

# The Storyteller

author of all things

## CHURCH GROUP TIME - NIGHT 1

### DAY 1 | THE AUTHOR OF ALL THINGS

#### REMEMBER

The week has just begun, and yet campers have already learned about who God is! He is the Storyteller, the Author of All Things, who deserves all the glory forever!

#### CONNECT

Instruct campers to get into smaller groups (based on grade and/or gender) and assign a different Adult Leader from your church to each group. Explain that each night during Church Group Time, they will get in these groups to share about their days and what they're learning.

Ask these questions and allow kids to share their answers in their small groups:

- What is something you learned or thought was interesting today?
- What is the best book you have ever read? What is the best movie you have ever seen?
- What do you think makes a good story so good?

#### LEARN

Ask campers to share some of their favorite books, movies, and what they think makes a good story so good. Ask if anyone remembers the theme of this week of CentriKid (the Storyteller).

Say: **Since we're learning all about the ultimate Storyteller, let's see how good a story we can come up with together.**

#### Instructions:

Tear out the story cards from the Adult Leader Guide and put them in a hat or a bowl.

Ask one camper or adult to choose a card and begin a story (in 1-2 sentences) that includes the word that is on the card he or she chose.

Instruct the next camper to choose a new card and add to camper #1's story (in 1-2 sentences) while including the word he or she chose.

Continue the story until all the cards have been used. Play up the silliness of the story as necessary!

Say: **Wow, our storytelling might need a little work! This week, we are learning about the best Storyteller that has ever existed, God, and the story He has written that we are all invited to join. This is an epic story that is TRUE – unlike our silly story. There are countless twists and turns, good and evil, love and betrayal, and throughout it all, we can be sure that the Storyteller is in control, and that is good news for us!**

Read: Romans 11:33-36

Say: **God's riches, wisdom, and knowledge are deeper than we can imagine! He doesn't need anything from us, but He invites us to be a part of His story! He deserves all the glory because He is the Author of All Things! I can't wait to learn more about the Storyteller with you this week!**

#### PRAY

Say a prayer of thanks to God as you look forward to a week of being together and learning more about who He is. Praise Him for being the Author of All Things.

#### ANNOUNCE (optional)

- Instruct kids to get into their small groups from earlier and let each Adult Leader give out Track Time information.
- While name tags are out of the pouch, instruct kids to write down their correct meal times.
- Show them the Time Alone with God content, so they're ready for it in the morning.
- Give instructions for when and where to meet in the morning.

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## DAY 2 CHURCH GROUP TIME

### DAY 2 | THE AUTHOR OF SALVATION

#### REMEMBER

Today, kids are learning that God is the Author of Salvation! Campers have seen in Time Alone with God (TAWG) & I Can't Wait (ICW) that God promised a Savior as early as Genesis 3! Then in Bible Study, campers learned that even in the wilderness and even as they disobeyed, God saved His people in an unexpected way, pointing to the ultimate salvation that would come through Jesus (Numbers 21:4-9). Finally, in Worship tonight, campers heard of Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus in John 3. Jesus is our Savior – the One who was promised at the beginning of time. Help kids see the beauty of Jesus always being the Storyteller's plan of salvation for His people.

#### CONNECT

Instruct campers to get into the same smaller groups from Day 1. Remind them that each night during Church Group Time, they will get in these groups to share about their days and what they're learning.

Ask these questions and allow kids to share their answers in their small groups:

- What was the best part of your day today?
- What is something you learned or thought was interesting today?
- Have you ever had to earn something? Tell your group about that time. OR ask the 'Now What?' Question

#### LEARN

While campers are still in their groups, give one of the following lines of the puzzle to each group. When each line is deciphered and then put in order with the other two lines, campers will see that the solution to their puzzle is Ephesians 2:8.

\*Do not give out the decipher key at first! This should be impossible for them to solve on their own.\*

Explain to campers that they will need to work together with their group to solve their line of the puzzle. The numbers under the blanks will help them know what letters go in each spot. Once they've solved their line, they can combine with other groups who have different lines to create a full Bible Verse.

