Lesson Plan

November 29th, 2026

This Month's Truth: I Am Made for Community
Bible Story: Living in Community (1 Peter 2:1-17)
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: Our Bible story this week demonstrates that we follow Jesus together, not in isolation. In 1 Peter 2, Peter wrote that people who follow Jesus are being built up into a spiritual household. Believers help each other follow God, stay away from sin, and live in ways that point others to God. (Read 1 Peter 2:9.) Kids will learn that, when we become members of God's household, we help each other follow God and live the way He made us to live.
Pray: Lead the group in prayer, thanking God that your team gets to follow Jesus together.

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'm ____, and I am so happy you are here! Today is a special day because it is Game Changer day! We will talk about how Jesus changes the game in our lives when we follow Him and live side by side in community with others who follow Him. Turn to a

neighbor and say, “Side by side!” (Side by side!) Turn to another friend and say, “Game Changer!” (Game Changer!)

Head, Shoulders, Knees, Cup

What To Do: Are you ready to play a super fun, super silly game? (Let kids cheer.) It is called “Head, Shoulders, Knees, Cup!” Head, shoulders, knees, what? (Cup!)

Here is how we play. We will form two teams. (Form two even teams.) Face someone from the other team—like you are looking in a mirror! I will place a cup on the floor between you. Do not touch it yet! (Allow time and set out the cups.)

Now when I say a certain word, you will put your hands there. Let’s practice! If I say, “Head!” you say, “Head” and touch your head. Let’s try it. “Head!” (Head!) “Shoulders!” (Shoulders!) “Knees!” (Knees!)

Great job! Now if I say, “Cup!” that is your chance to grab the cup before your teammate does! If you grab it first, show a victory dance! Then place the cup back on the floor and get ready for the next round. If you are ready, say, “Let’s go!” (Let’s go!)

Keep It Going: Add in “elbows,” “forehead,” “hips,” and “back” for an extra challenge.

Leader Tip: Invite a kid to be the caller if you have an uneven number or allow one group of kids to play in a group of three.

Safety Tip: Ensure that kids are standing far enough apart that they do not collide when reaching for the cup.

Loud And Clear: You all did such an awesome job playing “Head, Shoulders, Knees, Cup!” Give someone near you a high five! (Give high fives.)

Today we get to take some time to remember that Jesus is the ultimate game changer. He changes our lives in all the best ways when we trust and follow Him. Let me hear you say, “Jesus changes the game!” (Jesus changes the game!) And the best part is that we don’t have to follow Jesus alone. We get to live side by side with others who love and follow Jesus in community! Everyone, say, “I am made for community!” (I am made for community!) When we follow Jesus, God invites us to be a part of an incredible community—His family!

Transition Script to go into the Intro Video: One of the greatest parts of living side by side in community is getting to make awesome friends! Now let's watch a video about a girl named Kenzie and her friends Elsie and Levi. Together, they have a pretty awesome community. Call out, "Side by side!" to get our video started in 3-2-1! (Side by side!)

Play Intro Video

What You Say: I can't believe Kenzie, Elsie, and Levi bowled a perfect game in the bowling bonanza! They worked together, helped each other, and won all those tickets! Community is amazing because we find friends like those and have fun together. When we trust and follow Jesus—the ultimate game changer—He changes our lives! What does Jesus change? (Our lives!) He changes how we live our lives and even changes our relationships. Suddenly, we are surrounded by people who help and encourage us as we follow Jesus together. You could say that Jesus changes the game in our lives and in our friendships! Say, "Jesus changes the game!" (Jesus changes the game!) Say, "We follow Jesus together!" (We follow Jesus together!)

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 1 Peter 2:1-17.) Now let's look at what the Bible says about living side by side as we follow Jesus together. The Bible is God's true message to us about Himself. Today's Bible story is from the book of the Bible called First Peter, which is in the second part of the Bible called the New Testament. First Peter has a lot to say about how people who follow Jesus can live in community and follow Jesus together, side by side. A woman named Kai has a great Game Changer Bible story to share with us today. High-five a friend and say, "Side by side!" to get our Bible story started. (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: (Open the Bible to 1 Peter 2.) Peter wrote letters to Christians, warning them about sinful habits. Sin is doing what we think is best instead of following what God says is best. Peter listed some sins, like trying to harm others, being fake and jealous, or talking badly about people. Peter was not just giving a list of what Christians should and shouldn't do. Instead, he encouraged them to live the way God made them to live by loving God, loving His Word in the Bible, and growing in the ways God made them to grow. What a great reminder that we are made for community. Say, "I am made for community!" (I am made for community!)

