



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

- When in doubt,
highlight the Big Idea.
- Sometimes students
will ask us questions
and we don't know the
answer, be honest
about it and explore
follow-up options
together.

My Story

1 | CONVERSATION STARTER (5 minutes)

Get students talking about who they are close with.

2 | INTRO ACTIVITY (7 minutes)

A team-fun (but awkward) game.

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*)

Students will get to know the heart behind God's commandments.

5 | WRAP-UP ACTIVITY (10 minutes)

Students will consider the 'best way' to live in various settings.

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 the kids, build community, and set the tone for your group.
- Get things rolling by sharing your own answer first.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Welcome the students as they arrive and gather everyone in a group. Check in quickly to see how their week went.
- Ask:
 - Who is the person you're closest to in your family? Why?
 - Who are you closest to at school? Why?
 - Are you really close to anyone else? How did you become close with them?
- Depending on the size of your group, have the students share their responses 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

- Paper
- (Optional) Team prizes

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY

- Fold the papers in half

INSTRUCTIONS

- Explain that getting close to someone can be awkward! Sometimes, we need to make an effort we aren't really used to—even when we're getting close with God. In this activity, there will be closeness and there will be awkwardness, but (hopefully) there will also be fun!
- Divide the students into two teams.
- Direct each team to figure out how to all lean against one another (back to back or side to side), and then move from sitting to standing.
- Award a point to the first team to succeed in the challenge.
- Instruct each team to stand in a circle and face the person to their right. Next, they must sit down as if on a chair. Each person should be seated on the knees of the person to their left in the circle.
- Award a point to the first team to succeed in the challenge.
- Place a folded piece of paper on the floor beside each team.
- Tell the teams they must pick up and pass their paper to each person in the group twice—without using their hands.
- Award a point to the first team to succeed in the challenge. Celebrate the team with the most points!

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God Story | Life Story

3 | Weekly Video

SUPPLIES

- Video file

INSTRUCTIONS

- Play the video. It includes:
 - Host segment
 - God Story (The Tabernacle, the Ark, and the Priests | Exodus 25-31)
 - Life Story (Abby has a close and loving small group.)
- Recap the video teaching. Discuss:
 - Does anyone remember the Key Verse for this series?
 - What was the Life Story about in today's video? Do you have close friends like Abby?
 - What was the God Story about?
 - In the Old Testament, God cared about his people so much he wanted to hang out with them. Where did he "dwell"? (Holy tent!)
 - God, the Father, and God, the Son (Jesus) dwell in Heaven now, but where and how does God dwell on earth? (Inside Christ-followers as the Holy Spirit)

My Story

4 | Application Activity

SUPPLIES

- Timer (E.g. use your phone or watch)

LEADER TIP

- If you do a regular quiet time with God, or set aside time, share how you do that at the end of this activity.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Guide the students to find partners.
- Read the following questions. After each one, pause to give the partners about 30 seconds to discuss it.
- Then, yell "Switch!" and prompt everyone to find a new partner to discuss it with.
- Why do people want to be close to God?
- Is it important for you to be close to God? Why or why not?
- How do people become close to God?
- When do you make space in your life to check in on your relationship with God and spend time with him? How do you do it?
- Gather the students back into a large group.
- Discuss: Did anyone's answers to these questions stand out to you? If so, why?

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My Story

5 | Wrap-Up Activity

SUPPLIES

- None

LEADER TIP

- If needed, place a leader in any group that may require additional prompts or supervision.

INSTRUCTIONS

- a. Divide the students into groups of three or four.
- b. Invite the group members to share truthfully with one another about how they feel about being close to God and where they're at. Emphasize that there should be no judgements—only honest conversations.
- c. Prompt them to discuss: What would it look like for you to be a little closer to God? (Think baby steps!)
- d. Encourage everyone to share and pray together in their groups.

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.