Lesson Plan

November 15th, 2026

This Month's Truth: I Am Made for Community
Bible Story: Unity in Jesus (Ephesians 2:11-22)
Theme Verse: "Now may the God who gives endurance and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, according to Christ Jesus, so that you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ with one mind and one voice." (Romans 15:5-6)

Teachers rally with your team a few minutes before kids start to arrive: Rally is a pre-service time for you to be expectant and equipped before the kids start arriving. Go over the lesson and any ideas for the day. Pray over your space and for the kids that will be coming that they will be connected to the person of Jesus.

Share: Today's Bible story is from Ephesians 2 and will teach kids that, when we follow Jesus, we are connected with others who follow Jesus. We become part of the same family–God's family. (Read Ephesians 2:19-20.) Kids will learn that we can live in unity when we remember that God has made us to be united as one. Together, we can reflect God by loving, forgiving, kids, and being helpful.
Pray: Lead the group in prayer, asking God to help kids discover the incredible connections they can have with each other.

Pre Service

Arrival time, please use this time to build relationships with kids and encourage them to build relationships with one another.

Service

What To Do:

- **Teacher** Start 5-minute countdown **5 minutes prior to service start time.**

Teacher Opener: Hi, everyone! I am ____. I am so happy to see you here! Today we get to talk about what it looks like to live side by side in community. Side by side in what? (Community!) A community is a group of people who come together for a common purpose. Everyone, lean to

the left (demonstrate leaning to your right) and lean to the right (demonstrate leaning to your left) and say, “Side by side!” (Side by side!)

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John Corner Game

What You Say: We’re going to play a game called “Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John”. Does anyone know where we know these names from? (The Bible, The Gospels). This game is going to be like a game called Four Corners. Does everyone know this game?

For this game I need a volunteer to be It. It will stand in the middle between all the Gospel names. They will close their eyes and count to 10. Then everyone else will quietly go to one of the Gospel names. The person that is It will say, “Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. I pick. . .” and then choose one of the Gospel names. Any kids standing near the sign of the name picked will move to stand in the middle with It. The game will continue until only one kid is left at a Gospel name. That kid then becomes It for the next round.

Leader Tip: Play however many rounds as time allows.

What You Say: Great job everyone! That game was so fun and what a great way for us to memorize the books of the Gospel.

Loud And Clear: When we talk about community, we mean a group of people who are connected by something in common. When we love and follow God, we get to love and follow Him in community—side by side with other people who love and follow Him too. Turn to a teammate, give a fist bump, and say, “I am made for community!” (I am made for community!)

Transition Script to go into the Intro Video: Everyone, say, “Friends!” (Friends!) Say, “Zees!” (Zees!) Now say, “Friendsies!” (Friendsies!) If you’ve never heard that word before, then you will in our video featuring a girl named Kenzie and her friendsies! Count down from three and say, “Kenzie’s Friendsies!” to get our video started. Ready? 3-2-1! (Kenzie’s Friendsies!)

Play Intro Video

What You Say: Kenzie thought she was completing the “Carousel Challenge” all by herself, but Levi and Elsie were right there! Kenzie remembered that being part of a community means you are connected with others in that community. The same is true for us. When we love and follow God, we are connected with other people who follow God. We are all part of the same community—God’s family! We may look different, act different, and like different things, but we are connected because we love God.

Sometimes we might worry that we are not connected with other people, like how Kenzie felt when she thought her friends left her. There may also be times when we do not get along with others in our community, but that's okay. Ask, "Why?" (Why?) Because we are still connected! We can be kind, care for each other, forgive one another, and help each other no matter how we are feeling—all because we are connected in community. Say, "We are connected! (We are connected!)

Worship

What You Say: Worship is telling and showing God how great, special, and wonderful He is. It means giving God the highest worth because of who He is and what He has done. Think of it as a giant "thank you" and a celebration party for God. So, let's all come together and worship God this morning.

