

I AM MADE FOR COMMUNITY

SIDE-BY-SIDE

Elementary

all star kids Nov 2026

November 22, 2026

I Am Made for Community
Elementary Leader Guide

the place for kids to take their first steps with jesus.

WIN

Jesus prayed that His followers would live in unity and show His love to the world because we are stronger as one.
BIBLE- *Jesus Prayed for People- John 17:6-26*

TOOLS

Scan QR

ASK Leader **Leader Devos** **Like It Counts**

SOCIAL TIME

The first 10 minutes as kids arrive is a very important time in your small group. Because of this, we provide you with intentional activities to engage their interests and help lead into a great discussion. All of this is so that "boredom" is not an excuse. Everything is only available one time.

Every week you have:

- Roku Games to play together that are changed out monthly.
- 2 month specific games or group activities.
- Plus 2 Social Activities. ** *Use one now and save the other for an incentive to participate in all the activities.*

Games and Music (10 minutes)

What You Need: Instruction Page, Game Sets, Roku Game Instruction Page, music player, timer, blindfold (1 per group), 6 Better Together posters (1 set per group), paper, markers, painter's tape (1 roll per group)

What You Do:

- Play worship songs and other songs available on Roku during the Social Game or while kids are playing.
- Using the supplies and game instruction page, choose one game to play with the kids today.
- As you are playing, use this as a time to call each kid by name and learn their names well.

Say: That was a fun game to get us ready to watch our Bible video. Let's sit and listen to our story today."

VIDEOS

Bible Story Video (10 minutes)

Bible Story Recap- Say This

Say, Jesus prayed for the disciples who were with Him and for everyone who would follow Him later. That means He prayed for us too! Jesus asked God to help His followers be united, or work together as one. We can help each other love God and love people, even when life is hard. We are stronger as one!

GOSPEL CONNECTION

Gospel Connection: (refer to the 4 Circles poster in your small group spaces**)**

Circle 2- Sin means choosing our own way instead of God's way, and everyone except Jesus has sinned. Sin brings brokenness and hard times that we cannot fix on our own, and Jesus knew His followers would face them.

Circle 3- Jesus loves each of us, and He died on the cross to take the punishment for our sin. He rose again on the third day, defeating sin and death, and God forgives everyone who trusts in Him.

Circle 4- In today's Bible story, Jesus prayed for everyone who has ever decided 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- Jesus promised to return and make everything right, and everyone who trusts and follows Him will live with Him forever. Until then, the Holy Spirit helps God's family encourage one another as we follow Jesus together—we are stronger as one!

If you have questions about what this means or why it matters, find one of your Campus Leaders or me. We would love to talk with you about how you can have a relationship with Him. We are made for community, and being in community means helping others have a relationship with God.

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.

APPLICATION ACTIVITY

Teamwork Takes Flight — 12 minutes
Kids will work together to fan tissue paper across the room by using paper plates.

Big Goal: Learn that we are made for community.

Leader Prep: Cut tissue paper into quarters. Set out supplies.

1. Invite kids to draw turkey feathers on their plates.
2. Line up kids (with their plates) side by side on two teams, providing a piece of tissue paper for each team.
3. Direct each team to toss the tissue paper up and forward, using the paper plates to fan the piece of tissue paper and keep it in the air as they cross the room. Inform the kids that they can pick up fallen tissue papers, count to five, and continue playing.
4. Instruct teams to hurry back and play again with another piece of tissue paper.
5. Declare the winner as the first team to fan four pieces of tissue paper across the room.

Supplies: Paper plates (1 per child), Markers or crayons (several per child), Tissue paper (2 per group), Adult scissors (1 per group)

What To Do: Today our teamwork will take flight! Say, "Teamwork Takes Flight!" *(Teamwork Takes Flight!)* Since it is almost Thanksgiving, let's make this turkey themed! Let me hear your best turkey gobble! *(Allow time.)* Take a minute to decorate your plate to look turkey feathers. *(Allow time, assisting as needed.)*

Now we will make two teams. Stand side by side with your teammates while you each get a paper plate. *(Allow time.)* Each team will get a piece of tissue paper. On my signal, toss the tissue paper in the air and walk as a team to the other side of the room, fanning the tissue paper with your turkey plates and making it fly! Once you reach the other side of the room, hurry back to get a new piece of tissue paper and repeat the process. If your tissue paper falls as you're walking, pick it up, count to five as a team, and keep going from where you are. The first team to fly four pieces of tissue paper across the room wins. Ready, let's fly!

Keep It Going: Invite kids to take turns making the tissue paper fly.

Leader Tip: Larger Group Option: Add supplies and play with three or four teams.

Loud And Clear: That was some great teamwork! Let's hear your best turkey gobble again. *(Allow time.)* Awesome! It probably would have been pretty hard to fly your piece of tissue paper on your own. We are made for community, and we can do a lot more together than on our own. High-five a teammate and say, "I am made for community!" *(I am made for community!)*

Let's chat about this more by looking at some questions that make us think deeper.

TALK ABOUT IT

Discussion Questions:

- 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.)*
- How can twigs remind us that we are stronger as one rather than on our own? *(Allow kids to answer. Point out that we can help each other when we are one.)*
- 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** (pg. 1188) 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.)*
- 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.)*
- 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?

WRAP UP

Do you have any questions? (*Allow kids to answer, and share your own answer.*) Let's pray and talk to God. (*Lead the group in prayer. Consider using the following prayer prompt.)*

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.

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.

GOING HOME

Pass out the coloring pages for kids to take home. Greet families as they arrive and tell them something about their child you saw today. Say goodbye and call everyone by name.