Lesson Plan

November 22nd, 2026

This Month's Truth: I Am Made for Community
Bible Story: Jesus Prayed for People (John 17:6-26)
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: In John 17, Jesus prayed for His disciples and others who would follow Him in the future, knowing they would all face difficult times. Jesus prayed for believers to stay together and help each other follow Him. (Read John 17:20-21.) Let's teach kids this week that we are stronger as one and we can help each other follow God.
Pray: Lead the group in prayer, asking God to grow unity and camaraderie with your team and church.

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: Hey there! I'm ____, and I'm so glad you are here today! We get to take some time today to talk about what it means to live side by side with each other because God made us for community. When we are in community, we are with a group of people who have

something in common. Find a friend here in our community, link arms, and say, “Side by side!” (Side by side!) Let’s get started!

Better Together

Game Rules:

1. Bring a Small Group Leader to the front and have them close their eyes.
2. Display the slide, directing kids to choose which pairing the Small Group Leader would like the most by standing in the coordinating corner.
3. Allow the Small Group Leader to rank the choices from least favorite to most favorite.
4. Instruct kids who are at the “Least Liked” corner to give themselves one point, kids who are at choice number three—two points, kids who are at choice number two—three points, and kids who are at choice number one—four points.
5. Continue playing with however many Small Group Leaders there are for that morning.

What You Do: Some things just go better together, like foods that we like to eat together and activities that are better to do in certain weather or better with friends. Today we’ll take a look at some things that go better together and decide which ones our Small Group Leaders like most. Everyone, say, “Better Together!” (Better Together!) First, let’s have a Small Group Leader join me at the front. (Invite the leader to the front, asking the leader to share a fun personal fact. Then have them close their eyes.) I will show a slide, and you will go to the corner that you think the Small Group Leader would choose as the best combo. Then we will have the leader share his/her choices, going from least favorite combo to most favorite combo. Everyone will win points. Who will win points? (Everyone!) Right!

If you are in the corner with the least favorite combo, give yourself one point. If you are in the next least favorite combo, give yourself two points. For the second favorite combo, give yourself three points. And if you choose the most favorite combo, give yourself four points. We have six rounds, so keep track of your points. If you’re ready, say, “Let’s play!” (Let’s play!)

Move to corner 1 for macaroni and cheese, corner 2 for a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, corner 3 for a hamburger and French fries, and corner 4 for carrots and ranch. (Allow time.) Ask the Small Group Leader, “What is better together?” (What is better together?) (Allow the leader to share.)

Nice work! Come back to your spots while we get the next set of combos up!

Move to corner 1 for reading inside on a rainy day, corner 2 for swimming on a sunny day, corner 3 for playing in fall leaves, or corner 4 for making something in the snow. (Allow time.) Ask the Small Group Leader, “What is better together?” (What is better together?) (Allow the leader to share.)

Great job! Come back to your spots. Time for some flavor and seasoning combos!

Think about flavors and seasoning you might add to food. Move to corner 1 for salt and pepper, corner 2 for ketchup and mustard, corner 3 for soy sauce and chili oil, and corner 4 for salsa and guacamole. (Allow time.) Ask the Small Group Leader, “What is better together?” (What is better together?) (Allow the leader to share.)

Okay, now come back to your spots. Let’s see some fun, sporty combos.

Sports can be better with friends, so which sport is best played together? Move to corner 1 for soccer, corner 2 for basketball, corner 3 for hockey, and corner 4 for pickleball. (Allow time.) Ask the Small Group Leader, “What is better together?” (What is better together?) (Allow the leader to share.)

Great choices! Time to come back to your spots. Our next choices are more fun times you can have with a friend!

Move to corner 1 for playing a board game with a friend, move to corner 2 for playing video games with a friend, move to corner 3 for hanging out at a park with a friend, and move to corner 4 for going to the movies with a friend. (Allow time.) Ask the Small Group Leader, “What is better together?” (What is better together?) (Allow the leader to share.)

Awesome! Come back to your spots for one more round. We are going to end with better together breakfast combos.

Move to corner 1 for cereal and milk, move to corner 2 for pancakes and syrup, move to corner 3 for bacon and eggs, and move to corner 4 for yogurt and granola. (Allow time.) Ask the Small Group Leader, “What is better together?” (What is better together?) (Allow the leader to share.)

You did it! Total up your points and head back to your seats.

