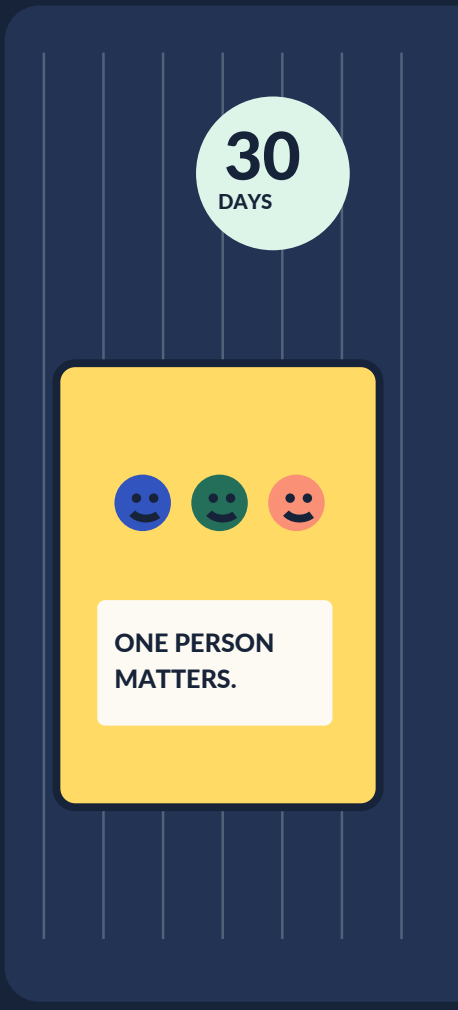
1C / UPPER ELEMENTARY

GRADES 3 - 5

GO ONE MORE.

The 30-day friendship challenge: one new kid, a few friends, and thirty chances to love people like Jesus.



STORIES + BIBLE + ACTION

Based on the original 1C Go One More devotional

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Jesus cares about every person. For the next 30 days, you will follow Avery and her friends through real-feeling school moments, read the Bible, and take one small step to notice and care for someone.

EVERY DAY HAS FIVE PARTS

1. THE STORY
Read what happens to Avery, Riley, Jace, and Nora.

2. READ THE BIBLE
Look up the passage in the New Living Translation (NLT).

3. THINK IT THROUGH
Answer two real questions. It is okay to be honest.

4. GO ONE MORE
Try a simple action without expecting a reward.

5. TALK TO GOD
Pray in your own words, or use the short prayer.

ONE NAME I WILL PRAY FOR:

_____

What is one way I can be a good friend this month?

Remember: your job is to care, not to force anyone to believe anything.

When inviting someone, check with a parent or trusted adult first.

THE ONE IN THE CROWD

BIG IDEA / Every person matters to Jesus.

01 / THE STORY

The hallway buzzed as fifth graders rushed to class. Avery spotted a boy standing by the lockers, turning a crumpled schedule over and over. He had arrived at West Ridge that morning. Avery almost kept walking. If she stopped, she might be late. Then she remembered what her small group leader had said about the shepherd who searched for one missing sheep. She slowed down. “Need help finding room 204?” The boy looked relieved. “Actually, yeah. I’m Riley.” They walked together. Avery didn’t make a new best friend in thirty seconds. She did something smaller: she noticed someone everyone else had passed.

02 / READ LUKE 15:3-7 (NLT)

Jesus tells a story about a shepherd who notices one missing sheep and goes looking. The story shows God's heart. He sees people, even when a crowd seems too busy to notice them. Avery could not solve Riley's whole day, but she could take one step.

03 / THINK IT THROUGH

1. What makes it easy to overlook someone at school?
2. Who might feel new, alone, or left out in your world?

04 / GO ONE MORE

Learn one person’s name and say hello. Start with kindness, not a speech.

05 / TALK TO GOD

Jesus, help me see people the way You do. Give me courage to notice one person today. Amen.

WRITE OR DRAW ONE THOUGHT

THE INVITATION

BIG IDEA / One honest invitation can open a door.

01 / THE STORY

At lunch, Riley balanced a tray and scanned the packed tables. Avery waved, then hesitated. Her friends always sat together, and one of them had already saved the last chair for a backpack. She moved the backpack. “You can sit here if you want.” Riley joined them and listened while they argued about the best recess game. After a while, he added a joke so funny that even serious Jace spit out his water. Later, Jace told Avery, “I’m glad you asked him.” It was only a seat, but the seat made space for a friendship.