What To Do:

- Turn lights off
- 2 songs of worship
- **Teachers and Small Group Leaders worship with the kids, modeling what it looks like to give God our praise. Stand in the front of the room, or next to the kids- but not in the back.**
- Dismiss the kids back to their seats when the songs are over

What To Do:

- Have the kids **open up** a physical Bible and find the Bible story for that day.
- Use the Bibles provided in the classroom if a kid does not have their own Bible with them.

Transition Script to go into the Bible Story Video: (Open the Bible to Ephesians 2:11-22.) Now we get to look at what the Bible says about being connected. The Bible is God's true message to us about Himself. Our Bible story today comes from the book of Ephesians (ih FEE zhuhnz). What book of the Bible? (Ephesians!) That's in the New Testament, the second part of the Bible. Let's read about what the book of Ephesians has to say about being connected as we live side by side. Link arms with a friend and say, "Side by side!" (Side by side!)

Play Bible Story Video

Questions to consider asking after the video:

- What is something that you learned about God from the video?
- What is something that you learned about people?
- What can you take away from the video?
    - How can you apply the lesson from today into your life?

Making The Connection Script: In Ephesians, Paul told Christians about the connection that comes from being part of God's household, or family. The disagreements between the Christians in Ephesus were because they came from different backgrounds. Jewish Christians felt like people needed to be like them to love and follow Jesus. But Paul told all the Christians in Ephesus that, because Jesus died and rose again, everyone who trusts and follows Jesus is a member of God's family, no matter the background or culture! Those things that could divide people would no longer matter because there would be unity between everyone in God's family. Let me hear you say, "Unity!" (Unity!) Unity means that people are connected and joined together with the same attitude for the same purpose. God gives everyone who trusts in Jesus the same goals—to follow Him, worship Him, and tell others about Him. We can do this as we live side by side in community with one another. Say, "Side by side!" (Side by side!)

Use the Three Circle Graphics on the Playlist

(Circle 1) When God created the world, there were no disagreements between people. Adam and Eve, the first people God created, lived in unity and harmony with each other. Adam and Eve also walked and talked with God. The world was perfect, their relationship with God was perfect, and their relationship with each other was perfect.

(Circle 2) However, Adam and Eve broke those perfect relationships when they sinned. Sin is doing what we think is best instead of following what God says is best. Since Adam and Eve sinned, all people have sinned—including us in this room. Our sin not only separates us from God, but also it breaks our relationships with others. Instead of being united, we sometimes hurt each other's feelings, can be selfish, and don't always take care of each other the way God planned. Our sin deserves to be punished, and we cannot fix our sin problem on our own.

(Circle 3) But the good news is that God sent His only Son, Jesus, to fix our sin problem and end division between people. Jesus lived a perfect life, died on a cross to take the punishment we deserved for sin, and came back to life. Jesus showed that He is more powerful than both sin and death! Now when we believe that Jesus is the only One who can rescue us, we can become part of God's family forever. We can repent—which means apologizing for sin and turning away

from sin to follow Jesus instead. God helps us follow Jesus and live the way that He created us to live, which includes living connected in community with everyone in God's family. This connection lasts forever! How long does this connection last? (Forever!) Please talk to me or your Small Group Leader if you would like to know more about being part of God's family. We would be happy to talk it over with you!

Paul wrote that God has connected people together through Jesus. It doesn't matter who we are, where we live, or what our lives were like before we followed Jesus. Once we follow Jesus, we become part of the same family—God's family. Everyone, say, "God's family!" (God's family!) This doesn't mean that we will always get along or agree with each other. When we don't get along with others who are in our community, we can remember that God made us to live in unity. We can ask Him to help us be kind, care for each other, and forgive one another. The fact that we follow Jesus is greater and bigger than any of our differences. Say, "I am made for community!" (I am made for community!)

