



BIG QUESTION

Why are there so many different kinds of churches?

CAMPFIRE | WEEK 4 OF 5

Churches

GOD STORY

Jesus' Prayer for Unity
John 17

KEY VERSE

Don't worry about anything.
No matter what happens,
tell God about everything.
Philippians 4:6a (NIRV)

LEADER TIPS

This series steps into topical teaching with big questions about prayer, scripture and science, denominations, and more. Because it gets into some meaty subjects, please be sure to read this lesson plan in advance and be prepared. You may get questions you don't have answers for—that's okay! Be honest with the students and learn together.

My Story

1 | CONVERSATION STARTER (7 minutes)

Ask the students whether their families agree on everything, then chat about their experiences at other churches.

2 | INTRO ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Illustrate the concept of varying personal points of view by voting on a series of statements.

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*)

Discuss what unity and diversity mean, then look at John 17:20–21 together.

5 | WRAP-UP ACTIVITY (10 minutes)

Locate your church on the Tree activity page. Consider the differences and connections with other churches.

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

- Share your own experiences to get the ball rolling.

INSTRUCTIONS

- a. Welcome the students and gather them together.
- b. Check in quickly to see how their week is going.
- c. Ask:
 - Does your family agree on everything? If not, what keeps you together?
 - Have you ever been to a different kind of church than this one? What was it like?
- d. Depending on the size of your group, invite the students to share their answers with the people sitting closest to them or with everyone.

2 | Intro Activity

SUPPLIES

- None

LEADER TIP

- If someone in your group goes against the crowd each time, find a point of unity by adding more obvious statements that everyone agrees on (e.g., the earth is round or the sky is blue).

INSTRUCTIONS

- a. Gather everyone in the middle of your group's space.
- b. Designate one side of the space as "agree" and the other side as "disagree".
- c. Direct the students to move over to the side that represents their perspective as you state the following opinions:
 - Ice cream is better than cupcakes.
 - Soccer is a great sport.
 - Eating keeps me alive.
 - Country music is awesome.
 - Pizza is delicious.
 - Exercising is bad for your health.
 - Young people have a lot to offer in their communities.
- d. Highlight that although we don't agree on everything, there are some important things we all agree on! Today, we're learning about what that looks like in the church.
- e. Introduce the Big Question: **Why are there so many different kinds of churches?**



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God Story | Life Story

3 | Weekly Video

SUPPLIES

- Video file

INSTRUCTIONS

- Play the video. It includes:
 - Host segment
 - God Story (Jesus' Prayer for Unity, John 17)
 - Life Story (Kids sit around a campfire and chat about some big questions. This week's question is: **Why are there so many different kinds of churches?**)
- Recap the video teaching. Discuss:
 - What's the Key Verse for the Campfire series? (Philippians 4:6a)
 - What stood out to you in today's Life Story? How about the God Story?

My Story

4 | Application Activity

SUPPLIES

- Bibles

INSTRUCTIONS

- Discuss:
 - What's today's Big Question?
 - What does "unity" mean?
 - What does "diversity" mean?
- Make sure everyone has a Bible. Share them if needed.
- Guide the students to look up John 17:20–21. Provide prompts to help them navigate their Bibles as needed.
- Read aloud verse 20.
- Discuss:
 - Who is Jesus praying for?
 - What does he want them to believe in?
- Read aloud verse 21.
- Discuss:
 - What does Jesus ask for here?
 - What does it mean to "be one"? Why do you think Jesus prayed for this?
 - Do you know anyone who goes to another church? If so, how do you think Jesus wants you to interact with them?

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My Story

5 | Wrap-Up Activity

SUPPLIES

- Tree activity page

INSTRUCTIONS

- Hold up the activity page so everyone can see it.
- Locate your church/denomination within church history.
- Pass around the page so everyone can see it up close.
- Discuss:
 - What are some of the things that make our church/denomination unique?
 - What are some differences among these churches?
 - What connects us with the rest of the branches?
 - How can we encourage unity with other churches?
- Pray for unity among the churches in your community.

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.