02 / READ JOHN 1:40-42 (NLT)

In John 1, Andrew meets Jesus and brings his brother Simon to Him. Andrew cannot predict what Simon will become. He simply makes an introduction. You can offer a real invitation without deciding how someone should respond.

03 / THINK IT THROUGH

1. Why can sitting with a new group feel risky?
2. What invitation would help someone feel included?

04 / GO ONE MORE

Invite someone into a game, activity, or conversation. Make it easy for them to say yes or no.

05 / TALK TO GOD

God, make me the kind of friend who makes room for others. Amen.

WRITE OR DRAW ONE THOUGHT

SMALL THINGS COUNT

BIG IDEA / Steady kindness matters even when nobody notices.

01 / THE STORY

Riley borrowed a pencil on Monday. On Tuesday, he asked where the science materials went. By Wednesday, Avery wondered whether her help mattered at all. He still seemed quiet. Then she noticed something: Riley had started helping another student find the correct reading group. Her small actions had become his small actions. At home, Avery told her grandmother she wished helping people felt more exciting. Grandma laughed. “Most of the best stuff happens over and over.” Avery thought about how Grandma had prayed with her each night when she was little. She could not point to one amazing night. She remembered all of them.

02 / READ 2 TIMOTHY 1:5; 3:14-15 (NLT)

Paul reminds Timothy that his faith was shaped by his mother and grandmother. The Bible does not describe them as famous. Their repeated care mattered. God can use faithful everyday habits to help someone grow.

03 / THINK IT THROUGH

1. Who has been a steady influence in your life?
2. What kind thing could you repeat instead of doing only once?

04 / GO ONE MORE

Give a specific word of encouragement to someone today. Be sincere.

05 / TALK TO GOD

God, help me keep doing good when there is no applause. Amen.

WRITE OR DRAW ONE THOUGHT

STOP AND HELP

BIG IDEA / Compassion moves from noticing to helping.

01 / THE STORY

A soccer ball rolled into the mulch near the playground. Everyone chased it except Riley, who had tripped beside the basketball court. “He’s fine,” someone called. But Avery saw that his folder had spilled everywhere and papers were blowing in the wind. She wanted to keep playing. Instead, she jogged over, grabbed the last worksheet before it hit a puddle, and offered her hand. Riley brushed the dirt off his jeans. “Thanks. I would’ve lost half my homework.” Avery missed one goal. She did not miss the chance to be a good neighbor.

02 / READ LUKE 10:25-37 (NLT)

Jesus describes a wounded man beside a road. Several people see him and pass by, but a Samaritan stops and helps. The surprise is that the helper comes from a group the listeners did not expect. Jesus wants us to become neighbors who act with compassion.

03 / THINK IT THROUGH

1. What excuses keep us from helping?
2. How can you tell whether someone wants help before jumping in?

04 / GO ONE MORE

Notice a real need. Ask “Would it help if I…?” and offer a safe, practical action.

05 / TALK TO GOD

Jesus, slow me down enough to notice when someone needs care. Amen.

WRITE OR DRAW ONE THOUGHT

SEEN AND KNOWN

BIG IDEA / God sees people even when others overlook them.

01 / THE STORY

Nora was the best artist in fifth grade, but she almost never spoke during group work. When teams were chosen for the mural, nobody asked what she thought. Avery was about to decide the colors herself when she noticed Nora sketching tiny designs in the margin of her notebook. “Are those for the mural?” Nora nodded. Avery leaned closer. The sketches were incredible: a road of stars leading toward an open door. “Will you show us?” she asked. By the end of art period, the entire team was working from Nora’s idea. Nora had been there all along. Avery had finally paid attention.

02 / READ GENESIS 16:7-13 (NLT)

Hagar was mistreated and fled into the wilderness. In Genesis 16, God finds her and speaks with her. She calls Him the God who sees her. You may not know everyone's whole story, but you can treat each person as worth noticing and hearing.

03 / THINK IT THROUGH

1. When have you felt invisible?
2. Whose ideas or feelings have you overlooked?

04 / GO ONE MORE

Ask someone a thoughtful question, put away distractions, and listen to the answer.

