

# God Is - Family LifeGroups - week 1

## Week 1: God Is Real: Want More? Here it is:

### More Direction:

Since this may be the first time you make your kids a part of your LifeGroup, make sure you have a different set of expectations in mind of how the evening may go. First of all, expect the video teaching and the activities on it to take less than thirty minutes. For the rest of the time, choose some of the ideas from this sheet that you think will work well with your group. You can also just plan to eat together. Have a cookout, order some pizzas, or assign a family to bring snacks.

### More Information:

During the weekend, elementary-aged kids learned a key verse and phrase that support the main idea of the teaching. Use this opportunity to review these with the kids in your group. You can even watch the entire video teaching online together if you want at [www.lifekids.tv](http://www.lifekids.tv).

### Main Idea:

God wants us to know He is real, but we can only know God is real by faith. When we put our faith in God, He will show Himself to us in all kinds of ways.

### Verse:

Hebrews 11:6 NLT And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists...

### Phrase:

I know God is real!

### More stuff:

To be prepared for the activities this week's Family LifeGroup video asks you to engage in, you'll need a small, soft ball that you don't mind throwing in the house.

### More fun ideas:

#### Nature walk:

In the weekend video teaching, the characters talk about how God's creations (like butterflies) are evidence that God is real. Take your LifeGroup outside and look around for God's fingerprints in the things you see. Each family can bring an item back like a leaf, a stick, a rock, or a bug and share with the group how it reminds them God is real.

#### Buddy hide and seek:

Since you may be getting to know everyone this week, play hide-and-seek with a buddy. Get into pairs and play the same way as usual except with a buddy. Playing outside is fun and keeps the house from being too invaded! If you don't have enough places to hide, you can play buddy tag instead.

#### Worms in dirt:

Pastor Craig recently illustrated how there will always be things about God we can't understand because of the limitations of our intelligence and experience. Remember Wormy? You can't explain simple addition to a worm, but that doesn't mean math isn't true. And you may really love your pet worm, but they won't be able to comprehend it. In some ways, we have more in common with a worm than we do with God. Our limited perspective will always keep us from fully comprehending God, but that doesn't disprove that He's real. Use chocolate pudding cups topped with crushed Oreo cookies to make a bed of dirt. Then add gummy worms to make a snack that helps us understand how we can believe in a God we can't understand.

#### Extra talk time:

What is your favorite animal? Why?

What is something in nature that reminds you God is real?

God is real and He wants to get to know us. How do we get to know God more?

What can you do this week to get to know God more?

# God Is - Family LifeGroups - week 2

## Week 2: God Is Everywhere: Want More? Here it is:

### More Direction:

Expect the video teaching and the activities on it to take less than thirty minutes. For the rest of the time, choose some of the ideas from this sheet that you think will work well with your group. Make sure these Family LifeGroup experiences have the right blend of fun with a purpose. Since you have a few more left, you want to make it something everyone looks forward to, but you also want the whole series to draw everyone closer to knowing who God is.

### More Information:

During the weekend, elementary-aged kids learned a key verse and phrase that support the main idea of the teaching. Use this opportunity to review these with the kids in your group. You can even watch the entire video teaching online together if you want at [www.lifekids.tv](http://www.lifekids.tv).

### Main Idea:

God wants us to know He is always with us. We never have to feel alone because God is everywhere we go.

### Verse:

Deuteronomy 31:6 NIRV . . . The Lord your God will go with you. He will never leave you. He'll never desert you.

### Phrase:

I know God is always with me!

### More stuff:

To be prepared for the activities this week's Family LifeGroup video asks you to engage in, you'll need a paper airplane which you can make ahead of time or while you're talking.

### More fun ideas:

#### Balloon games:

In the weekend video teaching, the characters talk about how the air in balloons can illustrate that God is everywhere. Air is all around us but we can't usually see it! Blow up some balloons and play some games with them. You can play no-net volleyball by trying to keep several balloons in the air. If one touches the ground on your team's side of the room, that's a point for the other team. Or try balloon relay races where you can only push the balloon with your breath! The first team to get their balloon back and forth once for each teammate wins!

#### Scavenger hunt:

No matter where you go, God is always with you. Plan a fun scavenger hunt with your LifeGroup. You may use your whole community as clues if each family drives around together in their car. Or keep it simple by hiding clues in your neighborhood within walking distance. A nearby park or playground can also be a fun place to look for clues. Just ask a couple of adults to plan the clues and hide them before you start.

#### Snackluck:

God is everywhere we go. We're always together! Ask each family in your group to bring a snack that is made up of two things that go great together—PB&J, cheese and crackers, chips and dip, cookies and milk—whatever they come up with! Like a potluck only without the casseroles!

#### Extra talk time:

Do you like to be alone? Why or why not?

Tell of a time where you got lost and were alone. How did it make you feel?

The Bible says that God is always with you. How does this make you feel?

