



BIG IDEA

We are the church together.

COMMUNITY | WEEKS 1-5

Community

GOD STORY

The Very First Church
Acts 2:42-47

KEY VERSE

Encourage each other and
build each other up.
1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NLT)

LEADER TIP

If one of your group's
regular leaders is away,
take the time to help
anyone who fills in
become familiar with your
usual routines.

Life Story

1 | PICNIC (Free play)

Go on a pretend picnic and talk about sharing with the children.

2 | PLAY DOUGH SHARING (Free play)

Focus on sharing while working with play dough.

3 | PRAYER JAR (Free play)

Use prompts from a prayer jar to help the children pray.

4 | FREEZE DANCE (Large group)

Emphasize that Jesus is Lord and he loves us in this high-energy activity.

5 | PARACHUTE (Large group)

Highlight the Big Idea as the group plays with a parachute.

God Story (Circle Time)

6 | MUSIC (Large group)

Sing and move along to "We Are the Church" (*The Meeting House Kids Music*) and "Love One Another" (*Little Praise Party: Happy Day Everyday*).

7 | BIBLE STORY (Large group)

Read *The Early Church* flip book.

My Story

8 | CRAFT (Large group)

Refer to the lesson plan for details.

Our Story

9 | DISMISSAL

Connect with parents. Remember to give them take-home cards!



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Life Story

1 | Picnic

SUPPLIES

- Picnic cloth
- Toy food
- Fake flowers
- Baby dolls

LEADER TIP

- Continue free-play activities as long as they engage the children. Then invite a new group to do them.

INSTRUCTIONS

- a. During free-play time, invite a small group of children to join you on a pretend picnic.
- b. Work together to lay out the picnic cloth and put the flowers in the middle. Arrange the food on the cloth.
- c. Tell everyone that today's story from the Bible is about the very first church. The people who made up the church ate together and shared all they had.
- d. Prompt the children to invite some friends (the baby dolls) to share your picnic.
- e. As you play, highlight that **we are the church together**.

2 | Play Dough Sharing

SUPPLIES

- Allergy alert sign
- Wall-safe tape
- Play dough
- Rollers
- Dough cutters

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY

- Hang the allergy alert sign where parents will see it when they drop off their children.
- Place the play dough supplies on a table before the children arrive.

LEADER TIP

- If anyone tries to eat the play dough, redirect them to shaping it with their hands!

INSTRUCTIONS

- a. During free-play time, invite the children to join you at the table with the play dough supplies.
- b. Encourage them to shape the dough and use the rollers and cutters.
- c. Emphasize sharing! Let the children know that the people from the very first church shared everything. We can share just like they did. For example, the children could share their dough cutters or something they make with the play dough.
- d. Review the Big Idea: **We are the church together**.



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Life Story

3 | Prayer Jar

SUPPLIES

- Prayer jar
- Craft sticks with names written on them

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY

- Place the craft sticks in the prayer jar before the children arrive.

LEADER TIP

- Lead by example and model how to pray for the children. Help them as needed.

INSTRUCTIONS

- a. During free play, invite one or two children at a time to pray with you.
- b. Direct them to pull a craft stick from the prayer jar.
- c. Read aloud what's written on their craft stick.
- d. Lead everyone in a simple prayer, such as, "Thank you, God, for..." Prompt the children to finish the sentence by saying what's on the stick.
- e. Ask if there's anything else they want to pray about.

4 | Freeze Dance

SUPPLIES

- Media player

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY

- Cue up a fun song that your group enjoys.

LEADER TIPS

- Make sure the children know what it means to freeze. Demonstrate how to be still and quiet.
- It may be helpful to have one leader play and pause the music while another leader guides the children during this activity.

INSTRUCTIONS

- a. Gather everyone in an open area.
- b. Explain that when the song is playing, the children should join you in dancing and moving around. Whenever the music stops, they should freeze.
- c. Play the music.
- d. Lead the group to have fun dancing and moving around.
- e. Pause the music.
- f. Direct the children to freeze.
- g. Say, "Jesus is Lord," and prompt everyone to respond, "and he loves me!"
- h. Repeat until the song ends.



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Life Story

5 | Parachute

SUPPLIES

- Parachute

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY

- Spread out the parachute on the floor in an open area.

LEADER TIPS

- Arrange the leaders around the parachute to help the children as needed.
- Having trouble keeping everyone focused during this activity? Try doing it sitting down.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Gather everyone to sit or stand around the outside of the parachute.
- Explain your expectations for how the children will listen to you and handle the parachute.
- Direct them to hold onto its edges.
- Raise and lower the parachute together. Help the children as needed.
- As you play with the parachute, emphasize working together and encouraging each other.
- Remind everyone that **we are the church together!**

God Story (Circle Time)

SUPPLIES

- Media player
- Tidy up and/or circle time songs

INSTRUCTIONS

- Make sure the media player is easy to access.
- Play music while clearing space on the floor.
- Gather the children into a circle to do the following activities together.
- Change the order of the circle time activities so they work well for your group.