05 / TALK TO GOD

God who sees me, help me see others with care and respect. Amen.

WRITE OR DRAW ONE THOUGHT

PRAY FIRST

BIG IDEA / Prayer is a good place to begin.

01 / THE STORY

Riley missed school on Friday. Avery wanted to send six messages asking what was wrong. Her mother suggested starting with one gentle text and a prayer. Avery sat on her bed and said, “God, I don’t know what Riley needs. Please care for him, and help me know what I can do.” Later, she texted, “Hope you’re okay. I saved your worksheet.” Riley replied that his little sister was sick and he had been helping at home. Avery offered to drop off the worksheet with her parent. She could not fix everything, but prayer helped her act without taking over.

02 / READ NEHEMIAH 1:1-11 (NLT)

When Nehemiah hears bad news about Jerusalem, he prays before making a plan. His prayer does not replace action. It prepares him to act with a humble, caring heart.

03 / THINK IT THROUGH

1. Why do we sometimes rush to fix things?
2. How might praying change the way we help?

04 / GO ONE MORE

Pray for one person by name, then ask a trusted adult about a helpful next step if needed.

05 / TALK TO GOD

Father, help me bring my worries to You before I rush ahead. Amen.

WRITE OR DRAW ONE THOUGHT

FOUR FRIENDS

BIG IDEA / Good friends help carry hard things.

01 / THE STORY

The class had to set up chairs for family night. Jace groaned when he saw the enormous stack. Riley could only carry two chairs at a time, and Nora was still finishing her art display. “We’ll never finish,” he said. Avery remembered the friends who carried a man to Jesus. “What if we split up?” Jace carried chairs, Avery arranged rows, Riley set out programs, and Nora made the welcome sign. Twenty minutes later, the room was ready. No one had done the whole job alone. On the way home, Riley said, “It’s easier when somebody notices what you can do.”

02 / READ MARK 2:1-12 (NLT)

In Mark 2, four friends work together to bring a man to Jesus, even when a crowd blocks the door. Jesus notices their faith. You cannot solve every problem, but you can carry one corner of a burden alongside others.

03 / THINK IT THROUGH

1. What makes asking for help difficult?
2. When might teamwork serve someone better than going alone?

04 / GO ONE MORE

Offer to share one manageable task with a friend or family member.

05 / TALK TO GOD

Jesus, show me how to be a friend who helps carry the load. Amen.

WRITE OR DRAW ONE THOUGHT

WHEN NOTHING CHANGES

BIG IDEA / Keep praying without demanding quick results.

01 / THE STORY

Avery had prayed for Riley's family for a week. His little sister was still sick, and he still looked worried. "Maybe I'm praying wrong," she whispered to Grandma. Grandma shook her head. "Prayer isn't a vending machine. You don't put in the perfect words and get the result you ordered." They read Jesus' story about a woman who kept asking for justice. Avery prayed again. Then she made Riley a small card that said, "Our class misses you." She still did not know how things would turn out. She knew she could keep caring.

02 / READ LUKE 18:1-8 (NLT)

Jesus teaches His followers to keep praying and not give up. God is not a machine we control. We can ask honestly, trust His character, and keep loving people while we wait.

03 / THINK IT THROUGH

1. How do you feel when an answer takes a long time?
2. What would patient friendship look like this week?

04 / GO ONE MORE

Pray again about something important and offer one pressure-free kindness.

05 / TALK TO GOD

God, help me trust You while I wait and care for people along the way. Amen.

WRITE OR DRAW ONE THOUGHT

GROWING UNDERGROUND

BIG IDEA / Growth can happen before we see it.

01 / THE STORY

The science class planted bean seeds in clear cups. Avery checked hers every morning. Nothing. Jace's had already sprouted, and she was tempted to dig her seed up to see what was happening. Ms. Ortiz smiled. "That's one way to make sure it never grows." Avery watered the soil and waited. A few days later, a white root appeared against the cup. By Friday, a bright green stem pushed upward. She thought about Riley: friendships, trust, and faith could grow quietly too. She did not have to keep checking for results.

