



BIG IDEA

What God says always comes true.

MATTHEW | GET UP | WEEK 4 OF 4

Always

GOD STORY

Joseph Listens to God
Matthew 2:13–23

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.
- 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 totally unbelievable things that turned out to be true.

2 | INTRO ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Play a game of Broken Telephone and tie in 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*)

Read and discuss Matthew 2:13–23. Brainstorm ways that God speaks to us.

5 | WRAP-UP ACTIVITY (10 minutes)

Do a reflective reading of Psalm 23 with the students.

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

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY

- Look up a few bizarre but true facts to share with the students as examples.

LEADER TIP

- As the students arrive, welcome them and find out how their weeks have gone.

INSTRUCTIONS

- a. Gather everyone together.
- b. Ask:
 - Have you ever heard something totally unbelievable that turned out to be true?
 - When you hear something that is hard to believe what do you do to verify 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

LEADER TIP

- If your group is very large, consider breaking into smaller groups for this activity.

INSTRUCTIONS

- a. Gather your group to sit in a large circle.
- b. Let the students know they're going to play Broken Telephone.
- c. Choose a student to start. Invite them to come up with an appropriate phrase to whisper in the ear of the person on their right. Help them come up with something if needed.
- d. Encourage the students to pass the whispered message around the circle.
- e. Ask the final person to receive the message to say what they heard out loud.
- f. Repeat the game as time allows.
- g. To wrap up, highlight that we need reliable sources so that we can trust what we hear. And, sometimes, things that sound unbelievable can be true!
- h. Emphasize that messages from God are proven to be trustworthy.
- i. Introduce today's Big Idea: **What God says always comes true.**



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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 Listens to God, Matthew 2:13–23)
 - Life Story (People share about how God's promises have come true in their lives.)
- Invite the students to give a quick recap of what happened in the God and Life Stories.
- Discuss:
 - Did anything surprise you or confuse you in today's God or Life Stories?
 - How do these stories connect together and with the Big Idea that **what God says always comes true?**

My Story

4 | Application Activity

SUPPLIES

- Bibles
- Chart paper
- Markers

INSTRUCTIONS

- Make sure everyone has a Bible. Share them if needed.
- Help the students look up Matthew 2:13–23.
- Read the verses together.
- Discuss:
 - Do you have any questions after reading this passage?
 - How did God speak to Joseph?
- Remind the students that earlier in Joseph's life, he had a dream that he should take Mary to be his wife when he had doubts.
- Discuss: Do you think it got easier for Joseph to trust that **what God says always comes true?**
- Explain that the passage points out three times that what was said through the prophets was fulfilled.
- Ask: Who or what is a prophet?
- Clarify that a prophet is someone who speaks on behalf of God. He spoke to his people through prophets for a long time. God had promised his people a rescuer. Jesus shows us that **what God says always comes true.**
- Brainstorm a list of ways that God may speak to us (e.g., prayer, visions, dreams, music, through other people, etc.).
- Invite the students to share what they have heard from God.



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My Story

5 | Wrap-Up Activity

SUPPLIES

- Bible

LEADER TIP

- Be prepared to share about what you experienced when reading the passage.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Let the students know that you're going to do a reflective reading of scripture. This is a version of Lectio Divina (divine reading). You're going to read the same passage multiple times. The students should listen and be aware of what God might be saying to them.
- Ask everyone to listen for words or phrases that stand as you read Psalm 23.
- Read aloud the psalm.
- Explain that you're going to read it again. The students should try to focus on what caught their attention the first time and find out if God has anything more specific to say through it.
- Read aloud Psalm 23 a second time.
- Let everyone know that you will read it a final time. Afterward, the students will have the opportunity to respond to God through prayer.
- Read aloud Psalm 23 again, then prompt everyone to pray or reflect on it silently.
- Ask if anything stood out to any of the students and invite them to share if they feel comfortable. If they don't, acknowledge that sometimes what God says can feel personal and encourage them to write it down or share it with someone who feels safe to them.
- Remind the students that God can use them to share an important message with others!

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.