What can you do this week to remind yourself that God is always with you?

# God Is - Family LifeGroups - week 3

## Week 3: God Is Strong: Want More? Here it is:

### More Direction:

Expect the video teaching and the activities on it to take less than thirty minutes. For the rest of the time, choose some of the ideas from this sheet that you think will work well with your group. If you haven't planned your group's mission or outreach activity yet, make sure to nail that down this week. There are so many opportunities in every community for families to show the world God's great strength. Along with those offered at your campus, you may also find needs to meet at retirement homes, juvenile detention centers, hospitals, schools, and parks.

### More Information:

During the weekend, elementary-aged kids learned a key verse and phrase that support the main idea of the teaching. Use this opportunity to review these with the kids in your group. You can even watch the entire video teaching online together if you want at [www.lifekids.tv](http://www.lifekids.tv).

### Main Idea:

God wants us to trust Him to handle our problems. God is powerful and has everything under control even though we can't always see His purpose from where we are.

### Verse:

Psalm 28:7 NIV The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and I am helped . . .

### Phrase:

I know God is strong!

### More stuff:

To be prepared for the activities the video asks you to engage in, you'll need a sheet of plain paper for each person (they should all be the same size and shape, like copy paper).

### More fun ideas:

#### Blue marble:

Give each person a blue marble (available at many craft stores in the floral section). Talk about how big God is compared to the whole world. Hold the marble in your hands and talk about how small our problems are compared to God's strength. Ask each person to carry the marble in their pocket during the week or keep it in a spot they will see it often during the day to remind them that God is strong and is big enough to take care of us.

#### Feats of strength:

Arm wrestling, chin ups, piggy back relays, and other games will get the guys engaged in showing off their strength. Plan a series of activities that you think your group will enjoy to see who the strongest is. This might be fun as a team event or even boys against girls. Of course, no matter who the strongest in your group is, God is stronger!

#### Time to pop:

Gather around in the kitchen and pop some microwave popcorn. While the first bag is popping talk about how hard it is to wait until it's done. Take it out early and pour it out to see how not being patient caused a lot of kernels not to pop. Pop another bag and this time wait the full amount of time. Pour it out in another bowl and see how your wait paid off with more popcorn. Talk about times when it's hard to trust that God is in control and His timing is best.

#### Extra talk time:

Who is stronger: Superman or Spiderman?

On a scale of 1-10, how strong are you? (10 being the strongest, 1 being the weakest)

On a scale of 1-10, how strong is God? (10 being the strongest, 1 being the weakest)

# God Is - Family LifeGroups - week 4

## Week 4: God Is Love: Want More? Here it is:

### More Direction:

Now that you know what to expect from the video teaching and how the activities have worked with your group, begin to think about ways to include your kids at other times in the future. Although there will always be seasons where you need to study grown-up only things, you can also begin a habit of including your kids monthly or at holidays or just for a particular study. To stay on track with what your kids are learning on the weekends, continue to make use of the resources for families at [www.lifekids.tv](http://www.lifekids.tv).

### More Information:

During the weekend, elementary-aged kids learned a key verse and phrase that support the main idea of the teaching. Use this opportunity to review these with the kids in your group. You can even watch the entire video teaching online together if you want at [www.lifekids.tv](http://www.lifekids.tv).

### Main Idea:

God loves us. He sent Jesus to show us what His kind of love is like. God is love and will never stop loving us no matter what.

### Verse:

Romans 5:8 NLT But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

### Phrase:

I know that God loves me!

### More stuff:

You won't need any extra props this week for the activities on the Family LifeGroup video.

### More fun ideas:

#### The cross:

Nothing is a better symbol of God's love for us than the cross. Buy a package of tiny crosses (like beads or foam shapes from a craft store, the smaller the better) and hide them all over your house or outside. Hide enough for everyone to find about 10. Send everyone out to find the hidden crosses. You can offer a prize like a package of cookies for the winner. You may find that some people decide to work together instead of competing alone. Talk about what the cross symbolizes to us and to the world.

#### Just because:

Get out paper, markers, stickers, crayons and other craft supplies to make cards for someone who needs to feel God's love. You may plan to distribute them together at a retirement home, a local business, or in your neighborhood. You may give them to a family member who doesn't know Christ. Include a scripture that your group would like to share with others. After everyone has made some, pray over them that they will be a tool to show God's love to others.

#### Custom cupcakes:

Bake some plain cupcakes ahead of time. Set out tubs of frosting and sprinkles for each person to decorate one just how they would want it. Then, let each person take their cupcake and give it to someone else so that everyone ends up with a cupcake lovingly made by a friend. Talk about how sharing and giving can feel better inside than even the perfect cupcake does.

#### Extra talk time:

What do you love more: a bowl of ice cream or a cupcake?

How did God show us His love for us?

How does treating our family members with love show other people how much God loves them?

How can you and your family show others God's love this week?