Peter also warned Christians that they might be rejected by people because they chose to follow Jesus. Peter didn't want Christians to worry or be discouraged; instead, they could remember that they were chosen and honored by God. Who chose and honored them? (God!) When Peter wrote that people who follow Jesus are being built up into a spiritual household, he meant people who follow Jesus are members of God's family together. People who do not follow God are not part of that household. But those who follow Jesus and are part of that household help each other follow God, stay away from sin, and live in ways that point others to God. Like stacking up bricks to make a building, we build each other up by helping, encouraging, and being kind to one another.

Jesus changes the game by making the way for us to have a relationship with God. When we have that relationship, we get to be part of His spiritual household by being part of His family.

Everyone, say, “Jesus changes the game!” (Jesus changes the game!) Today’s Bible story said that Jesus is the cornerstone of God’s household, which means He is the most important foundation on which everything else is built. The friends in this household are different because they help us follow God and live the way He made us to live. Everyone, smile at a neighbor and say, “We follow Jesus together!” (We follow Jesus together!)

When we join God’s household—or family—this Bible story says we are royal, chosen, and holy. Royal means that we are the special people who offer worship to God. Chosen means that God chooses to work through us to live in unity with others who follow Him. Holy means special, set apart, and different from everything else. Let me hear you say, “Royal, chosen, and holy!” (Royal, chosen, and holy!)

Like the Christians in the Bible, we might also be rejected by people when we follow Jesus. People might not agree with what we do, say, or believe. That’s why it’s good to remember that we follow Jesus together. Our friends who do not follow Jesus are different from our friends who do follow Jesus because they help us follow Him in the best and the worst of times. We can lean on each other, support one another, and encourage each other as we follow Jesus together. We call this building each other up.

Say, “Build each other up!” (Build each other up!) Now let’s watch a video that will tell us more about how Jesus changes the game and makes the way for us to be part of God’s household.

Play Three Circles Video:

What You Say: If you would like to know more about following Jesus and being part of His household, please talk to me or your Small Group Leader. We would love to talk to you about being part of God’s household. God loves you so much that He sent His only Son to make the way for you to be part of His community. He made you to know Him, follow Him, and enjoy incredible friendships with others who follow Him. Jesus changes the game because He rescues you from sin and makes the way to have a relationship with God forever. This is the best news that changes you in the best way and welcomes you into the best community. You get to be part of a great community which follows Jesus together. Let me hear you say, “Jesus changes the game!” (Jesus changes the game!)

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: Everyone, say, "I am made for community!" (I am made for community!) Our Theme verse tells us more about what it means to be made for community as members of God's household. Let's learn our Theme verse along with Kenzie from our Main Idea video!

Play Theme Verse Video

What You Say: This Bible verse is so encouraging when it comes to community. When we follow Jesus together, we are not just people trying really hard to live in community. God is the One who helps us "live in harmony" with each other, which means He helps us find common ground as we love Him and care for each other. When we live united as God's family, other people take notice! Jesus is the One who makes this happen, which is why He is a Game Changer! Repeat after me: "Jesus is the Game Changer!" (Jesus is the Game Changer!) You've got it! We can follow Jesus together as we worship Him and help each other live like He wants us to live. Everyone, say, "We follow Jesus together!" (We follow Jesus together!)

Large Group Closing:

What You Say: When you think about today's Bible story, you can remember that Peter wanted Christians to know that they are chosen and honored by God, which means God respects and celebrates us! All of us who follow Jesus are part of God's household. Part of whose household? (God's!) Those who do not follow Jesus are not part of God's household, but the good news is that Jesus made the way for anyone and everyone to be a part of God's family.

God designed everyone who follows Jesus to follow Him together! High-five a friend and say, "We follow Jesus together!" (We follow Jesus together!) The friends who follow Jesus are here to help and encourage you through the highs and lows of life—the difficult times and the moments when you struggle with sin. If you would like to talk about what it means to follow Jesus, come talk to me or a Small Group Leader. Jesus changes the game, and He made the way for everyone to follow Him! Everyone, call out, "Jesus changes the game!" (Jesus changes the game!) Let's take a minute to pray and thank God for allowing us to follow Jesus together.

