



BIG IDEA

Jesus is God with us.

MATTHEW | GET UP | WEEK 2 OF 4

Emmanuel

GOD STORY

Joseph and Jesus

Matthew 1

KEY VERSE

"I have loved you with a love that lasts forever. I have kept on loving you with a kindness that never fails."

Jeremiah 31:3b (NIRV)

LEADER TIPS

- From God speaking to the prophet Jeremiah to the story of Jesus' birth from Joseph's point of view, in this series the students will discover that God shows us his never-ending love through Jesus.
- Preparing in advance will help you lead well during this season!
- Expect higher attendance than usual. Be sure to welcome any students who are joining your group for the first time.

My Story

1 | CONVERSATION STARTER (7 minutes)

Lead into the lesson by chatting about who the students would hang out with if they could spend the day with anyone and what they'd do if they spent the day with Jesus. Introduce the Big Idea.

2 | INTRO ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Race in teams to spell out "**Jesus is God with us**" using candy canes.

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*)

Make Christmas tree ornaments to highlight today's Big Idea.

5 | WRAP-UP ACTIVITY (10 minutes)

Pray together as a group.

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

- Use this quick activity to welcome everyone, build community, and set the tone for your group.

INSTRUCTIONS

- As the students arrive, greet them and gather everyone together.
- Ask:
 - If you could hang out with anyone in the entire world for a day, who would it be? Why?
 - If you could hang out with Jesus (in the flesh) for a day, what would you do with him? Why?
- Depending on the size of your group, have the students share their answers with the people sitting closest to them or with everyone.
- Introduce today's Big Idea: **Jesus is God with us.**

2 | Intro Activity

SUPPLIES

- Two bags of candy canes
- Scrap paper

INSTRUCTIONS

- Divide the students into two teams.
- Give each team a bag of candy canes and some scrap paper.
- Challenge them to race to use their candy canes to spell out the Big Idea: **Jesus is God with us.**
- Let the students know that they can break up the candy canes as needed—but they will also have to clean up any messes! Prompt them to place any broken candy canes on their team's scrap paper.
- Encourage the team members to work together.
- Cheer for the first group to spell out the Big Idea!
- Allow the students to eat their candy canes as they watch the teaching video.



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God Story | Life Story

3 | Weekly Video

SUPPLIES

- Video file

INSTRUCTIONS

- Play the video. It includes:
 - Host segment
 - God Story (Joseph and Jesus, Matthew 1)
 - Life Story (Peek behind the scenes to find out what it takes to make movie stunts happen.)
- Invite the students to give a quick recap of what happened in the God and Life Stories.
- Discuss:
 - What is the Key Verse for this series? (Jeremiah 31:3)
 - What stood out to you in these stories?
 - How do they connect with today's Big Idea (**Jesus is God with us**)?
 - What does it mean to you that Jesus is always with you: at school, at home, when no one else is, etc.?
 - Do you ever feel aware that Jesus is with you? If so, how or when?



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My Story

4 | Application Activity

SUPPLIES

- Large and small craft sticks
- Sequins
- Stickers
- Glue sticks
- Markers
- Silver pipe cleaners
- Scissors

LEADER TIP

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

INSTRUCTIONS

- Point out that we put up Christmas trees as a symbol of the Christmas season when we celebrate Jesus' birth.
- Let the students know that everyone will make ornaments that they can take home and put on their trees or give away as gifts.
- Give each person four large craft sticks and two small craft sticks.
- Place the other supplies where everyone can share them.
- Demonstrate how to arrange the craft sticks to create a tree shape (see sample photo).
- Direct the students to write today's Big Idea (**Jesus is God with us**) somewhere on their trees.
- Encourage them to use the sequins, stickers, and markers to decorate their trees.
- Use the pipe cleaners to create tree hangers.





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My Story

5 | Wrap-Up Activity

SUPPLIES

- None

INSTRUCTIONS

- Ask the students if there's anything they'd like to pray for.
- Pray together. Ask God to remind the students that **Jesus is God with us**. Pray that each member of your group will know that God is with them when they are scared, lonely, happy, frustrated, or confused.

Our Story

6 | Dismissal

SUPPLIES

- Take-home cards
- Key Verse 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.
- Ensure the adult teaching is over before dismissing the students.