

Ms My Story

1. CONVERSATION STARTER

Supplies:

- None

Leader Tips:

- Use the Conversation Starter to set the tone for your group's time together.
- Be prepared to share your own age-appropriate answers to the questions.

Instructions:

- As the students arrive, gather them together into a group.
- DISCUSS:
 - What are some different kinds of relationships? [e.g., parent-child, husband-wife, God-us, friend-friend, boss-employee, teacher-student, etc.]
 - Which relationships do you think have the most arguments? Why?
 - Which relationships do you think are the easiest? Why?
- Depending on the size of your group, have the students share their answers with the person sitting closest to them or with the whole group.

2. INTRO ACTIVITY

Supplies:

- Buzzer
- Intro scenario cards

Instructions:

- Ask for 2 student volunteers to join you at the front.
- Explain that you will read aloud an intro to a scenario and the students will act it out. Then they will create and act out a solution.
- Add a fun twist! After you read the card, anyone may buzz the buzzer and the actors must freeze. The person who buzzed takes the place of an actor who moves out of the scenario. Buzz the buzzer to resume the acting.
- If the acting starts to get out of hand, hit the buzzer and start a new scenario.
- Repeat until the students have acted out all of the scenarios and presented solutions.
- To wrap up, explain that in today's God Story there's a troublesome relationship between 2 brothers. Introduce the Big Idea: **God's peace can heal relationships.**
- Set aside the cards to re-use after the video teaching.



3. WEEKLY VIDEO

Supplies:

- Video file

Leader Tip:

- Sit with the students and encourage them to focus on the video as necessary.

Instructions:

- Play the video. It contains:
 - Host segment
 - God Story (Jacob and Esau, Genesis 32-33)
 - Life Story (Janet Spain on how God helped her with "mean girls" in high school)

Ms My Story

4. ACTIVITY

Supplies:

- Scenario cards from Intro Activity

Instructions:

- DISCUSS:
 - What happened in today's God Story?
 - What was the Life Story about? How was God with this person? In what ways was this evident?
- Pair up the students.
- Give each set of partners a scenario from the Intro Activity.
- Ask them to consider how their scenario might play out differently if they did the following:
 - Pause to breathe.
 - Pray for God's help to bring peace.
 - Thank God for that person.
 - Apologize for your part in the conflict.
- Invite each pair to share their thoughts with the rest of the group.

5. PRAYER ACTIVITY

Supplies:

- Scrap papers
- Pens
- Empty bin

Instructions:

- Give each student a piece of scrap paper and a pen.
- Tell them to write the name of a person or describe a relationship that they need God's help with (e.g., a friend, a parent, a teacher, etc.). Assure them that whatever they write will remain private if they wish.
- If anyone feels comfortable sharing with the group, invite them to do so.
- Have the students crumple up their papers.
- SAY: Let's release your way of trying to solve this problem on your own and ask God for his help to bring peace to the relationship.
- Pass around the empty bin and have each student say, "God help me!" as they toss their paper into it.
- Wrap up by praying for each of the students and thanking God that his peace can heal relationships.

Os Our Story

6. DISMISSAL

Supplies:

- Crafts
- Key verse cards
- Take home cards

Instructions:

- Remind everyone about any upcoming events or relevant announcements.
- Make sure the students have their take home materials.
- Ensure the adult teaching is over before dismissing the students.