Closing Prayer: God, thank You for the truth that we don't follow Jesus on our own. Thank You for allowing us to follow Jesus together. Help us support each other and build each other up as we follow You. God, we know You love us more than we can imagine. Thank You for sending Jesus to make a way for us to be with You forever. We love You. 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: Now we get to talk more about living side by side.

1. What are some things that are better and more fun to do with other people than by yourself? (Allow kids to answer and share your answer.)
2. The Bible tells us we follow Jesus together when we live in community and help each other love and follow Him. Let's open our Bibles to 1 Peter 2:9 and read about it together. (Invite kids to open their Bibles. Read the 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 verse so everyone can follow along together.) Everyone who trusts in Jesus is a royal, chosen, and holy part of God's household and family. Royal means that we are the special people who offer worship to God. Chosen means that God chooses to work through us to live in unity with others who follow Him. Holy means special, set apart, and different from everything else. When you are going through a hard time, how can being a part of God's family help? (Allow kids to answer. Tell kids that we can take comfort in knowing that we are part of God's household when we trust and

follow Jesus. One day, all sadness and suffering will be wiped away for everyone in God's household.)

3. Jesus lived a perfect life, died on a cross, and rose again to make the way for us to be part of God's household. When we turn from sin to trust and follow Jesus, we get to be a part of His family. What does all that Jesus did for you tell you about His love for you? (Allow kids to answer. Point out that we can know that Jesus loves us more than we can understand because He died to give each one of us a way to be with Him forever.) If you want to know more about following Jesus, I'd love to talk more with you about it.
4. The Bible tells us we are made for community, and following Jesus together is the best community to join. We can help each other follow Jesus side by side as we live in community. What is something you learned today? Is there anything you have questions about? (Allow kids to answer and share your own answer.)

Option #2: Called Out of Darkness — Flashlight Object Lesson

Supplies: Flashlight, Bible, and a dark box or container (optional)

Leader Prep:

1. Gather a flashlight.
2. Put the papers with the words, "kindness, love, generosity, forgiveness, helping, telling others about Jesus" where the kids in your group can see when the flashlight is shone on them.
3. Find an area of the room where you can dim or turn off some of the lights.
4. If you cannot dim the lights, prepare a box or container to demonstrate how a flashlight shines in darkness.
5. Have your Bible ready to reference 1 Peter 2:9.

What To Do: Today, we learned that God has called us out of darkness and into His wonderful light! We are going to use a flashlight to help us understand what that means!

First, I want everyone to look around the room. Can you see everything around you? (Yes!) That's because we have light! But what happens when we turn off the lights? (It gets dark!) That's right! When it's dark, it can be harder to see where we're going or what's around us. Let's see what happens when we take away some of the light! (Dim or turn off the room lights, if possible. Allow time.)

Can you see as well as you could before? (No!) What do you think would help us see better? (A light!) Hold up the flashlight without turning it on. I have a flashlight right here! Do you think this flashlight could help us see in the darkness? (Yes!) Let's find out!

Turn on the flashlight and shine it toward the floor or wall. Wow! Look at what happened! The flashlight brought light into the darkness! Now, let me ask you something. Did the darkness make the flashlight stop shining? (No!) That's right! The light shines even when it's dark! The Bible tells us in 1 Peter 2:9 that God has called His people out of darkness and into His wonderful light! The darkness reminds us of life apart from God, when we are living in sin and not following Him. But Jesus came to save us and bring us into a relationship with God! Turn the room lights back on. Because of Jesus, we don't have to stay in darkness. We can belong to God and live in His wonderful light!

Now we're going to shine the light around to find different ways that we can shine God's light to others. Tell me what words you see. (Explain each word as the kids find them and how it can apply to their lives.)

Keep It Going: Allow a few kids to take turns holding the flashlight and shining it toward different areas of the room. Ask kids to think of specific ways they can show God's goodness to others, such as encouraging a friend, helping someone in need, inviting someone to church, or showing kindness. As each kid shares an idea, have them turn on the flashlight and say, "I can show God's light!" Remind kids that we don't create God's light ourselves. We show others His goodness through the way we live and what we say.