02 / READ MARK 4:26-29 (NLT)

Jesus compares God's kingdom to seed growing while the farmer goes about life. The farmer has a part to play, but he cannot force the plant to grow. We can be faithful without controlling another person's story.

03 / THINK IT THROUGH

1. Where are you impatient for something to change?
2. What is the difference between helping and pushing?

04 / GO ONE MORE

Do one kind thing, then give the other person room to respond naturally.

05 / TALK TO GOD

God, help me plant good seeds and trust You with the growth. Amen.

WRITE OR DRAW ONE THOUGHT

THE QUIET WORK

BIG IDEA / Praying for someone matters even when they never see it.

01 / THE STORY

During silent reading, Avery noticed Riley rubbing his forehead. She could ask how he was doing later, but for now the room was quiet. On a sticky note inside her planner, she wrote: “Riley—strength for his family; peace at school; good friends.” She decided to pray for those things each morning. A few days later, she added Nora’s name because she had shared that speaking in front of the class made her nervous. Nobody saw the note. It was not a secret mission. It was a reminder to care about real people, not just her own schedule.

02 / READ COLOSSIANS 4:12 (NLT)

Paul tells the church about Epaphras, a man who works hard in prayer for others. Loving someone includes what we do in front of them and what we ask God for when no one is watching.

03 / THINK IT THROUGH

1. What makes prayer specific instead of vague?
2. What needs could you pray about for another person?

04 / GO ONE MORE

Write a private prayer with three caring requests for someone. Use initials if your notebook is shared.

05 / TALK TO GOD

Father, hear my prayer for the people You have placed in my life. Amen.

WRITE OR DRAW ONE THOUGHT

SHOW UP AGAIN

BIG IDEA / Loyal love stays when things get hard.

01 / THE STORY

The rain canceled the class's outdoor field day. Most students groaned about the change, but Riley was unusually quiet. His family had expected his little sister to come home from the hospital that day, and now she needed to stay longer. Avery did not know what to say. She could not promise everything would be fine. So she asked whether Riley wanted to play the indoor board game with them. He shrugged, then joined. They played badly and laughed anyway. Before leaving, he said, "Thanks for acting normal with me." Sometimes showing up does not sound like a perfect speech.

02 / READ RUTH 1:14-18 (NLT)

After terrible losses, Ruth chooses to stay with Naomi instead of leaving her alone. Ruth cannot remove Naomi's grief. She offers steady presence. Faithful love often looks like staying nearby.

03 / THINK IT THROUGH

1. Why can sad situations make us uncomfortable?
2. How can you support someone without pretending to fix everything?

04 / GO ONE MORE

Check in on someone who has had a hard week. Offer time and let them choose what helps.

05 / TALK TO GOD

God, help me be a dependable friend in easy and difficult seasons. Amen.

WRITE OR DRAW ONE THOUGHT

ASK BEFORE YOU ASSUME

BIG IDEA / Listening begins with a real question.

01 / THE STORY

For the school carnival, Jace volunteered Riley to run the beanbag booth. “You’ll be great!” he declared. Riley looked uncomfortable. Avery caught up with him outside. “Did you want that job?” Riley admitted he hated standing in front of crowds. “I’d rather keep score behind the table.” When Avery explained, Jace felt embarrassed. “I thought I was helping.” The three of them rearranged the jobs, and the booth worked better for everyone. On carnival night, Riley kept an accurate score while Jace did all the shouting. Both were glad they had talked first.

02 / READ MARK 10:46-52 (NLT)

A blind man named Bartimaeus calls to Jesus for help. Jesus stops and asks what he wants. Jesus already understands his need, but He lets Bartimaeus speak for himself. Care listens instead of guessing.

03 / THINK IT THROUGH

1. When have you guessed what someone wanted?
2. What question might help you understand them better?

04 / GO ONE MORE

Ask “What would be helpful?” before giving advice or taking charge.

05 / TALK TO GOD

Jesus, help me listen carefully before I try to help. Amen.

WRITE OR DRAW ONE THOUGHT

MAKE ROOM AT THE TABLE

BIG IDEA / Welcome can make space for a new beginning.

