



BIG IDEA

God's love is bigger than our mistakes.

EXODUS | WILDERNESS | WEEK 4 OF 5

Bigger

GOD STORY

The Golden Calf and God's Law

Exodus 32-34

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.

Psalms 4:1 (NIRV)

LEADER TIP

- When in doubt, highlight the Big Idea.
- Sometimes students will ask us questions and we don't know the answer, be honest about it and explore follow-up options together.

My Story

1 | CONVERSATION STARTER (5 minutes)

Get students talking about silly mistakes they've made.

2 | INTRO ACTIVITY (7 minutes)

A brainstorming activity that will get students thinking about mistakes.

God Story | Life Story

3 | WEEKLY VIDEO (12 minutes)

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

My Story

4 | APPLICATION ACTIVITY (12 minutes*)

Students will make a stress ball and discuss God's great love for us.

5 | WRAP-UP ACTIVITY (10 minutes)

Help students flesh out the Key Verse.

Our Story

6 | DISMISSAL (2 minutes)

*Extend as needed and adjust timing for other activities.



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My Story

1 | Conversation Starter

SUPPLIES

- None

LEADER TIP

- Break the ice by sharing your own silly mistake first.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Welcome the students as they arrive and gather everyone in a group. Check in quickly to see how their week went.
- Ask:
 - What's the funniest mistake you've ever made?
 - How do you feel when you make a mistake?
 - In your opinion, what's the difference between a little mistake and a big mistake?
 - Are you quick to apologize (or let something go or fix it), or do you dwell on mistakes? Why?
- Depending on the size of your group, have the students share their responses 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

- Craft paper
- Markers

INSTRUCTIONS

- Divide the students into groups of four to six.
- Give each group craft paper and some markers.
- Instruct them to write "MISTAKES" in the middle of their paper and then circle the word. This will be the centre of their web chart.
- Encourage the groups to brainstorm what comes to mind when they think of mistakes.
- Give them about two minutes to come up with ideas and make their web charts.
- Gather everyone back together in a large group.
- Invite the students to share their ideas and explain them. As they do so, guide them to consider why it's so important to remember that **God's love is bigger than our mistakes.**



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God Story | Life Story

3 | Weekly Video

SUPPLIES

- Video file

INSTRUCTIONS

- Play the video. It includes:
 - Host segment
 - God Story (The Golden Calf and God's Law | Exodus 32-34)
 - Life Story (Students share about mistakes.)
- Recap the video teaching. Discuss:
 - Does anyone remember the Key Verse for this series?
 - What was the Life Story about in today's video? Did you connect with anything that was said?
 - What was the God Story about?
 - What was the mistake that the Israelites made?
 - Can you think of other big mistakes people in the Old Testament made? (e.g. Adam and Eve eating from the tree that they were forbidden to eat from, Samson telling Delilah about his hair weakness, etc.)
 - What do you think God wants us to do when we mess up? Is it always easy?
 - Why is it important to know that God's love is always greater than our mistakes?

My Story

4 | Application Activity

SUPPLIES

- Garbage bag(s)
- Rice
- Funnel
- Balloons
- Scissors

LEADER TIP

- Rice can get messy. Consider having a vacuum or broom on standby.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Let the students know that they're each going to make a stress ball to remind themselves not to get stressed because God's love is bigger than our mistakes.
- Place a garbage bag on the floor and put the rice and funnel on top of it.
- Give each student a balloon. Encourage them to stretch the balloon gently.
- Demonstrate how to use a funnel to fill a balloon with rice. Guide the students to take turns filling their balloons with rice.
- Direct everyone to squeeze out any air trapped in their balloons and then knot the ends. Help them if needed.
- Instruct the students to cut off the excess balloon below the knot.
- While students make their stress balls, discuss:
 - When you make a big mistake, what do you need to hear?
 - When you see someone else making a mistake, what do you think they need to hear from you?
 - How do you think God views us when we make mistakes? What do you think God wants to say to you in those moments?

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My Story

5 | Wrap-Up Activity

SUPPLIES

- Key Verse sign
- Wall-safe tape

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY

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

INSTRUCTIONS

- Let the students know that it's absolutely okay to tell God how they really feel when they make mistakes or are having a tough time. This month's Key Verse is a great example: "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)
- Repeat the words of this verse together as a prayer.
- To close, pray for each student by name.

Our Story

6 | Dismissal

SUPPLIES

- Take-home cards
- Key Verses cards

INSTRUCTIONS

- Take a few moments to pray for the students if you have not already done so.
- Remind everyone about any upcoming events or relevant announcements.
- Make sure the students have all their take-home materials.