



EXODUS | WILDERNESS | WEEK 3 OF 5

# Close

God loves us and wants to be close to us. He wants to be the one we talk to when things are good or bad in our lives. He wants us to share what's going on and listen to what he has to say too.

## BIG IDEA

God wants to be close to us.

## KEY VERSE

The Lord is close to all who call on him, yes, to all who call on him in truth.

*Psalm 145:18 (NLT)*

## LEADER TIP

- Be honest about times when you've struggled to be close with God. It's okay to say that there are often times when you don't *feel* close to him.

## 1 | Hangout

### SUPPLIES

- None

### INSTRUCTIONS

- a. Take time to check-in on everyone's week. Follow up on anything relevant from last week.
- b. Discuss:
  - Who is the person you're closest to? How often do you see them or talk to them?
  - Do you think most people want to be close to God? Why or why not?
  - Does being close to God matter to you? Why or why not?



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## 2 | Hear

### SUPPLIES

- Bibles

### INSTRUCTIONS

- Ask: What were some of the things James talked about him the Life Story? Did anything stick in your mind? If yes, why?
- Ask someone to recap what the God Story was about. (Exodus 25-31 describes the instructions for building the tabernacle and the ark, and for how the priests must be.)
- Make sure everyone has a Bible. Share them if needed.
- Look up and read Exodus 25:8.
- Emphasize that God wants to be close to us. Discuss: What are some things we can do to become closer with God? (Note: Help students think creatively. The answers don't need to be limited to 'read your Bible' and 'pray.' We can get close to God doing things in our every day and asking him to help lead and guide us in them.)
- Look up and read some of the following verses. For each one, discuss when and how God is close to these people.
  - Psalm 34:18
  - Psalm 145:18
  - Nahum 1:7
  - Ephesians 2:13
  - James 4:8
- Discuss: When and how have you experienced being close to God? (For those who haven't, no worries, this is a time to listen and/or ask questions.)

## 3 | Huddle

### SUPPLIES

- None

### INSTRUCTIONS

- If you have a small group that has more than 5 students, divide students into smaller groups for the huddle.
- Discuss:
  - What gets between you and God at home? At school? In your spare time? How might you remove some of those barriers?
  - Would you be willing to create a challenge for yourself to do so?
- Pray about everything the students have shared.