

## Be Like Jesus

Week 2

### **BIG IDEA**

God Brings Us Together

### **BIBLE**

Unity (Ephesians 4)

## WELCOME

### MUSIC | Worship Playlist

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *During free time, use one of our Spotify playlists to play background music while kids play OR stream the main worship service on your classroom TV to participate in the worship happening in the Auditorium.*

### PLAY | Free Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Tables will be set with games and activities for kids to play until the lesson begins.*
  - *This is a great opportunity to get to know some kids and work on building relationships.*
  - *Have kids go to the bathroom prior to class beginning*
  - *At the end of Free Time, play the Countdown Video and have kids work together to clean up toys/activities and then join you for the lesson - either on risers or on the floor.*

### MEMORY VERSE | Prizes

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *During free time, kids may say their memory verse from the past week to any leader in the room. Place a dot sticker on their name tag to signify that they've said the verse. Give a memory verse prize **AT PICK UP** to any kids with dot stickers.*

### WELCOME QUESTION

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *This question will be written on the board as a conversation starter during free time.*
  - **If you could hang out with anyone in the world, who would you pick?**

## INTRO

### TALK

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play the Countdown Video to signify time to clean up. Gather kids on the floor or on the risers. It's always fun to have everyone count down the last 10 seconds together!*
- **Welcome to church today, friends! I am so glad to be here with all of you.**
  - *This is a great opportunity to let kids know what the time together will look like! Walk them through the schedule and go over the class rules.*
- **I have a question for you: If you could hang out with anyone in the world, who would you pick?**
  - *Allow a few people to share their answer.*
- **There are a lot of reasons we might want to hang out with someone. What's special about the person you picked?**
  - *Instruct kids to do a "turn and talk" with someone sitting next to them where they say, "Good morning!", give each other a high five, and then discuss their answer. Choose a few to share their answer with the group.*
- **It's always fun to meet new people. Often times, we find out that we have things in common, even if we're very different.**
- **Now, I want you to spend a little time with you partner looking for some things you have in common. When I say go, you can turn to your partner and get started to find the things you have in common. You might find that you both like pineapple pizza. Or you both know how to swim. When you find 3 things you have in common, I want you to jump up and down three times and then take a seat to show me you're done.**
- **Get ready, get set, go!**
  - *Allow several minutes for kids to discuss. Give a warning that you'll be bringing everyone back together soon.*
- **What's the weirdest thing you had in common with someone?** *Allow a few people to share.*
- **Here's something we all have in common: God wants us to be a family—His family. He brings us together with others who know him and love him.**
- **When we decide to follow Jesus, we become part of God's family. We are all his children. But are we all the same? No.**
- **We're different in some ways and similar in other ways. We are all special to God, but we all need each other.**
- **Today we'll learn how God brings us together.**

### DECLARATION

- **Before we get started, I have an important reminder that's true for ALL of us. Let's say this together by repeating after me!**
  - **Thank you, God, that You are good!** (Kids repeat)
  - **You made me on purpose, for a purpose.** (Kids repeat)
  - **And I am Your kid!** (Kids repeat)
  - **You know me, love me, and lead me.** (Kids repeat)
  - **You bring us all together as a family-Your family.** (Kids repeat)
  - **And that's a very good thing.** (Kids repeat)
  - **My life can tell of Your wonder!** (Kids repeat)

## WHAT? What are we talking about today

### PRAYER

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words:*
  - **God, thank You for bringing us together and making us part of Your big story. Through the power of Your Holy Spirit, help us celebrate our differences and not be afraid of them. Help us love each other like You love us and work together to show others Your love. Speak to us today, God. We're listening. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

### BIBLE STORY VIDEO

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play the Unity Big Story Video.*
  - *NOTE: This short video will teach the Bible Story and give you a jumping off point for the rest of the teaching. If you split into smaller group for the re-telling of the Bible Story, watch the video together as a large group before doing so.*