Once every group has a puzzle, let campers begin. They will quickly realize they cannot solve this on their own. Let

them try for a couple of minutes before telling them you have a gift for them. Give each group the decipher key. Give groups time to solve their puzzle and work with other groups to put Ephesians 2:8 in the correct order. Once you've given out the decipher key, feel free to help groups as much as needed.

Say: **In our game, you tried to solve a puzzle, but you couldn't do it on your own. No matter how hard you tried, you couldn't solve it. But then what happened? I offered you a gift. One that you didn't do anything to earn, but that I was happy to give you.**

Read: Ephesians 2:8-10

Say: **Throughout the whole day, we've seen people fail – first with Adam and Eve, then the Israelites in the Wilderness, and even Nicodemus struggled to understand and believe what Jesus was saying. None of them could earn God's love on their own. But that's the beauty of the gospel!**

**God, the Author of Salvation, has freely given us his gift of salvation. We are saved by grace through faith so that we boast in Him and not in our own works.**

**On our own, we're not enough, but the Storyteller made a way for us to know Him through sending His Son, Jesus, to live the perfect life we could not live, die the death we deserved because of our sin, and then rise again, beating death and conquering sin so that we can live with Him forever. What an amazing gift!**

**Walk through the gospel, answering any questions kids might have about this gift of salvation.**

#### PRAY

Thank God for His gift of salvation that He freely gives us.

#### ANNOUNCE (optional)

- Remind kids that your group will be taking up the missions offering tomorrow night during Church Group Time. Spend time talking about who the missions offering will go to and encourage kids to think about how they want to give this week at camp.
- Remind kids of all of the Evening Hang Time Options.
- Give instructions for when and where to meet in the morning

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## CHURCH GROUP DEVOTIONS DAY 3

### DAY 3 | THE AUTHOR OF TRUTH

#### REMEMBER

Today, kids are learning that God is the Author of Truth! Campers have seen in TAWG & ICW that the Bible is trustworthy and given to us by God (2 Timothy 3:14-17). In Bible Study, campers learned that God gave Moses & the Israelites the Law as a standard of the true way to live (Exodus 20), and during Worship, we turned our attention to Matthew 5, where Jesus claims that He came not to tear down the Law but to fulfill it – something only He could do!

#### CONNECT

Instruct campers to get into their small groups. Remind them that each night during Church Group Time, they will get in these groups to share about their days and what they're learning.

Ask these questions and allow kids to share their answers in their small groups:

- What was the best part of your day today?
- What is something you learned or thought was interesting today?
- If you were asked to make an 11th commandment, what would you choose? OR ask the 'Now What?' Question

#### LEARN

Play a game of "Truth or Not?" by reading statements and allowing campers to guess if those statements are true or not! Feel free to make it a competition between groups or let kids keep track of their own individual points. Choose your favorite statements if you don't have time for all of them.

#### Truth or Not Statements:

- Sloths can hold their breath longer than dolphins. **(Truth)**
- The first pizza delivery was in 1989. **(Not – it was in 1889 in Naples, Italy!)**
- Cows have best friends and get stressed when separated. **(Truth)**
- Most people fall asleep in seven minutes. **(Truth)**
- There are only 5 escalators in the entire state of Wyoming. **(Not – 2!)**
- The longest recorded flight of a chicken is 21 seconds. **(Not – it's actually only 13 seconds!)**
- Gorillas burp when they are happy. **(Truth)**
- The world's longest French Fry was 16 inches long. **(Not – 34 inches!)**
- A crocodile cannot stick its tongue out. **(Truth)**

- Canada produces about 80% of the world's maple syrup. **(Truth)**
- The world's longest cave system is in North Carolina. **(Not – Kentucky)**
- New Zealand has more sheep than people. **(Truth)**
- On average, a person spends exactly 20 years sleeping. **(Not – about 25!)**
- A group of pandas is called an embarrassment. **(Truth)**
- The NBA logo features a silhouette of Steph Curry. **(Not – Jerry West)**

Say: **Great job determining what was true and what was not! In life, we often find ourselves having to decide if something is true or not. Is our friend telling us the truth? Is that post on social media real? Will our teeth fall out if we forget to brush them every night this week?! Knowing and obeying the truth is essential to living a life that follows God.**