Loud And Clear: In 1 Peter 2:9, the Bible tells us that God has called His people out of darkness and into His wonderful light! Before we know Jesus, we are separated from God because of sin. But through Jesus, we can be forgiven, belong to God, and live differently! And here's something amazing! God doesn't just bring us into His light so we can keep it to ourselves. The Bible says that we are called to tell others about the wonderful things He has done!

Think about our flashlight. What happened when we turned it on? (It brought light into the darkness!) That's right! And just like that flashlight helped us see, we can help others learn about God's goodness by telling them about Jesus and showing His love. When you encourage someone who is sad, help someone who is struggling, or show kindness to someone who feels left out, you have an opportunity to show others what God's love looks like. And we don't have to do this alone! God has made us part of His family, the Church. We can encourage one another, grow together, and help each other follow Jesus!

Let's say, “God called me into His light!” (God called me into His light!) Now say, “I can tell others about Jesus!” (I can tell others about Jesus!) That's right! God has called us out of darkness and into His wonderful light so we can tell others how good He is!

Additional Activity with Object Lesson: Shine His Light Flashlight Craft

What To Do: In our object lesson, we used a flashlight to see how light shines in the darkness. Now, we are going to make our own flashlight pictures to remind us that we can show God's goodness to others!
First, everyone is going to get a flashlight coloring page. Look at the words written on your flashlight. They remind us of what the Bible says in 1 Peter 2:9: God has called His people out of darkness and into His wonderful light! Let's start by coloring our flashlights! You can use whatever colors you want to make your flashlight unique. (Allow time.)

Now, look at the light beam coming out of your flashlight. At the top, it says, “I can show God's goodness by:” I want you to think about some ways you can show God's goodness to the people around you. Maybe you can encourage someone who is sad, help a friend who is struggling, invite someone to church, pray for someone, or tell a friend about Jesus. What are some other ways we can show God's goodness? (Allow kids to respond.)

Those are great ideas! Now, in the light beam of your flashlight, write or draw some ways YOU can show God's goodness to others. (Allow time.)

When you're finished, you can color the light beam yellow or another bright color to remind you of God's wonderful light! (Allow time.)

Keep It Going: Allow kids to share one thing they wrote or drew inside their flashlight's light beam. As each kid shares, encourage the others to think about how they could do something similar at home, at school, or at church. Challenge kids to choose one thing from their flashlight to do this week. Encourage them to hang their flashlight picture somewhere they will see it as a reminder to show God's goodness to others.

Loud And Clear: In 1 Peter 2:9, the Bible tells us that God has called His people out of darkness and into His wonderful light!

Remember our flashlight object lesson? What happened when we turned on the flashlight? (It brought light into the darkness!) That's right! The flashlight helped us see in the darkness. And

just like that flashlight, we can help others see God's goodness through the things we say and do!

But here's something important to remember: We don't make God's light ourselves. Jesus is the One who saves us and brings us into God's wonderful light! Because we belong to Him, we can tell others about the wonderful things He has done! Look at your flashlight picture. What did you write or draw inside the light beam? (Allow kids to respond.)

Those are all ways we can show God's goodness! When we encourage someone, show kindness, help others, or tell people about Jesus, we have an opportunity to point them toward Him. And we don't have to do this alone! God made us for community. We can encourage one another and work together to help others know how good God is!

When you take your flashlight picture home today, remember that God has called His people into His wonderful light, and we can share His goodness with the people around us! Let's say, “God called me into His light!” (God called me into His light!) Now say, “I can show God's goodness!” (I can show God's goodness!) That's right! We can show God's goodness wherever we go!

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: Use this time to get to know the kids better. Ask them what they remember about the Bible story or remind them that Jesus changes the game. When we turn from sin, ask for forgiveness, and follow Him, He makes us part of God’s family forever.

Loud And Clear: God made us to live side by side in community as we follow Jesus together. Jesus changes the game in our lives because He makes the way for us to have a forever relationship with God and live the way God made us to live. In community, we can help each follow God.

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 letting us follow Jesus together. We are so thankful that we don't have to do it alone. You are with us, and You give us others to help, support, and love us. Jesus changed the game by making the way for us to be part of Your family. Help us live like You made us to live so that other people will see how great You are and how much You love everyone. Thank You for Your great love for us. 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.