Raise your hand if you got at least 15 points. (Allow time.) What about at least 17 points? (Allow time. Continue calling out numbers until you determine which kid[s] got the most points, inviting kids to cheer.)

Was it hard to choose what you thought the leader thought was better together? (Allow kids to answer.) Some things go so well together that it almost seems like they were made for each other. Today we get to talk about how God made us to be together in community. A community is a group of people who are connected by something in common. Say, “I am made for community!” (I am made for community!) We’ve already had a fun start. Let’s keep it going! Turn to a friend and say, “Keep it going!” (Keep it going!)

Transition Script to go into the Intro Video: One of the best parts of being made for community and living side by side is having fun with friends! Today, we get to check out a video of a girl named Kenzie who loves having fun with her friends, Elsie and Levi. However, their fun today seems to get interrupted when something pops up. You’ll know what I mean in a moment. Get our video started by saying, “Press play!” in 3-2-1! (Press play!)

Play Intro Video

What You Say: That popcorn problem was easily solved by Kenzie, Elsie, and Levi working together. Say, “Great popping!” (Great popping!) That would have been very challenging if Kenzie had been by herself. But, working together with friends, they all discovered they are stronger as one. The same is true for us! God made us for community, which means we are made for friendships. Because we are made for community, we can know that we are stronger when we are unified and help each other. So many things are better, more fun, and make a big difference when we go through them together. Say, “We are stronger as one!” (We are stronger as one!)

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 John 17:6-26.) Let's look at what the Bible has to say about being stronger as one. The Bible is God's true message to us about Himself. Today we will look at a book in the Bible called John to see what the Bible says about living life side by side. Tap elbows 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: Jesus prayed for all His followers. First, He prayed for His followers who were right there with Him, called the disciples. Second, He also prayed for His followers in the future. This includes everyone who will trust and follow Him in the future. This means that even back then, Jesus prayed for all of us who trust and follow Jesus right now! Jesus prayed that His followers would be one—that they would be united. Being united means coming together and helping each other reach a common goal. So when people who follow Jesus are united, it means coming together and helping each other with the goal of loving God and loving people. Jesus knows that we are stronger as one because that is how God designed it. Jesus knew when He prayed that hard times were going to come. Ask, "Why?" (Why?)

Use the Three Circle Graphics on the Playlist

(Circle 2) Difficult and hard times happen because of sin, which is doing what we think is best instead of following what God says is best. Every person who has ever lived on earth except Jesus has sinned, and we cannot fix our sin problem on our own. Our sin deserves punishment because it breaks God's perfect design. When Jesus prayed this prayer, He knew that sin would cause difficult and hard times for His followers.

(Circle 3) Jesus also knew how He would rescue us from our sin because He loves us. Say, "Who, me?" (Who, me?) Yes, you! All of you! Not long after Jesus prayed this prayer, He died on the cross. Jesus died to take the punishment we deserved for our sin. He knew that was the only way to rescue us. Jesus also knew that He would not stay dead. He rose again on the third day, defeating both sin and death. Since Jesus died on the cross and rose again, God now forgives every person who trusts in Jesus, asks for forgiveness, turns away from sin, and follows Him.

In today's Bible story, Jesus prayed for every person who ever has or ever will decide to respond by turning from sin to trust and follow Him. One day, He will put an end to the hard and difficult times for every person who follows Him.

(Circle 1) Before sin, the world was perfect. There was no sadness, suffering, or death. Jesus promised to return someday and make everything perfect again. Everyone who believes and follows Him will get to live without any sadness, suffering, hard times, or death forever! For how long? (Forever!) While we wait for His return, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to help us live as one community because we are stronger as one! It is not easy to live in this broken world and try to follow Jesus. The good news is that we have a community of people who can help and encourage us as we follow Jesus together. All the people who love and follow Him and are part of God's family.

If you would like to talk more about asking for forgiveness and following Jesus, please talk to me or your Small Group Leader. We would love to talk with you about how much God loves you and how you can have life with Him forever!

Everyone, say, "I am made for community!" (I am made for community!) We are made for community, and Jesus prayed for unity between His followers because we are stronger as one. Hard times will come for those who follow Jesus, but God does not want us to go through those hard times alone. We can do a lot on our own, but we can stand stronger when we are one with others in God's family. When we live united, we show others that we follow God and bring Him glory and honor. We are stronger as one, and part of being stronger as one means that we can help each other follow Jesus. Say, "We are stronger as one!" (We are stronger as one!)

