CONVERSATION STARTER (2 minutes)

To lead into today's lesson, discuss the best gifts that the kids have ever received as well as when it was difficult for them to give away something.

2 | INTRO ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Use toothpicks and mini marshmallows to build tall towers and highlight that some things aren't easy to do. Introduce the Big Idea.

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 them together.

My Story

4 | SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY (12 minutes*)

Chat about how the kids could follow Jesus in a variety of scenarios.

5 | WRAP-UP ACTIVITY (8 minutes)

Review the Prayer Week activity page together and challenge everyone to use it in the week ahead.

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

- Be prepared to share your own story to kick-start the conversation.

INSTRUCTIONS

- a. Welcome the kids as they arrive and gather everyone in a group.
- b. Ask:
 - What's the best gift you've ever received?
 - Have you ever had to give away something and it was really hard to do? What happened?
- c. Depending on the size of your group, have the kids share their answers with the people sitting closest to them or with everyone.

2 | Intro Activity

SUPPLIES

- Toothpicks
- Mini marshmallows

LEADER TIPS

- To form groups, consider using the kids' months of birth to sort them.
- Add challenges to make this activity more difficult! If anyone says that they think it's easy or makes fun of someone's efforts, direct them not to use their right hand. The next person (or people) could have to work in silence, close their eyes, or not use their hands at all.

INSTRUCTIONS

- a. Note that many things aren't easy when we first do them, such as tying shoelaces or riding a bike. But they become easier the more we do them. Other things start easy but get harder, like running a long-distance race.
- b. Tell the kids that they're going to do an activity that may be easy for some of them and more difficult for others.
- c. Form groups of three or four people.
- d. Give each group a pile of toothpicks and at least 20 mini marshmallows.
- e. Direct the groups to build the tallest tower possible. They must take turns in the building process so that everyone contributes.
- f. Admire the kids' creations and point out that they may have been difficult to make, but it was worth it!
- g. Introduce this week's Big Idea: **Following Jesus isn't always easy, but it changes us forever.**



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God Story | Life Story

3 | Weekly Video

SUPPLIES

- Video file

LEADER TIP

- Make sure the kids understand the links between today's Big Idea, the God Story, and the Life Story.

INSTRUCTIONS

- a. Play the video. It includes:
 - Host segment
 - God Story (The Rich and the Kingdom of God, Mark 10:17–31)
 - Key Verse segment
 - Life Story (Skylagh knows firsthand that **following Jesus isn't always easy, but it changes us forever**. As a dancer and as a daughter, Skylagh experienced this while pursuing Jesus.)
- b. Recap the video teaching. Discuss:
 - What's the Key Verse for this series? (1 John 3:16a)
 - How did Jesus make a difference in Skylagh's family and relationships?
 - Do you think it was easy to offer forgiveness? Do you think it was worth it?
 - In today's God Story, what point was Jesus making when he talked about a camel going through the eye of a needle?
 - What does this tell us about following Jesus?
 - What are some things in our lives that keep us from following Jesus (e.g., worries, material stuff, jealousy, lack of understanding, etc.)?
 - How could we deal with these kinds of distractions?



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My Story

4 | Small Group Activity

SUPPLIES

- Die

INSTRUCTIONS

- Gather your small group to sit together.
- Discuss:
 - How do you usually react when difficult things happen in your life?
 - What does God want us to do in those times?
 - How can we make sure that we'll turn to God and follow Jesus' example?
- Tell the kids that they're going to consider some tough situations they might encounter and how they could follow Jesus in them.
- Invite someone who's been listening well to roll the die.
- Read the scenario from the list that corresponds to the number they roll, then ask how they could follow Jesus in that situation. If a number is repeated use the (b) question. On the third instance of a repeated number, roll again.
 - (a) Kids at school invite you to join their secret club, but you must promise not to tell your parents about it.
(b) All of your friends tell rude jokes.
 - (a) Your best friend is being made fun of at school. Someone tells you not to be friends with them or you'll get made fun of, too.
(b) Just for fun, direct everyone to get up, run and touch two different walls, and sit down again!
 - (a) Your older sibling is doing something that could really hurt them. They said if you tell, they'll never speak to you again. But you're worried about them!
(b) At lunchtime, there's a kid who never seems to have food. You aren't supposed to share food at school, but you're concerned about them.
 - (a) Someone punched you at recess.
(b) Bite your tongue (gently!) and say today's Big Idea: **Following Jesus isn't always easy, but it changes us forever.**
 - (a) Stand up and shout, "I love Jesus!"
(b) Your younger sibling always takes your stuff. You want to scream because it annoys you so much.
 - (a) Roll again!
(b) Most of the kids in your class roll their eyes at your teacher. Your classmates expect you to do it, too.
- Continue rolling and going through the scenarios.
- Invite the kids to share some of their own examples of times when following Jesus was difficult—but totally worth it!



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My Story

5 | Wrap-Up Activity

SUPPLIES

- Prayer Week activity pages
- Pens

LEADER TIP

- Make sure everyone's names are on their pages.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Remain in your small groups.
- Give each person an activity page and a pen.
- Briefly, review the page together.
- Encourage everyone to consider how following Jesus could impact them in the week ahead. They could write their ideas on their page.
- Ask the kids to bring back the page next week to share their findings. They could also share it with a parent or another awesome adult in their life.
- Wrap up by praying for each of the kids by name.

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.