

FAMILY

God Story:

Crispus | Acts 18:1-8

Big Idea:

Following Jesus means we're part of the church family.

Key Verse:

Say with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord." Believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead. Then you will be saved. | Romans 10:9 (NIRV)

Leader Tips:

- Pray for the kids in your group before they arrive. Pray that Jesus would be real to them and meet them wherever they're at.
- Look for ways to provide practical examples of what it means to follow Jesus.
- Make sure the kids know that the good news is that Jesus came to show us God's love, save us from sin, and share his peace.

Ms My Story

- 1. Conversation Starter** **2 minutes**
Talk about family and people who feel like family to the kids. Explain that Jesus-followers are all family and introduce the Big Idea.
- 2. Intro Activity** **5 minutes**
Play an active game in which the kids form family group huddles, then all come together as a church family.

Gs God Story Ls Life Story

- 3. Weekly Video** **12 minutes**
The video includes host, God Story, Life Story, and Key Verse segments.

Ms My Story

- 4. Small Group Activity** **12 minutes ***
Review the video teaching. Then read and discuss 1 Corinthians 1:1-3. Work together to write a letter to kids at another church in your community and pray for them.
- 5. Prayer Activity** **8 minutes**
Look at a map and talk about countries the kids have visited or would like to visit and where they have family members. Pray for our brothers and sisters in these places.

Os Our Story

- 6. Dismissal**
Connect with parents and give them the take-home materials.

* Extendable activity



1. CONVERSATION STARTER

Supplies:

- None

Leader Tip:

- Remember that not everyone has positive feelings when it comes to family. Be ready to listen and explain what God offers us is modelled on his love—not any hurtful family experiences we've had.

Instructions:

- As the kids arrive, welcome them and gather everyone together.
- Ask: Do you know anyone who feels like family even though technically they aren't?
- Depending on the size of your group, have the kids share their answers with the people sitting closest to them or with everyone.
- As a group, brainstorm words that describe family (e.g., love, comfort, safety, arguments, etc.).
- Let the kids know that the Bible says anyone who follows Jesus is family. We're brothers and sisters with Jesus-followers who are part of other churches in our own community—and all around the world!
- Introduce the Big Idea: **Following Jesus means we're part of the church family.**

2. INTRO ACTIVITY

Supplies:

- Media player

For smaller groups:

- Chart paper
- Markers
- Wall-safe tape

Leader Tips:

- Depending on the number you choose, someone may be left out of a group. If this happens, be sure to help those kids find groups in the next round. Keep the game moving quickly so no one is excluded for long—the idea is for everyone to feel included! Leaders can also join groups depending on the number of people needed.
- This activity works best with groups of more than six kids. Smaller groups could work together to draw everyone in a "family photo" instead. Draw a frame around it and write "Church Family" across the top. Hang the group work where parents will see it when they pick up their kids.

Instructions:

- If possible, play some music.
- Direct everyone to mill around your group's space.
- Pause the music and call out, "Families of" and a number.
- Prompt the kids to huddle up in groups with that number of people.
- Continue playing the music, milling around, and quickly huddling into family groups.
- Occasionally, say, "Church family!" and guide everyone to come together in one big huddle. Once the whole group is together, lead the kids to shout, "Church family!"



3. WEEKLY VIDEO

Supplies:

- Video file

Leader Tip:

- Sit with the kids and encourage them to focus on the video as necessary.

Instructions:

- Play the video. It contains:
 - Host segment
 - God Story (Crispus | Acts 18:1-8)
 - Life Story

4. SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

Supplies:

- Bibles
- Letter activity page
- Pens
- Markers
- (Optional) Paper

Instructions:

- Gather your small group to sit together.
- Discuss:
 - What is this month's Key Verse? (Romans 10:9)
 - What was the Life Story about in today's video?
 - What was the God Story about?
- Make sure everyone has a Bible. Share them if needed.
- Guide the kids to look up 1 Corinthians 1:1-3.
- Read the passage together.
- Explain that some of the books in the Bible are letters from Paul (or other apostles) to people or churches in a variety of places.
- Discuss: Have you ever written a letter or sent mail to someone? Who did you send it to?
- Use the activity page to write a letter to kids at another church in your community. Consider how to address them as family (e.g., "Dear brothers and

sisters at [church name]"). Fill in all the blanks on the page together. Invite each of the kids to contribute a line or two to the letter. If needed, prompt them with ideas like "I'm glad we're part of God's family," or "We love how God is working through you." You could also include a Bible verse in the letter.

- Have all the kids sign the letter.
- If they would like to draw pictures to send as well, provide them with markers and paper. Encourage them to keep it positive and emphasize being family in Christ together.
- Pray together for the church you're sending the letter to. Pray that God would encourage them and that we would be able to encourage one another.

5. PRAYER ACTIVITY

Supplies:

- Map or globe

Instructions:

- Remain in your small group.
- Show everyone the map or globe.
- Note that there are Christians all over the world. Their lives might be different from what we're used to, but they love Jesus and are committed to following him every day just like we are. Even if we never meet them, they're our brothers and sisters!
- Pray for Christians in other countries. Invite the kids to pray as well. Ask:
 - Is there a country you've visited? (As the kids answer, pray for the brothers and sisters in Christ there.)
 - Is there a country where you have family members? (Pray for the brothers and sisters in Christ there.)
 - Is there a country you'd like to visit? (Pray for the brothers and sisters in Christ there.)
- Pray for each of the kids in your small group and thank God that you're all family!

Os Our Story

6. DISMISSAL

Supplies:

- Kids' crafts
- Take-home cards
- Key Verses colouring pages
- Key Verses cards

Before Dismissal:

- Place any crafts and take-home materials where everyone can access them easily.

Leader Tip:

- Take a moment to share with parents about their kids' experiences. Many parents will only hear about the morning from you.

Instructions:

- Greet parents as they arrive to pick up their kids.
- Give everyone take-home cards.
- Offer Key Verses cards and colouring pages to anyone who has not gotten one yet this month.
- Remind them to take any crafts.
- Make sure the security numbers match before the kids leave with their parents.