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: We are made for community! Let's take some time now to learn our Theme verse from the Bible that tells us more about living side by side. Kenzie, from our Intro video, will lead us. Say, "Let's go, Kenzie!" to get our video started! (Let's go, Kenzie!)

Play Theme Verse Video

What You Say: God helps those who follow Jesus "live in harmony" with each other. That means He helps those who follow Jesus live as one because we are stronger as one. Everyone, say, "We are stronger as one!" (We are stronger as one!) Even when we disagree or struggle to get along, Jesus prayed that we would stay united and focused on what matters most—showing others around us God's love in how we treat one another. This looks like listening and respecting other people even when we think we are right, focusing on what God tells us in the Bible, and working together to love and follow God. We are stronger as one because we can love and help each other during good times and difficult times.

Large Group Closing:

What You Say: Remember, God made us for community, and we are stronger as one. Turn to a friend, give an arm muscle flex, and say, "We are stronger as one!" (We are stronger as one!) Being stronger as one means that we can help each other out during the hard times that will

come. We can do some things on our own, but we can do so much more together. Let's pray and thank God for making us stronger as one.

Closing Prayer: God, thank You for making us one in Jesus. Thank You for knowing that we will have hard times in our lives. You made us to be stronger as one as we help and encourage each other. Thank You for sending Jesus to make the way for us to be one and to make the way for us to have life with You forever. We love You so much. 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 how we are made for community.

1. What are two things that you like to be side by side, like your bed and a soft blanket or a playground and all your friends? (Allow kids to answer and share your answer.)
2. The Bible tells us we are stronger as one, and that's one reason we are made for community. Let's open our Bibles to John 17:20-21 and read about it together. (Invite kids to open their Bibles. Read the verses aloud or invite a kid who volunteers to read the verses aloud. Be sure to have Bibles available for kids who need one. Help kids find the passage so everyone can follow along together.) Jesus prayed for His followers to be united, which means joining together and helping each other love God and love people. What are ways you can be united and help others in your community? (Allow kids to answer. Point out that we can care for and help each other when we are going through a hard time. We can be united with people even if we think we can do things by ourselves.)
3. How does it help you to know that God makes us stronger as one and He helps us to love and help each other? (Allow kids to answer. Tell kids that we can be encouraged to know that we don't have to go through difficult times on our own. We know we can have help from others who follow Jesus.)
4. God made us for community, especially the community of people who love and follow Him. When we trust in Jesus, we have this whole new community of people to be connected to side by side as we follow Jesus together. We can help each other side by

side because we are stronger as one. What is something you learned today? Is there anything you have questions about? (Allow kids to answer and share your own answer.)

Option #2: Prayer Chain

What To Do: Today we're going to make something really special. We're going to make some prayer chains. In our Bible story today we learned about how Jesus prayed for people.

(Hold up one paper strip.) These strips of paper don't look like much by themselves, do they? (Pause for answers.) But when we connect them together, they become something stronger—a chain! (Link two strips together.) Prayer is a little like that. Every time we pray, we're growing closer to God, and we're remembering that He cares about every person and every situation. I'm going to ask you to think of someone or something to pray for.

You might think of:

- Someone in your family
- A friend
- Someone who is sick
- Your teacher
- Someone who feels lonely
- Someone who doesn't know Jesus
- Even someone who has been unkind to you.

Loud And Clear: Those links look amazing! And, even better, the links are filled with people who you want to pray for and who can pray for you. Jesus prayed for His followers to be one so that we can help each other follow Him. Praying for each other is one way to do that! We can pray for each other like Jesus prayed for His followers. This is one way that we can be stronger together. Say, "We are stronger as one!" (We are stronger as one!)

Option #3: Activity Page

What To Do: This activity page helps us remember some big things we have 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: Use this time to get to know the kids better. Ask them what they remember about the Bible story or remind them Jesus prayed for all His followers—those who followed Him then and everyone who follows Him now. Because Jesus knew we would face hard times, He

reminded us that we are stronger as one as we help each other follow Him. We are made for community, and Jesus helps us live side by side with each other.

Loud And Clear: Jesus prayed for His people, and one thing He prayed is that His people would live as one by loving and helping one other. We are made for community, and we can be part of the best community—God's family—when we trust and follow Jesus.

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 us stronger as one. You knew we would need You to help us live united, and You made us to help each other. Help us remember that we are stronger as one and know that we don't have to go through anything alone. Show us how to help each other and show love and kindness to one another. We love You. 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.