

# Lifegroup Kids Guide:

## The Early Church

### INTRO

We encourage family Lifegroups to do welcome & vision, Lifegroup house rules, and worship all together – then have the kids and adults separate for discussion.

### WELCOME & VISION DANCE (5 MINUTES)

Who loves Lifegroup?!! Who can tell me why we do lifegroup?

We're going to teach you a simple way to remember why we do Lifegroup. It's called the vision dance. Are you ready?!

- Because Jesus loves us (point up, then point to yourself)
- We want to walk with Jesus (walk in place)
- Become like Jesus (cross arms over chest)
- Help others follow Him (point out to others, then point up to Him)

Do it again in slow motion or super fast. Have fun with it.

### LIFEGROUP HOUSE RULES (2 MINUTES)

We have 3 Lifegroup rules.

1. Be kind and respect ourselves
2. Be kind and respect others and their things.
3. Listen and obey the first time.

Who can repeat these back to me?

Discipline Plan: 1st time is a warning, 2nd time you talk with kids leader, 3rd time we get your parents and you leave kids portion of lifegroup, but are welcome to come back next time

\*note to share any house specific rules\*

EX: No going into people's bedrooms, we take our shoes off at the door, etc.

### **GROUP ACTIVITY - TOGETHERNESS (5-7 MINUTES)**

Gather the children in an open area of the room. Encourage children to do different movements together (dance, wiggle, hop, twirl, etc.). Repeat as desired.

“Come join me over here and let’s get ready to move together! Come on, friends! Let’s wiggle together! (Wiggle.) Now let’s hop together! (Hop.) Let’s clap together! (Clap.) Let’s twirl together. (Twirl.) Okay friends, now let’s dance together! (Dance.) That was so much fun! Let’s do it again! (Repeat as desired.) Friends, that was fun doing so many different movements together. In our Bible Story last week, we learned about what the first people who followed Jesus did together. Does anyone remember some of the things they did together?” (they ate together, they shared their belongings, they prayed together, etc.)

### **OR FOR OLDER KIDS:**

Have kids choose a partner that is close in height to them. Then have them sit down back to back and link arms at the elbow. They will have to stay connected at their backs and arms while trying to stand up. Once you say, “GO!” everyone will try it with their partner. Have them switch partners a few times or try in a group of 3 or 4.

### **BIBLE STORY (10-15 MINUTES)**

- Bible - Acts 2:42-47, John 15:12, and Hebrews 10:24

If there are older kids, have them read the scriptures listed above and then ask them what stands out, what did they learn about God and man and if they have any questions. Or you can read the script below:

“Hello, friends! My name is [your name], and I’m here to tell you a true story from the Bible. (Open Bible for children to see, then set it down) Today’s true story from the Bible begins with Jesus and some of the people who followed Him. One day, Jesus told the people to love others the way He loves them. So, do you know what they did? (Pause) They loved like Jesus! Do you know how they loved like Jesus? (Pause) Well, if someone needed a coat . . . someone gave them a coat! The people who shared the coat did what Jesus said and loved like Jesus. And when we do what Jesus says, we shine our light! If someone needed a place to sleep . . . someone shared their home! The people who shared their homes did what Jesus said and loved like Jesus. And when we do what Jesus says, we shine our light! If someone didn’t have any food to eat. . . someone gave them food to eat! The people who shared their food did what Jesus said and loved like Jesus. And when we do what Jesus says, we shine our light! And do you know what else Jesus’ friends did? Jesus’ friends also ate and talked and prayed together. They sang and praised God. They loved each other because Jesus loved them. This showed everyone that they were friends with Jesus. They were loving like Jesus and shining their light! Do you know what that means!?! (Pause) When we do what Jesus says, and love like Jesus, we shine our light for everyone to see that Jesus loves them too! Wow! That’s amazing! We can do what Jesus says, right? Let me hear

you say it! Who can do what Jesus says? I can do what Jesus says! Turn to a friend and say it. Who can do what Jesus says? I can do what Jesus says! Yes, we can! Our Bible story time is over (pick up and close Bible), but we're not through. Let's talk to God because God loves you! Dear God, we want to do what Jesus says and love people the way Jesus loves us. Help us to be kind and share with others, so we can shine and show the world that Jesus loves them. Thank You, God. We love You! In Jesus' name. Amen."

### **GROUP ACTIVITY - POUR THE LIGHT (5-7 MINUTES)**

- Cups
- Tennis ball or any other ball

Gather the children in a circle. Give them each a cup. Put the tennis ball on your cup and demonstrate how to "pour" the ball from your cup to the next child's cup. Encourage them to keep going until the ball makes it around the circle. You can just pass the ball if you don't want to use cups, or you could use an unlit candle to represent the light of the Holy Spirit in us.

"Friends, let's gather in a circle and play a game. Everyone needs one of these cups. We've been talking about shining and being the light of Jesus. We can shine when we do what Jesus says. Let's take this light (hold up ball) and pour it into each other's cups. I'll show you how. (Demonstrate.) Keep it going around the circle. Great job keeping the light going around the circle! When we do what Jesus says and love others, we shine like a light for all our friends to see. We can love like Jesus by sharing when someone needs something. We can love like Jesus when we pray and praise God together with our friends. We can all do what Jesus says!"

### **PRAYER TIME - (5-10 MINUTES)**

Ask the kids to quiet their bodies as they think of someone in their life that shines bright for Jesus/shows them the love of God. Allow them to share and thank God for the people they list before having them ask God who needs to know him or who they can share the light of Jesus with. Maybe have them close their eyes to focus and limit distractions around them. Give them time before asking who God brought to mind and then pray for those people and for opportunities to show them the love of God.

### **EXTRA IDEAS IF YOU STILL HAVE TIME...**

#### **OUTDOOR ACTIVITY**

Go outside and build a "fire" together with things you find in nature. Encourage the kids to be creative! Talk about how God calls us to be a light in this world.

## **PRACTICE MEMORY VERSE**

### **Early Childhood**

'Let (move flat hands forward from hip) your light (palms facing forward) shine,'  
(twinkling hands moving out) Matthew 5:16. (Open hands like a book.)

### **Elementary**

"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your  
Father in heaven." - Matthew 5:16

Share the importance of meditating on and memorizing God's word! Do you have a kid appropriate story of when God brought to mind scripture you had memorized to help you or encourage you or remind you of truth that you can share with them?

### **PLAY!**

- Simon Says
- Rock/Paper/Scissors
- Play the monkey video and dance along. [Monkey video](#) (if you're trying to calm kids down - do not play this song 😂 )