



BIG IDEA

God wants to be close to us.

EXODUS | WILDERNESS | WEEK 3 OF 5

Close

GOD STORY

The Tabernacle, the Ark,
and the Priests
Exodus 25-31

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

- During the activities this week, emphasize that God loves us and wants to be close to us. God wants to be the one we talk to when we're happy or sad or need help.

My Story

1 | CONVERSATION STARTER (2 minutes)

Discuss hugging and closeness, and then introduce today's Big Idea.

2 | INTRO ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Emphasize the idea of being 'close' as you get everyone moving around.

God Story | Life Story

3 | WEEKLY VIDEO (12 minutes)

Watch the video, which includes host, God Story, Key Verse, and Life Story segments. Recap and discuss them together.

My Story

4 | SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY (12 minutes*)

Review today's video teaching, and then create self-portraits as reminders that God wants to be close to us!

5 | WRAP-UP ACTIVITY (8 minutes)

Work in groups to practise saying Psalm 4:1.

Our Story

6 | DISMISSAL

Connect with parents and give them take-home materials.

*Extend as needed and adjust the timing for other activities.



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My Story

1 | Conversation Starter

SUPPLIES

- None

LEADER TIP

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

INSTRUCTIONS

- Welcome the kids as they arrive and gather everyone in a group.
- Ask:
 - Are you a hugger? Why or why not?
 - If you aren't a hugger, is there someone (maybe a family member) you like to hug? Who is it? Why do you like to hug them?
 - We can be close to people whom we don't hug. What we talk to them about, or how they care for us can make us close to them. Who else are you close to?
- Depending on the size of your group, have the kids share their answers with the people sitting closest to them or with everyone.
- Introduce today's Big Idea: **God wants to be close to us.**

2 | Intro Activity

SUPPLIES

- None

LEADER TIPS

- Be aware of physical boundaries and be sure to use appropriate actions.
- Emphasize the word "close" during this activity.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Gather everyone together in the middle of your group's space.
- Let the kids know that in this game, they'll be getting close to people or things. For example, you may say, "Get your nose close to a wall," and they'll need to run to a wall and put their nose on it.
- Call out actions such as the suggestions listed below:
 - Get your elbow close to someone else's elbow.
 - Get your foot close to your head.
 - Get your knees close to someone else's knees.
 - Get your hands close to the ceiling.
 - Get your knees close to a chair.
 - Get close to as many people as possible.
 - Get close to two walls.
 - Get close to someone who has shoes that are similar to yours.
- To wrap up, remind the kids that God wants to be close to us. This closeness is not quite like being close was in this activity. Instead, it means God is the one we want to tell everything to. We share with God about what's going on in our hearts!



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God Story | Life Story

3 | Weekly Video

SUPPLIES

- Video file

LEADER TIP

- Sit with the kids and encourage them to focus on the video as needed.
- Make sure the kids understand the links between the Big Idea, the God Story, and the Life Story.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Play the video. It includes:
 - Host segment
 - God Story (The Tabernacle, the Ark, and the Priests | Exodus 25-31)
 - Key Verse segment
 - Life Story (Abby is part of a wonderful and close small group. They all love God and that makes it easier to love one another!)
- Recap the video teaching. Discuss:
 - Can anyone say the Key Verse without reading it?
 - What was the Life Story about in today's video? Do you have any close friends like Abby has?
 - What was the God Story about?
 - What do you do when you want to remind yourself about something important?
 - How could we remind ourselves and one another that God wants to be close to us now and always?

My Story

4 | Small Group Activity

SUPPLIES

- Portrait activity pages
- Googly eyes
- Waxed yarn sticks
- Glue sticks
- Markers

LEADER TIP

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

INSTRUCTIONS

- Gather your small group to sit together.
- Give each person an activity page, two googly eyes, and a few waxed yarn sticks.
- Place the other supplies where everyone can reach them easily.
- Direct the kids to create a self-portrait on their page.
- As they work, explain that they can take their self-portrait home to remind them that God loves them so much, he wants to be close to them!
- Invite kids to share their self-portrait with the group once they are complete and what they especially like about what they've created.



BIG IDEA

God wants to be close to us.

My Story

5 | Wrap-Up Activity

SUPPLIES

- Key Verse sign
- Wall-safe tape

BEFORE ACTIVITY

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

INSTRUCTIONS

- Gather everyone back together in a large group.
- Read the Key Verse sign aloud.
- Explain that sometimes we need to pray for help or for rest. Psalm 4:1 is a prayer for when things are tough.
- Divide the kids into two groups. Direct them to form two parallel lines a few feet apart. The groups should face each other.
- Instruct everyone to squat down low.
- Lead one group to stand up and say, “My faithful God...” and then squat down again.
- Lead the other group to stand up and say, “...answer me when I call out to you.”
- Continue rotating back and forth, with one group standing and speaking while the other group squats:
 - “Give me rest...”
 - “...from my trouble.”
 - “Have mercy on me.”
 - “Hear my prayer.”
- Prompt both groups to stand up and say, “Psalm 4:1.”
- Repeat and try increasing the pace or slowing it down. You could also encourage the kids to come up with actions.

Our Story

6 | Dismissal

SUPPLIES

- Crafts
- Take-home cards
- Key Verse cards
- Key Verse colouring pages

LEADER TIP

- Organize the take-home materials so they’re easy to access. It may be helpful to sort them before the lesson, then set out any crafts later. Consider having one leader focus on handing out everything.

INSTRUCTIONS

- If parents pick up their kids in your setting, take a moment to share a highlight or two from your time together today.
- Give everyone a weekly take-home card.
- Offer a Key Verse card and a colouring page to anyone who has not gotten them this month.
- Remind the kids to take their crafts.