Theme Verse Review:

Theme Verse Motions:
Now may the God who gives endurance and encouragement (Bring both arms up, palms facing in, then make muscles with your arms by your head. Bring your right arm down and out with a thumbs-up.)
grant you to live in harmony with one another, (Clasp both hands together in front of your chest, then point out to the side with your right arm, then left.)
according to Christ Jesus, (Keep your arms where they are, but flip your right hand, then left, so that your palms are facing up.)
so that you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (Bring both arms all the way up with your palms facing in, then bring your right arm down, then left, with palms facing up.)
with one mind and one voice. (Bring both hands with palms facing down to your temples, then down with palms facing out around your mouth.)
Romans 15:5-6 (Hold hands out like a book.)

What You Say: Now it's time to learn our Theme verse with Kenzie from our Main Idea video. This Bible verse helps us remember that God helps us live side by side. God helps us live what? (Side by side!)

Play Theme Verse Video

What You Say: This Bible verse says that God helps us "live in harmony" with each other. Living in harmony means that we get along and find ways to agree and support each other. God is the One who connects us as we follow Jesus. He helps us glorify, or honor, Him as we are united in the way we think, act, and speak. We may be different people with different backgrounds, but we can live in unity and harmony as we follow Jesus together! Say, "We are connected!" (We are connected!)

Large Group Closing:

What You Say: We are connected when we trust and follow Jesus because we become part of God's family forever. It does not matter who we are, where we are from, what we were like before we started following Jesus, or even if we disagree sometimes. God helps us live united and connected with others in His family. Call out, "We are connected!" (We are connected!) Following Jesus means we get to be who God created us to be and live that out side by side with others who follow Jesus! God connects us and helps us live in unity. We get to live as one as we care for, help, and forgive each other. Let's pray now and thank God for helping us be united through Jesus.

Closing Prayer: God, thank You for connecting us when we trust and follow You. Thank You that You had a plan to connect us with You and each other before You even made the world. Help us remember that we are connected forever when we are part of Your family. Even during disagreements, arguments, and hard times, You help keep us connected. Amen.

Transition to Small Group Time: Split the kids into small groups. This can be done either by age, grade, or gender.

Small Group Time:

Option #1: Connection Questions

What To Do: Let's talk side by side about what it means to be connected.

1. What are some things that go together that you use a lot, like shoelaces and shoes, paintbrushes and paint, or basketballs and hoops? (Allow kids to answer and share your answer.)

2. The Bible tells us that we are made for community, and we become connected as a community of God's household when we trust and follow Jesus. Let's open our Bibles to Ephesians 2:19 and read about it together. (Invite kids to open their Bibles. Read the Bible verse aloud or invite a kid who volunteers to read the verse aloud. Be sure to have Bibles available for kids who need one. Help kids find the Bible verse so everyone can follow along together.) God makes everyone who trusts and follows Jesus a part of His household, or family. Jesus is the One who connects the people in God's family. We say Jesus is the cornerstone—which means He is the most important part of the household—because He is the foundation where everything else is built. When you follow Jesus, what are things you have in common with other people who are part of God's family? (Allow kids to answer. We all love and follow God. We want to point others to God. We help each other follow God.)
3. What are ways that we can be united as we follow Jesus? (Allow kids to answer. Point out that God helps us care for and forgive each other. We can treat each other in ways that honor and obey God. We can help each other.)
4. The Bible tells us that God helps us live in unity and harmony with our community. What is something you learned today? Is there anything you have questions about? (Allow kids to answer and share your own answer.) Let's pray and talk with God. (Lead the group in prayer. Consider using the following prayer prompt.)

Option #2: Jesus Is My Cornerstone LEGO Object Lesson
Supplies: LEGO-style building bricks (6–8 per kid), small zip-top bags,, and a small take-home Bible verse card (optional).
Leader Prep:

1. Each kid will receive a small bag of 6 LEGO-style bricks. With one brick labeled "JESUS".
2. If desired, label the remaining bricks with words such as "Me," "Family," "Friends," "Church," "Peace," and "Together."
3. Make sure each kid has a flat surface where they can build with their bricks.
4. Put the small Bible verse card with Ephesians 2:20 in the baggies for the kids to take home with their LEGO bricks.

