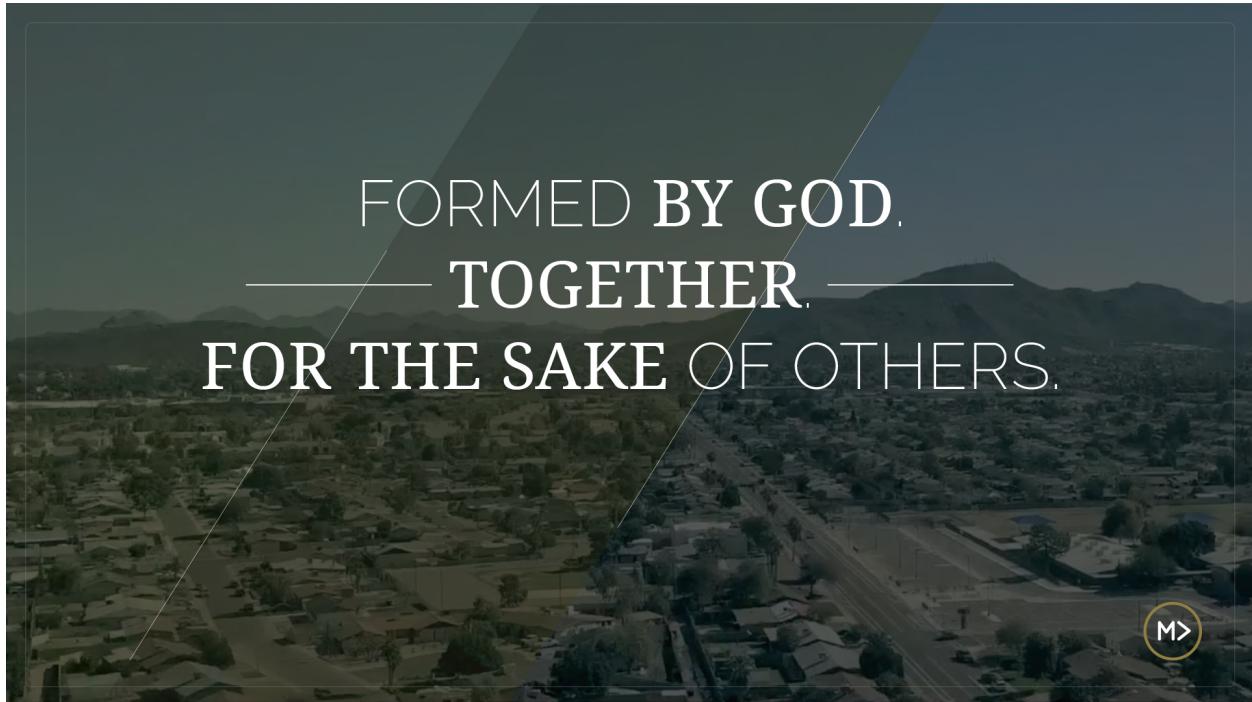


FORMED BY GOD. TOGETHER. FOR THE SAKE OF OTHERS.



Week Two - Together.

A Note to the Parents/Teachers

We want to start the year by reminding ourselves who we are and how God has called us to live. In an individualistic world, we want our kids to learn how God designed them to be together with Him and with others. Pray for this time to build community.

- **Big Idea:** It is not good for us to be alone — we were designed to be with God and with others, together!

Starter

- **Evidences of Grace**

Ask kids to share ways they've seen God at work lately. Anything, big or small, which is good is from God. When a kid shares, encourage everyone to thank God together.

- **Clappy-Cake**

Bring one kid to the front and ask them to play a game of patty-cake, but don't bring a partner up for them. Let them try to figure out how to play on their own. When they start bringing their own hands together, let them know that's just clapping. Let a few kids try. Ask them what some other activities are that require at least two people: knock knock jokes, having a conversation (unless you're crazy), double dutch, etc.

Sing Together

Story - from Genesis 1 & 2 / Exodus 19 / Deut. 7 / Romans 12 / 1 Peter 2

When God made everything He called it all good. He was pleased with His work. Do you know what the first thing was that God noticed was not good? Even before sin entered the world, God noticed it was not good for the man to be alone. He needed another human like him to live and care for the earth, together.

This was because God had made humans to be like Him, to reflect what He is like. And God Himself already lived in community before the world was made. Since the beginning of forever, God lived as a community of the Father, Spirit, and Word of God (the Son). Then God created spiritual beings to live with Him in the heavens and work together with Him. So when He made earthly beings to represent Him, it would not have been good to just have one. The man needed to have a partner, a community, to do life with together.

As humanity multiplied into more and more across the world, God continued with His design of bringing humans together, into community. Even though the human rebellion against God caused division and human sin brought violence against one another, God called together a group of people to display what humanity should be like. He called the nation of Israel to live together as one, the way the first man and woman were created as one, the way God lived eternally in three persons as one.

How well do you think Israel did living as one? Not very well. They argued and fought and oppressed one another. The kingdom even divided into two at one point, before it was taken over by other nations. But God didn't give up on His plan. The Word of God who existed forever in the community of God came down to earth in the form of a human. As a human, Jesus lived in perfect community with the Father, constantly praying to Him, and with the Spirit, always relying on His power. He also started to bring unity among other humans, bringing a group of people together who would have normally fought against one another (*like a tax collector and a zealot*). He made them a family.

Ultimately, when Jesus died to pay for our human rebellion and sin, then rose again to new life, he made a way for all of us—people of every nation—to be brought into the family of God. Now in Jesus we can be united with God and with one another. We are called to be in communion with the Father, rely on the power of the Spirit, and walk in the ways of Jesus — but we are called to do it *together!* As a community. We can't follow Jesus on our own. Even after all this time, it is still not good for man to be alone. We need one another so we can remind each other of the good news that Jesus has united us with him and with God's family.

[Dialogue Questions - you may use some or all]

- Why do you think it wasn't good for the man to be alone?
- Why did God call an entire community to follow Him before He sent His one and only Son, Jesus?
- How did Jesus bring people together?
- What are some ways you can live more like a family with God's people?

Breakout Time

- **Prayer:**
God, thank you for uniting us with you and with one another. Help us to live like a family of your children, together, in Jesus' name. Amen.
- **Craft:**
 - Use the attached page to color and cutout a chain of people. Encourage kids to make each person look different to show the diversity of God's family. The cutout will have each person connected.
 - OR Use construction paper to make a tree with many leaves. Have the kids trace their hand on brown paper to make the trunk and branches, then cut out different colored paper for the leaves. The tree will represent the family tree of God's people.
- **BLESS Activity:** **For kids to do during the week**
Because this Story is true, we want to be faithful to live in it. We ask Spirit to help us Bless, Listen, Eat, Speak, and Sabbath (rest & celebrate) in ways that tell the good news of God's Story.

This week, focus on the **Bless** rhythm. Who can you do something nice for this week? Find a way to use what God has given you to bless another person.