6 | Music

SUPPLIES

- Song lyrics
- Wall-safe tape
- Media player
- "We Are the Church" (*The Meeting House Kids Music*)
- "Love One Another" (*Little Praise Party: Happy Day Everyday*)
- (Optional) Scarves or musical instruments

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY

- Place the lyrics where leaders can see them.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Gather everyone together during circle time.
- (Optional) Give each child a scarf or instrument.
- Mix it up each week! Play the music and:
 - do a fun freeze-style dance.
 - wave around the scarves.
 - use the musical instruments.
 - make up fun actions that go with the songs.
- To wrap up, guide the children to return any supplies to the bin.



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God Story (Circle Time)

7 | Bible Story

SUPPLIES

- *The Early Church* flip book (from Acts 2:42–47)

LEADER TIPS

- This story is the core of the lesson. Build up to it and be sure to refer to it in other activities.
- Define any difficult words or concepts for everyone before reading the story.
- Use the story to start conversations about God with the children.
- Make sure they understood the story by asking them recall questions to review it.

INSTRUCTIONS

- a. During circle time, gather the children to sit on the floor with you.
- b. Explain that today's story is from the Bible.
- c. Read the flip book out loud. Use an expressive voice and show everyone the pictures.
- d. Pray, "Dear God, thank you so much that we are part of an amazing church and that we can pray, share, give, and serve together. Amen."

My Story

8 | Craft

LEADER TIPS

- Depending on what works best for your group, gather all the children at the tables, work with small groups of two to three children, or do the crafts one-on-one.
- Help them hand-over-hand if needed.
- Make sure to write the children's names on their crafts each week.

May 2

SUPPLIES

- Share activity pages
- Share pictures
- Glue sticks
- Crayons

INSTRUCTIONS

- a. Give each child an activity page, one of each of the pictures, a glue stick, and some crayons.
- b. Guide the children to glue their pictures onto their page.
- c. Direct them to colour their collage. Encourage them to share their crayons to get more colours.
- d. As everyone works on their crafts, talk about ways the very first church shared everything. Remind them that they can share with others, too.
- e. Emphasize the Big Idea: **We are the church together!**



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My Story

May 9

SUPPLIES

- Flower activity pages
- Stickers
- Crayons

LEADER TIP

- If it isn't Mother's Day, chat about encouraging other people in general.

INSTRUCTIONS

- a. Give each child an activity page and some stickers.
- b. Place the crayons where everyone can share them.
- c. Direct the children to decorate their pages with the stickers and crayons.
- d. Read aloud the Key Verse printed on the pages.
- e. As the children decorate their crafts, talk with them about ways their moms, aunts, grandmothers, etc. encourage them. Discuss ways they could encourage and show love to others.

May 16

SUPPLIES

- Church activity pages
- People cutouts
- Glue sticks
- Crayons

INSTRUCTIONS

- a. Give each child an activity page, some people cutouts, and a glue stick.
- b. Place the crayons where everyone can reach them.
- c. Direct the children to glue their cutouts onto their page. They can also colour it.
- d. As everyone works on their crafts, chat about how **we are the church together**.



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My Story

May 23

SUPPLIES

- Pray activity pages
- Crayons

INSTRUCTIONS

- a. Give each child an activity page and some crayons.
- b. Direct everyone to decorate their picture using plenty of different colours. Encourage the group to share their crayons!
- c. As the children work on their crafts, talk with them about how we can pray for other people.
- d. Emphasize the Big Idea: **We are the church together!**

May 30

SUPPLIES

- Activity pages
- Stickers
- Crayons

INSTRUCTIONS

- a. Give each child an activity page.
- b. Place the stickers and crayons where everyone can reach them.
- c. Encourage the children to decorate their activity page with stickers and colour as they wish.
- d. As they work, chat about how we are the church as we pray together, learn together, play together, and encourage and help others!



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Our Story

9 | Dismissal

SUPPLIES

- Children's crafts
- Take-home cards
- Key Verse colouring pages

BEFORE DISMISSAL

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

LEADER TIP

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

INSTRUCTIONS

- a. Greet parents as they arrive to pick up their children.
- b. Give everyone take-home cards.
- c. If they have not yet gotten a colouring page for the month, offer them one.
- d. Remind them to take any crafts.
- e. Make sure the children's security numbers match parents' numbers before they leave.