



**BIG IDEA**

As we share God's love with others, we get to know God better.

**EPHESIANS | FAMILY | WEEK 4 OF 4**

# Better

**GOD STORY**

Share the Love  
*Ephesians 1:15–17*

**KEY VERSE**

We have been set free because of what Christ has done. Because he bled and died our sins have been forgiven.  
*Ephesians 1:7a (NIRV)*

**LEADER TIP**

The Family series focuses on how we're brought into relationship with God through the persons of the Trinity—from God's desire to adopt us into his family to Jesus' rescue to the work of the Holy Spirit.

## My Story

**1 | CONVERSATION STARTER** (7 minutes)

To lead into the lesson, chat about what it's like to get to know people. Introduce today's Big Idea.

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

Invite someone from your church community to describe how they got to know God better by sharing his love with others.

## 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\*)

Read and discuss Ephesians 1:15–17 and Colossians 1:9–10. Lead the students in a prayer that emphasizes flooding their hearts with light.

**5 | WRAP-UP ACTIVITY** (10 minutes)

Engage the students in coming up with ideas for sharing God's love.

## 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

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

#### INSTRUCTIONS

- Welcome the students and gather them together.
- Check in quickly to see how their week is going.
- Ask:
  - Have you met anyone new recently? How well do you feel like you know them?
  - What's your favourite way to get to know someone?
  - What are some of the "levels" of how well you know someone?
- Depending on the size of your group, have the students share their stories with the people sitting closest to them or with everyone.
- Introduce today's Big Idea: **As we share God's love with others, we get to know God better.**
- Explain that when we love others the way God loves us, we learn what his heart is like.

### 2 | Intro Activity

#### SUPPLIES

- None

#### BEFORE THE ACTIVITY

- Be sure to plan this activity in advance! Invite someone from your church community (e.g., a student, leader, pastor, or parent) to describe how they got to know God better by sharing his love with someone else.

#### INSTRUCTIONS

- Introduce your guest and explain that they're going to describe their own experience with today's Big Idea (**As we share God's love with others, we get to know God better**).
- Give them a few minutes to share their story with the students.



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## God Story | Life Story

### 3 | Weekly Video

**SUPPLIES**

- Video file

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- a. Play the video. It includes:
  - Host segment
  - God Story (Share the Love, Ephesians 1:15–17)
  - Life Story (Earl considers himself an influencer in his work, his life, and his walk with God.)
- b. Recap the video teaching. Discuss:
  - What's the Key Verse for the Family series? (Ephesians 1:7a)
  - What stood out to you in today's Life Story? How about the God Story?
  - What is today's Big Idea? (**As we share God's love with others, we get to know God better.**) How does it connect with the stories?



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## My Story

### 4 | Application Activity

**SUPPLIES**

- Bibles

**LEADER TIP**

- Reading the Bible passages below in the NLT works best for this activity.

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- Make sure everyone has access to a Bible.
- Explain that sometimes when Paul wrote, he repeated himself just as we might do if we wanted to share a similar message with many people.
- Guide half of the group to look up Ephesians 1:15–17 and the other half to look up Colossians 1:9–10.
- Ask volunteers to read these passages aloud.
- Read both passages a second time, going back and forth to highlight similarities.
- Discuss:
  - How are these passages the same? How are they different?
  - Why do you think Paul felt it was important to say these things?
  - Do you think we need to be reminded of them?
- Read Ephesians 1:18 (NLT): “I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called—his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance.”
- Discuss:
  - What do you think it would feel like to have our hearts flooded with light (metaphorically, of course!)?
  - What do you think our lives and relationships might look like if we lived as if our hearts were “flooded with light”?

- Explain that you're going to lead a group prayer. Every time you pause, the students should pray, “Dear God, flood my heart with light.”
- Pray the following:

“Dear God, flood our hearts with light so that as we share your love with others, we get to know you better.” [Prompt the students to pray, “Dear God, flood my heart with light.”]

“Help us be more focused on you and less focused on ourselves.” [Students: “Dear God, flood my heart with light.”]

“Help us share your love with others even when it's hard.” [Students: “Dear God, flood my heart with light.”]

“Help us want to get to know you better and make you a priority in our lives—not just an add-on.” [Students: “Dear God, flood my heart with light.”]

“Thank you, God, for your love for us. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.” [Prompt the students to say, “Amen!”]

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## My Story

### 5 | Wrap-Up Activity

**SUPPLIES**

- Sticky notes
- Pens

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- a. Give each student four sticky notes and a pen.
- b. Explain that you will read a series of questions. For each one, the students will write a practical way to share God's love this week. They should write one idea on each sticky note.
- c. Read the following questions, pausing after each one to allow the students time to write an idea:
  - How could you share God's love in a practical way when you're at a store?
  - How could you share God's love in a practical way when you're at home?
  - How could you share God's love in a practical way when you're online?
  - How could you share God's love in a practical way with one of your neighbours?
- d. Designate a wall or flat area for everyone to stick their notes when they're done writing.
- e. Look at all the ideas together.
- f. Encourage each student to take two ideas (even if they aren't theirs!) and commit to doing them in the week ahead.
- g. To wrap up, pray for students.

## Our Story

### 6 | Dismissal

**SUPPLIES**

- Take-home cards
- Key Verse cards

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- a. Take a few moments to pray for the students if you have not already done so.
- b. Remind everyone about any upcoming events or relevant announcements.
- c. Make sure the students have all their take-home materials.
- d. Ensure the adult teaching is over before dismissing the students.