### BIBLE STORY | Ephesians 4 (Unity)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Open a Bible to Ephesians 4.*
- **Today's story comes from the book of Ephesians, which is in the second half of the Bible near the back.**
  - *FOR OLDER KIDS: Give each child a Bible and help them find Ephesians 4.*
- **I'm glad you're all here today because you're gonna need each other for today's Bible story.**
- **During the story, each time you hear me say the word "family" you need to turn to someone sitting next to you, give them a high five, and say "we are family!"**
- **Who's ready?**
- **Let's get started family!** *Wait for kids to respond as instructed, then encourage them to sit down and listen carefully again. Consider doing a simple motion that kids can copy (such as*

*placing your hand on your head) to encourage kids to quiet down and look at you.*

- **Let's jump into our story so we can keep this going.**  
Today's story begins with a guy named Paul. He's all about taking care of his friends, but in today's story, he was all alone because he's actually sitting in prison.
- **But that didn't stop him. He didn't stop taking care of his friends. He kept right on by writing letters to them.**
- **One letter was to his friends in Ephesus. After they read the letter, they could pass it on to their friends, and then they could pass the letter to their friends, and on and on to all their friends' friends' friends! And I bet you'll never guess what he wanted them to know!**
- **He wanted them to know that we are all family!** *Wait for kids to respond as instructed, then encourage them to sit down and listen carefully again. Consider doing a simple motion that kids can copy (such as placing your hand on your head) to encourage kids to quiet down and look at you.*
- **Paul wanted them to know we all belong to the same family—God's family...** *Pause to allow kids to respond.*
- **That's because we are children of God. It didn't matter where people came from, if they were guys or girls, if they were Jews or Gentiles (non-Jews), or different races, skin colors, or originally from other religious backgrounds.**
- **The same is true for us! When we are in Jesus, God brings us together and we all become part of God's family.** *Pause to allow kids to respond.*
- **But some of the people in the churches Paul wrote to didn't quite get it. They usually only hung out with people who were like them.**
- **Maybe they were from the same country, so they hung out with only those people.**
- **Or maybe they were a certain race or skin color, so they all hung out together. But Paul told them that God wants His followers to be a different kind of community.**
- **Again, Paul wanted them to understand that in Jesus we are all family!** *Pause to allow kids to respond.*
- **No matter what is different about us, God's heart is that we would be united. Paul wanted this for the church in Ephesus, and he wanted this for us too! He wants us to be united as a family.** *Pause to allow kids to respond.*
- *Display the [Ephesians 4:2-3 Slide](#).*
- **In his letter, Paul wrote this, "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace," [Ephesians 4:2-3 \(NIV\)](#).**
- **He explains that Jesus' followers are like the different parts of a single body and that Jesus is the head that leads and guides the whole body.**
- **Think about your body for a minute. While the parts are all different, they are all valuable and important!**
- **Without feet, it would be harder to walk; without eyes, we couldn't see. Many differences between us are actually gifts from Jesus that help us serve each other better. Some of those gifts are the unique roles Jesus gives to his followers, like being pastors and teachers.**
- **These different roles are not about ruling over Jesus' other followers, but about serving them. Together, all the parts of the body help one another in the mission of sharing Jesus' story with the world. As we work together like one body, we become more loving, and together we begin to be more like Jesus.**
- **Our differences don't divide us. God brings us together. We are God's family!** *Pause to allow kids to respond.*

**NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?**

- **Great job following along!**
- **We're learning that when we follow God, he united us, no matter how different we are, and we become like one giant family!**
- **But, it can be hard to be united. God knows that, and that's why he says we don't have to do it on our own. That's why God gave us a helper! When we choose to follow Him, He gives us the Holy Spirit to live in us and help us.**
- **The power of the Holy Spirit is at work in and through us, changing us and powering up our love and patience toward one another.**
- **We're different, but we can have unity because God brings us together.**
- **That's our Big Idea today!**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show the Big Idea slide on the screen or the poster on the white board while you have kids repeat after you.
- **Let's say the Big Idea together: God Brings Us Together!**
- **When we decide to follow Jesus, we become part of God's family. We are all his children. But are we all the same? No.**
- **We're different in some ways and similar in other ways. We are all special to God, but we all need each other, so God Brings Us Together.**

MEMORY VERSE | Galatians 5:22-23a (ISV)

