

# Growing Together

## BIG IDEA

**God created us to grow together—we weren't meant to do life alone.**

## LEADER GOAL

Help students understand that healthy community is one of God's gifts. Encourage them to value the communities they're already part of and introduce the Church as a unique community of people who follow Jesus, love one another, and help each other grow.



## WELCOME + CONNECT

### LEADER SAYS

"Welcome back, everyone!"

How has school been going lately? What's something you've enjoyed at school recently? Maybe it's a class, a sport, a club, or spending time with friends."

*(Allow students to share.)*

"Today we're going to talk about something that all of us are part of, whether we realize it or not.

**Community."**

# LIVE SPARK

## GROWING TOGETHER

### GRAB

One puzzle piece and the puzzle it belongs to.

### IDEA

Every piece matters, but a puzzle was designed to come together. We were too.

### SPARK

**God created us to grow together.**

## DO/SAY

[Hold up one puzzle piece.]  
"Look what I found. A puzzle!"

[Pause.]

"What? This isn't a puzzle? But it's a puzzle piece. And it's a pretty important one."

[Examine it.]

"It's got some blue here... Maybe ocean. Maybe sky. Maybe a very calm blueberry."

[Hold it out toward the group.]

"Can you tell what the whole picture is?"

[Take response.]

"No. Here's what's interesting. This piece matters. There's a place in the picture that only this piece can fill. But it was never designed to be the whole picture by itself."

[Bring out the rest of the puzzle or place the piece with several others.]

"It's designed to connect. And so are we. Every one of us has something important to bring. But none of us was created to do life completely alone. We need people who encourage us. Help us. Challenge us. Celebrate with us. And we get to do the same for them."

That's our Spark this week: **God created us to grow together.**

### THEN

Move directly into **Under the Sea — We Weren't Meant to Do Life Alone.**



## STORY CONNECTION

UNDER THE SEA — WE WEREN'T MEANT TO DO LIFE ALONE

### LEADER SAYS

"In *Under the Sea*, all the sea creatures come together to sing, dance, and celebrate life under the ocean. It's a joyful picture of everyone doing life together.

When you hear the word community, what comes to mind?"

*(Allow a few responses.)*

"Whether you realize it or not, you're already part of several communities. Maybe your school. Your sports team. Your neighbourhood. Your family. And, of course, K2K."

A community is simply a group of people who share life together. Sometimes communities help us celebrate. Sometimes they support us when life is difficult. Sometimes they challenge us to grow.

God designed us this way. Right near the beginning of the Bible, God says:

### GENESIS 2:18

"It is not good for the man to be alone."

From the very beginning, God created people to live in relationship with Him and with one another. We learn from each other. We encourage each other. We care for each other. We celebrate together.

The sea creatures sing, "Such wonderful things surround you." In many ways, that's true for us too. One of God's wonderful gifts is the people He places around us.

**We weren't created to do life alone.**

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

“Let’s talk together.”

1

What are some great things that come from being part of a community?

2

What different communities are you part of?

3

Why do you think God wants us to live in community with others?

4

How can you be a light in one of your communities this week?

## SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

COMMUNITY — THE CHURCH

### LEADER SAYS

“When you hear the word church, what do you picture?”

*(Allow responses.)*

“Many people picture a building. But in the Bible, the word church doesn’t actually mean a building. It means people.

The church is a community of people who follow Jesus and gather together to worship God, learn from the Bible, pray, serve others, and encourage one another.”

## SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

### COMMUNITY — THE CHURCH (CONT.)

One of the reasons church is so important is because none of us are meant to follow Jesus alone.

We help each other grow. We pray for one another. We celebrate together. And we support each other through difficult times.

The early Christians used a Greek word called **Koinonia** (koy-nohn-EE-ah). Koinonia means deep friendship, fellowship, and sharing life together. It's more than simply knowing someone's name. It's caring for one another the way Jesus cares for us.

As followers of Jesus, we have a relationship with God, and because of that, we also become part of God's family with other believers.

Sometimes people describe it like this:

- We have a **vertical relationship with God**.
- We have **horizontal relationships with one another**.

As we grow closer to God, He also teaches us to love and care for the people around us.

That's one of the beautiful things about being part of the Church. It's a family that encourages us to keep following Jesus together."

## STUDENT REFLECTION

Why do you think God created us to live in relationship with other people instead of by ourselves?

## THIS WEEK - YOUR CHALLENGE!

"This week, look for one way to encourage someone in one of your communities.

It could be:

- thanking a teacher,
- helping a teammate,
- including someone who's alone,
- encouraging a sibling,
- or serving someone at home.

If you want an extra challenge, tell someone about the word **Koinonia** and explain that it means sharing life together as God's family."

## CLOSING PRAYER

"Let's pray together.

Dear God,

Thank You for creating us to live in community.

Thank You for our families, our schools, our friends, our neighbourhoods, and for K2K.

Thank You for the Church—a family of people who love You and encourage one another to keep growing.

Help us be people who welcome others, serve others, and show kindness wherever we go.

Teach us to build communities where everyone feels seen, valued, and loved.

Thank You for bringing each of us together this year.

Amen."

# Connection Activities



## SUPPLIES

Plastic/stacking cups; Markers



## ACTIVITY 1 | CUP STACKING (BUILD UP)

### Supplies: plastic cups/stacking cups, markers

- (2 teams may be preferred depending on numbers)
- Give each student a cup, ask them to write a way they can build others up on the cup.
- Put all the cups on a table, have students line up behind the table.
- Start a timer, and have the first student stack the cups, then unstack for the next in line.
- Have each group member take a turn and see how quickly it takes for the whole group to have a turn.



## ACTIVITY 2 | 20 QUESTIONS

- Have one student think of a person, place or thing.
- The rest of the group has to work together to figure out what the answer is by asking yes or no questions.
- The group has up to 20 questions to ask in order to figure it out.