**Today, we have learned that God is the Author of Truth. Truth starts with Him. God, the Storyteller, is holy, good, and always keeps His promises, even when we do not. God's Law shows us just how much we need Him as we go through life. Jesus showed His followers that He came to earth to fulfill the Law and to fulfill every promise God made about the Savior. He proved God's Word to be true!**

Read: John 14:6

Say: **Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. Following Jesus' way and obeying His truth gives us a new life in Christ!**

**As time allows, walk through the gospel, emphasizing the importance of believing the truth of who God is and what He's done for us.**

#### PRAY

Lead kids to spend a couple of moments silently confessing ways they have not followed God or trusted that He is the Author of Truth. Then, pray, thanking God that He is trustworthy when we are not. Thank Him for sending Jesus to fulfill the Law perfectly in a way that we never could.

#### ANNOUNCE (optional)

- Allow kids to give their missions offering money tonight. Let kids know that if they forgot their money, they can still bring it to you before Worship tomorrow night.
- Remind kids of all of the Evening Hang Time Options.
- Remind kids that tomorrow is OMC day! Encourage them to wear their team colors!
- Give instructions for when and where to meet in the morning.

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## CHURCH GROUP DEVOTIONS DAY 4

### DAY 4: AUTHOR OF JOY

#### REMEMBER

Today, kids are learning that God is the Author of Joy! Campers have seen in TAWG & ICW that true joy is found in the presence of God (Psalm 16:9-11), and that the Author of Joy Himself delights in us (Zephaniah 3:17)! In Bible Study, campers learned that God longs for us to trust Him and celebrates when we do (Luke 15:1-10), and during Worship, we turned to Acts 16:19-34 to see the unexpected joy that Paul and Silas had even when they were in prison!

#### CONNECT

Instruct campers to get into their small groups. Remind them that each night during Church

Group Devotions, they will get in these groups to share about their days and what they're learning.

Ask these questions and allow kids to share their answers in their small groups:

- What was the best part of your day today?
- What is something you learned or thought was interesting today?
- If you could have anything or do anything you wanted in this world, what would you choose? What do you think would bring you the most joy? OR ask the 'Now What?' Question

#### LEARN

Allow a few kids to share what they think would bring them the most joy in life. Agree that there are some really good things in life, but remind them that God is the source of all these good things, and He is the Author of Joy!

Ask: **Does anyone remember where we find abundant joy? (God's presence)**

**Let's see what Jesus had to say about finding complete joy.**

Read: John 15:1-11

Ask: **What does Jesus compare Himself to in these verses? (the vine) What does Jesus compare us to in these verses? (branches) Can a branch produce good fruit when it isn't connected to the vine? (No!)**

**Has anyone here ever left fruit out on the counter or in the fridge for too long? What happened to it? (It spoiled)**

**Why did it spoil instead of staying fresh and continuing to grow? (Because it wasn't attached to its source anymore)**

**Let's play a quick game to see who can stay connected to its branch the longest.**

#### Game: Branches & Vines

Supplies: 1 craft stick per kid

#### Instructions:

Give campers one craft stick each and instruct them to balance it on the back of one of their hands. Explain that in this game, campers' arms are the vine and the craft sticks are the branches.

On "Go," campers will walk around the room trying to knock other campers' "branches" off their hands. Campers cannot hit other players – only their "branches".

The last camper to still be balancing the "branch" on his or her hand wins!

Say: **Great job! It was difficult to keep your vine and branches connected, wasn't it? Sometimes, it's like that in life, too. Jesus told us to remain in Him. Whether things are good and sunny or sad and stormy, staying connected to Him is how we grow good fruit.**

**Just like fruit must be attached to its source to remain healthy, we must remain attached to our vine, Jesus, who is our source of life! Remaining in Him is how our joy can be complete!**

#### PRAY

Pray that God would help each camper in your group remain in Him and bear good fruit. Pray for the journey home and that campers would know and love the Storyteller more and more for the rest of their lives.

#### ANNOUNCE (optional)

- Thank the group for being so much fun this week! Let them know how much you loved learning about the Storyteller with them.
- Ask your church group host share their testimony
- Remind kids of all of the Evening Hang Time Options.
- Give any instructions needed for packing up rooms, loading up luggage in cars, and turning in keys tomorrow morning.