01 / THE STORY

The fifth-grade picnic had assigned tables, but nobody wanted the last seat near the trash cans. Riley spotted Nora standing with her lunch, unsure where to go. He moved his jacket and waved her over. Soon they were talking about the school art show. Avery watched the exchange and grinned: a few weeks ago, Riley had been the student looking for a place to sit. Now he was making space for someone else. After lunch, Nora volunteered to make posters for their carnival booth. An open seat had opened an entire conversation.

02 / READ LUKE 19:1-10 (NLT)

Zacchaeus was unpopular, yet Jesus chose to spend time with him. Jesus offered attention and welcome before Zacchaeus changed his life. Being included can help people feel safe enough to be known.

03 / THINK IT THROUGH

1. What makes someone feel welcome?
2. Who might need room at your table or in your group?

04 / GO ONE MORE

Make a real place for someone without expecting anything in return.

05 / TALK TO GOD

Jesus, help me welcome people generously, the way You do. Amen.

WRITE OR DRAW ONE THOUGHT

KINDNESS YOU CAN FEEL

BIG IDEA / Love becomes visible through practical help.

01 / THE STORY

Nora's art club made cards for kids receiving treatment at the children's hospital. Avery thought cards seemed too small to matter, but Nora explained that the kids would see them on their walls for weeks. They cut bright paper, drew ridiculous animals, and wrote messages that did not pretend to know what anyone was going through. Riley wrote, "You matter. A bunch of fifth graders are cheering for you." The class collected the cards and handed them to a teacher who arranged delivery with the hospital. It was simple, organized, and thoughtful. Avery realized that care can be practical even when you cannot meet the person you are helping.

02 / READ ACTS 9:36-42 (NLT)

Acts 9 describes Tabitha, also called Dorcas, who cared for people and made clothing for those in need. Her generosity mattered to her community. Faith shows up in useful acts of love.

03 / THINK IT THROUGH

1. What is the difference between saying "I care" and showing it?
2. What small gift of time or skill could help someone?

04 / GO ONE MORE

Create something encouraging or help with a real need through a parent, teacher, or trusted leader.

05 / TALK TO GOD

God, give me hands that help and a heart that cares. Amen.

WRITE OR DRAW ONE THOUGHT

LOVE THAT COSTS

BIG IDEA / Generosity often costs us something.

01 / THE STORY

The art club's display needed one more poster. Nora had spent two evenings designing it, but the printer made the colors muddy. She offered to redraw it after school. Avery knew Nora had been looking forward to the first warm afternoon in weeks. "Let's finish it together," she said. Jace showed up too, carrying markers and a half-finished snack. They could have gone home early. Instead, they stayed to make the display welcoming for families. Nobody posted a photo of their sacrifice. The next morning, a little boy stopped in front of their poster and smiled. That felt like enough.

02 / READ JOHN 12:1-8 (NLT)

Mary pours costly perfume on Jesus, an act some people criticize. Jesus receives her loving gift. Generous love sometimes uses our time, attention, or belongings when keeping them would be easier.

03 / THINK IT THROUGH

1. What do you find hardest to share—time, attention, or something you own?
2. How can you give freely without showing off?

04 / GO ONE MORE

Choose one appropriate way to be generous today. Ask an adult before giving away anything valuable.

05 / TALK TO GOD

Jesus, teach me to love with more than convenient words. Amen.

WRITE OR DRAW ONE THOUGHT

YOUR STORY MATTERS

BIG IDEA / You can share what you know without knowing everything.

01 / THE STORY

On the bus, Riley asked Avery, “Why do you pray?” Her first thought was to search for the smartest answer. She had heard adults explain prayer in ways that sounded impressive. But Riley was asking her, not a textbook. “I pray because I believe God hears me,” she said. “Sometimes I still get confused when things don’t change. But it helps me remember I’m not alone.” Riley looked out the window and said, “That makes sense.” Avery had not given him every answer. She had given an honest one, including the part she still wondered about.

02 / READ JOHN 4:28-30, 39-42 (NLT)

After meeting Jesus, a woman in Samaria goes to tell her town what happened. She does not wait until she knows everything. She begins with her own experience and invites people to discover more.

03 / THINK IT THROUGH

1. What has your own experience taught you about God?
2. How could you describe it in normal words?

04 / GO ONE MORE

Write a two-sentence answer to “Why does following Jesus matter to you?” Share only if a natural opportunity comes.