- **I'm so excited because our memory verse this month is all about the Fruit of the Spirit! And these aren't fruits that you eat. This is the kind of fruit we can all have in our lives when we follow God.**
- **Here's what the verse says:**
  - **"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." Galatians 5:22-23a**
- **If we all have this kind of fruit in our lives, we will be the best family ever!**
- **Let's practice our verse together.**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read the verse to the kids, then encourage them to stand and repeat after you with the following motions:
  - **The the fruit of the Spirit is** (Draw a large S in the air)
  - **love,** (Pat your hands on your heart)
  - **joy,** (Put your arms up as if celebrating)
  - **peace,** (Hold up two fingers in "peace sign")
  - **patience,** (Point to a pretend watch on your wrist)
  - **kindness,** (Pretend to give someone a hug)
  - **goodness,** (Make two thumbs up)
  - **faithfulness,** (Make two fists and start with the one fist on top of the other, then switch to stack the bottom fist on top, then switch again, as if stacking bricks)
  - **gentleness,** (pretend to gently rock a baby)
  - **and self-control** (Point to self with both thumbs)
  - **Galatians 5:22-23a** (clap hands together, then open like a book)
- **Nice work, friends! When we memorize God's word, we let it live in our hearts and remind us of who God is and who we are.**
- **Now, we're going to have a chance to talk with our friends in small groups about everything we learned today and ask any questions you might have.**

## SMALL GROUPS

### DISCUSSION | Circle Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *If you haven't already, split kids into smaller groups, ideally by grade. Use the following questions to help reinforce the lesson.*
  - *NOTE: Invite kids to share any questions they might have. Some kids have an easier time listening if their hands are busy. You may choose to pass out coloring sheets and allow kids to color as you discuss. You might also consider having kids lead the discussion by asking the following questions.*
- **Why do you think God wants you to be part of His family?**
- **When we follow Jesus, we are called children of ... who?** (Children of God)
- **What's something you now know about God that you didn't know before?**
- **Why do you think God wants to bring us together?**
- **What's something we can do together that we can't do on our own?**
- **When we work together as one body, we become more loving. We start becoming more like ... who?**
- **How does it feel knowing the Holy Spirit will help you know Jesus better?**
- **What's one good thing about God bringing us together?**
- **When we follow Jesus, we are a part of God's family! God brings us together, both with other believers and with Him. Let's talk with Him right now!**

### PRAYER

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Invite kids to share any prayer requests and praises and then ask children to each find a partner and pray for that person. It's OK if the prayers are silent—reassure kids God will hear the prayers anyway. Close the time of prayer, thanking God for bringing the kids together ... and for bringing them to you.*

## CLOSING

### EXTRA TIME ACTIVITY | Untie the Knot

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *The goal of this game is for the kids to untangle the knot they create without anyone letting go of a hand. If they do let go, have them reconnect quickly. When the circle is complete and round again and no one is crossed over, they have successfully worked together to untie the knot!*
- *If the group is large, split into smaller groups of 8-10. Instruct kids to stand in a circle and extend their left hands toward the middle of the circle. Have kids grab the hand of another person across the circle. Then, have kids extend their right hands to the middle of the circle and grab the hand of another person across the circle. Each kid should be holding hands with two different kids across from them.*
- **We are going to make a big knot! Each of you should be holding the hand of two different**

**people, neither of whom should be standing right beside you. The goal is to untangle yourselves and untie the knot without letting go of anyone's hand. You can step over or under arms, twist yourselves backwards, and move around the circle, but don't ever let go! Don't break the circle!**

- *If kids are in a place where they are tired and are really stuck, a leader can help them untangle and can provide direction. If they get to a place where they can't do anything unless two kids let go of their hands, have a leader guide them in doing so quickly and then help to reconnect them. When they are in a circle again, congratulate them! If you have a larger group, they can compete to see who can untie themselves fastest!*
- **You had to work together to accomplish the goal of untying the knot! It was hard to stay unified, wasn't it? Working together isn't always faster, but it is always better to work in unity. God's big story tells us to make every effort to stay united with each other—that's exactly what you all did in this game!**