



BIG IDEA

God is with us wherever we go.

GENESIS | RELATIONSHIPS | WEEK 1 OF 4

God and Us

GOD STORY

Jacob and the Stairway
to Heaven
Genesis 28:1–22

KEY VERSES

Trust in the Lord with all your
heart. Do not depend on your
own understanding. In all
your ways remember him.
Then he will make your paths
smooth and straight.
Proverbs 3:5–6 (NIRV)

LEADER TIP

Remember to pray for the
students in your group before
they arrive!

My Story

1 | CONVERSATION STARTER (7 minutes)

Lead into today's lesson by chatting about the one thing that the students take with them everywhere they go.

2 | INTRO ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Work together to decide on the one thing the group would take with them to a variety of places. Introduce today's Big Idea.

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*)

Divide into "home" and "school" groups to brainstorm when it's great that **God is with us wherever we go**—and when it's not so great from a human perspective! Pray for the students.

5 | WRAP-UP ACTIVITY (10 minutes)

Make slap bracelet reminders of what the students learned today.

Our Story

6 | DISMISSAL (2 minutes)

*Extend as needed and adjust timing for other activities.



BIG IDEA

God is with us wherever we go.

GENESIS | RELATIONSHIPS | WEEK 1 OF 4

My Story

1 | Conversation Starter

SUPPLIES

- None

LEADER TIP

- This is meant to be a casual conversation as the students arrive. Move on quickly to the Intro Activity so you have enough time for it before the teaching video.

INSTRUCTIONS

- a. Greet the students and gather everyone together.
- b. Ask:
 - What's one thing that you take with you everywhere you go?
 - Why do you take it with you?
 - What would you do without it?
- c. Depending on the size of your group, have the students share their answers with the people sitting closest to them or with everyone.

2 | Intro Activity

SUPPLIES

- None

INSTRUCTIONS

- a. Explain to the students that you're going to read a list of places. For each one, they will work together to decide on one thing they'd take with them. (Assume that they already have clothing!)
- b. Read the following, pausing after each one for the students to decide what they'd take:
 - We're going to a beach, which one thing should we take?
 - We're going to an amusement park, which one thing should we take?
 - We're going to watch a sports competition, which one thing should we take?
 - We're going to a dance, which one thing should we take?
 - We're going to a movie, which one thing should we take?
 - We're going to a friend's house, which one thing should we take?
 - We're going to your grandma's house, which one thing should we take?
- c. Explain that there's one thing—or person—we take every single place we go! Introduce this week's Big Idea: **God is with us wherever we go.**
- d. Discuss: Does this fact influence your thinking in any way?



BIG IDEA

God is with us wherever we go.

GENESIS | RELATIONSHIPS | WEEK 1 OF 4

God Story | Life Story

3 | Weekly Video

SUPPLIES

- Video file

INSTRUCTIONS

- Play the video. It includes:
 - Host segment
 - God Story (Jacob and the Stairway to Heaven, Genesis 28:1–22)
 - Life Story (Willem plays in a worship music band. He learned that the best way to play is to let God take over.)
- Invite the students to give a quick recap of what happened in the God and Life Stories.
- Discuss:
 - What stood out to you in Jacob's story from the Bible?
 - What stood out to you in Willem's story?
 - How does Willem's story relate to Jacob's story? How was God with them both?
 - What are the Key Verses for this series? (Proverbs 3:5–6)

My Story

4 | Application Activity

SUPPLIES

- Chart paper
- Markers

LEADER TIP

- If your group has more than 12 students, divide into smaller groups.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Discuss:
 - Do you ever think about God being with you wherever you go?
 - Have there been times when you've had to remind yourself of this fact?
- Give each group some chart paper and markers.
- Direct one group to write, "God is with me at home..." in the middle of their paper.
- Direct the other group to write, "God is with me at school..." on their paper.
- Challenge the two groups to brainstorm when it's great that they have God with them for help, encouragement, and support. Also ask them to list times when they wish God was not with them (e.g., when they're doing something that they shouldn't or when they have a tough decision they'd rather not make).
- After a few minutes, invite the home and school groups to share their ideas.
- Share your own age-appropriate example of a time when you were glad that God was with you and a time when you wished that he wasn't with you (e.g., if you've ever cheated on a test).
- Pray that the students would know that **God is with us everywhere we go**, and that he wants to show us his love and grace all the time!



BIG IDEA

God is with us wherever we go.

GENESIS | RELATIONSHIPS | WEEK 1 OF 4

My Story

5 | Wrap-Up Activity

SUPPLIES

- Slap bracelets
- Permanent markers

LEADER TIP

- If you run out of time, send home the slap bracelets with the students. Provide clear instructions for what everyone should do with them.

INSTRUCTIONS

- a. Quickly review some of the things we remember to take with us wherever we go (e.g., phones, electronic devices, clean underwear, etc.).
- b. Point out that sometimes we forget that **God is with us everywhere we go**. This should influence every decision we make and every interaction we have!
- c. Give each student a slap bracelet.
- d. Place the markers where everyone can share them easily.
- e. Encourage the students to create their own personal reminder of today's Big Idea. For example, they could write, "**God is with us everywhere we go**", "I know that the Lord is always with me (Psalm 16:8)", or anything that reminds them that God is always with them.

Our Story

6 | Dismissal

SUPPLIES

- Take-home cards
- Key Verses 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.