What To Do: Today, we learned that Jesus brings us together and that He is the cornerstone of God's family! A cornerstone is an important stone in a building that helps the builders know how to line up the rest of the building. We are going to use LEGO bricks to help us understand what it means for Jesus to be our cornerstone!

First, everyone is going to get a bag of LEGO bricks. Take out your bricks and find the one that says "JESUS." Hold it up so I can see it! (Allow time.) Great! Now set your Jesus brick to the side.

Using only your other bricks, I want you to build a small wall or building. You can build it however you want! (Allow time.)

Look at what you built! Did everyone's building turn out exactly the same? (No!) That's right! We all built something a little different. Now, I want everyone to carefully take apart their buildings. (Allow time.)

This time, we're going to build something a little differently! Pick up your brick that says "JESUS." What does your brick say? (Jesus!) That's right! The Bible tells us in Ephesians 2:20 that Jesus is the cornerstone. Builders used a cornerstone to help guide how the rest of a building was built. Place your Jesus brick down first. Now, begin adding your other bricks, building around and connecting them to your Jesus brick. (Allow time.)

As you add your bricks, think about all the different people who make up God's family. We have kids, adults, pastors, teachers, and so many others! Even though we're all different, Jesus is the One who brings us together. Look at your finished building! What brick did we start with this time? (Jesus!) That's right! We started with Jesus because He is the cornerstone of God's family!

Keep It Going: Allow kids to continue building and adding to their LEGO structures. Challenge them to build a church building, house, or wall while keeping their Jesus brick as the starting point. Encourage kids to explain how their structure reminds them that Jesus brings His people together. When finished, have them take their LEGO bricks apart and place them back in their bags to take home. Kids can use their bricks at home to rebuild the structure and share what they learned with their families.

Loud And Clear: In Ephesians 2, Paul tells us that Jesus is the cornerstone. A cornerstone was an important stone that helped builders line up the rest of a building. Without it, builders wouldn't have that stone to guide how the building should be put together. The Bible says that God's people are like a building, and Jesus is the cornerstone! That doesn't mean we're actually made of bricks. It means that Jesus is the One who brings us together and gives us a place in God's family.

Look at your LEGO bricks. You have different colors, shapes, and sizes, right? (Yes!) Even though the bricks are different, they can all connect to make something together! That's a picture of God's family! We don't all look the same, act the same, or have the same abilities, but everyone who belongs to Jesus is part of His family. And here's something really important: Jesus isn't just another brick in our building. He is the cornerstone! He is the One God's family is built on.

When we build our lives around Jesus, we can follow His example, love others, and live the way He teaches us. So, when you take your LEGO bricks home today, remember that Jesus is the cornerstone of God's family! Let's say, “Jesus is our cornerstone!” (Jesus is our cornerstone!) That's right! Because of Jesus, we can belong to God's family and be built together in Him!

Option #3: Activity Page

What To Do: This activity page helps us remember some big things we’ve learned about today. As you color and work on activities, talk to a friend about some of your favorite parts of our time together.

Leader Tip: Get to know the kids better. Ask them what they remember about the Bible story or remind them that God connects us with others who follow Jesus when we decide to follow Jesus.

Loud And Clear: Paul sent his message to the Christians in Ephesus because the Christians there needed to know that Jesus connected them, no matter their differences from the past. God connects all of us when we follow Jesus, no matter who we are, where we’re from, or anything else that may make us different from each other.

Close out in prayer:

What To Do:

- Ask for any specific prayer requests
- Pray with the group
- Lead the group in the prayer below.

What You Say: God, thank You for making the way for us to be part of Your family. Thank You that it doesn’t matter who we are, where we are from, or what we are like before we follow You—we are still made for community. Help us remember that we are connected with everyone who loves and follows You when we are part of Your family. Amen.

Dismissal:

Leader Tip: Work with your team to dismiss the kids in a fun, manageable, and safe way. As kids leave, make sure they have all of the crafts and papers. Share with the person picking them up something positive you observed today. Invite them back next week.