

MD KIDS: SHAPED BY THE TRUE STORY



Week Three: Gospel Community

To the Teachers

*This month we will remind ourselves of the True Story of the world, from Creation to Restoration, and how we are shaped by it. This Story **forms** us into a **community** sent on **mission**. This week we focus on community, especially as it is seen in who God is Himself.*

- **Big Idea:** God designed humans for community with Him and each other.

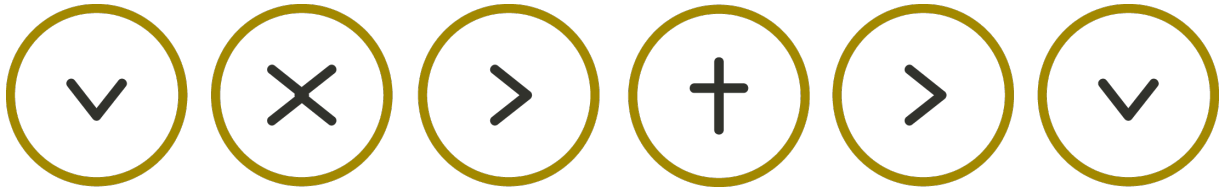
As Kids Enter (15 minutes - Classroom)

- **Question:** Who are the people that you spend the most time with?
- **Starter:**
Review the six symbols and ask the kids which part of the True Story we live in now.

Sing Together (15 minutes - all together)

STORY (30 minutes - Lead Teacher)

**Refer back to the Story symbols to help guide you through the lesson*



CREATION REBELLION PROMISE REDEMPTION CHURCH RESTORATION

Q: When you hear the word *community*, what do you think of?

Q: What is a community?

A community can be a group of people who live in the same place, or are similar to one another, or have something in common (*they like the same things, believe the same things, or want the same things to happen*). We often hear the word community describing the place where we live, but in the Bible the word community is talking much more about the people we live with. The True Story tells us that God wants us to live in community with Him and with each other! Let's look now and see where we can find community in the Story:

God wanted to share His creation with a creature made in His image; to show the rest of creation what God is like - that's you and me! God created the first man so that He could partner with him and allow the man to care for the creation. God and the man were in community together but God wanted the man to be able to love and have friendship with someone like himself, so God created the first woman. This was the first human community! God spent time with the people in a special garden; walking and talking with them, sharing truths about His creation, working with them to continue to develop its potential. The man and woman lived in harmony with each other and with God.

But when the people chose to listen to lies from the serpent rather than God it damaged the community. They felt ashamed because of their sin, they hid themselves from one another and from God. God could not allow the people to continue to live in His garden and they were removed from that special place and from community with Him.

Q: Who was in the first community?

Q: What was their community like?

Q: What happened to the community after the people rebelled against God?

After the people rebelled against God, He still desired to be in community with them. He formed the nation of Israel which was supposed to be a community which lived differently than all the other people on earth. Israel was supposed to teach all of the people to stop rebelling and return to God. Unfortunately, they continued to believe lies and trust themselves instead of God.

So God sent His own Son, Jesus, born to the earth through the family of Israel to show people what life in community with God was like. Jesus was forming a new community of followers. He spent all of His time with this community explaining to them what life with God was like by teaching them and performing many miracles! After Jesus' death and resurrection He sent His Spirit to be with His community of followers. This community of people were now the ones who were to teach all of the people on earth how to live in community with each other and with God.

Q: What did God do after the people rebelled?

Q: Why did Jesus come to earth?

Q: Who do you think is in Jesus' community today?

In Breakout Classes (30 minutes - Classroom)

- **Prayer:**

Jesus, thank you for inviting us into your community! Please help us show others what it is like to love and spend time with you. Thank you for sending us your Spirit so we can show others who God is. Amen.

- **Craft:**

- Have the kids draw a picture of their community. This could be their family, MC, others at Missio Dei, etc. Then have them list people who are not in the picture but they want to invite into community.
- Use the coloring page attached from the Bible App for Kids

- **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 the Spirit to help us to *Bless, Listen, Eat, Speak, and Sabbath* (rest & celebrate) in ways that tell the good news of God's Story.

This week, focus on the **Eat** rhythm. Jesus spent a lot of time sharing meals with people who others did not want in their community. Ask your family who you can share a meal with this week. If you eat dinner with an MC, talk with your MC about who you can invite to the table.