05 / TALK TO GOD

Jesus, help me be honest, humble, and brave when I speak about You. Amen.

WRITE OR DRAW ONE THOUGHT

WALK BESIDE

BIG IDEA / Good conversations make room for questions.

01 / THE STORY

Jace heard Riley mention that he had never read the Bible. Jace almost launched into a list of books and rules. Instead, he asked, “Is there anything you’re curious about?” Riley thought for a moment. “Why does Jesus tell so many stories?” Avery joined them on the walk to the bus and suggested reading one story together later. Riley liked that idea. Jace was glad he had asked a question first. His friend had opened a much better conversation than the speech Jace was about to give.

02 / READ ACTS 8:26-40 (NLT)

In Acts 8, Philip meets a traveler who is reading Scripture. Philip asks whether he understands it, listens to his question, and helps him explore the message about Jesus. Conversations can begin with curiosity and respect.

03 / THINK IT THROUGH

1. Why is it easier to give a speech than ask a question?
2. What makes a conversation feel safe?

04 / GO ONE MORE

Practice asking “What do you think?” and listening without interrupting.

05 / TALK TO GOD

God, give me curiosity and kindness when people have questions. Amen.

WRITE OR DRAW ONE THOUGHT

LISTEN FIRST

BIG IDEA / Listening can be a greater gift than a quick answer.

01 / THE STORY

At lunch, Jace complained that his parents were making him quit a team for a season. Avery almost said, “At least you still have basketball.” She caught herself. “That sounds disappointing,” she said instead. Jace told them how hard he had worked, and that he felt as if his parents had not noticed. Nobody at the table knew exactly what to say. Riley asked one more question. The conversation lasted longer than usual, and Jace looked lighter when it ended. Later he thanked them for letting him vent without turning it into an argument.

02 / READ JAMES 1:19-20 (NLT)

James tells believers to be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry. Listening does not mean agreeing with everything. It means giving people enough respect to understand them.

03 / THINK IT THROUGH

1. What do you do while someone else is talking?
2. When would listening be better than giving advice?

04 / GO ONE MORE

In one conversation today, wait until the other person finishes and ask a follow-up question.

05 / TALK TO GOD

God, help me listen with patience and speak with care. Amen.

WRITE OR DRAW ONE THOUGHT

SAY WHAT CHANGED

BIG IDEA / A personal story can show what Jesus has done.

01 / THE STORY

Avery's youth leader asked everyone to share one way following Jesus affected their week. Avery stared at a blank note card. She had never experienced a dramatic moment like the stories she sometimes heard. Then she remembered the hallway, the lunch table, and her growing friendship with Riley. "I used to think helping people meant doing something huge," she wrote. "Now I'm learning to notice one person and take a small step." When she read it aloud, another student nodded. Their stories were different, but both mattered. Avery realized she did not have to borrow someone else's story to speak honestly about her own.

02 / READ ACTS 26:1-23 (NLT)

When Paul explains his faith before a ruler in Acts 26, he tells what his life was like, how he encountered Jesus, and what changed. A truthful story can help others understand why faith matters.

03 / THINK IT THROUGH

1. What is one way Jesus is shaping the choices you make?
2. How can you describe it without exaggerating?

04 / GO ONE MORE

Write three sentences: "Before…," "I'm learning…," and "Now I try…".

05 / TALK TO GOD

Jesus, help my words tell the truth about Your work in my life. Amen.

WRITE OR DRAW ONE THOUGHT

WORDS AND ACTIONS

BIG IDEA / People learn about Jesus through both what we say and how we live.

01 / THE STORY

Jace invited a friend to his church's game night, then snapped at him during PE the next morning. "That didn't match," Avery said afterward. Jace knew she was right. At recess he found his friend and apologized. "I was annoyed, but I shouldn't have talked to you like that." His friend accepted the apology, and they played again. Jace still hoped they would come to game night. He understood something more important: being a good friend mattered whether the invitation was accepted or not.

02 / READ 1 THESSALONIANS 2:7-12 (NLT)

Paul describes sharing both the good news about Jesus and his own life with people. He cared about them personally. Faith is more believable when our actions match our words, including the way we admit mistakes.

03 / THINK IT THROUGH

1. How do people notice a difference between words and actions?
2. What would a sincere apology sound like?

04 / GO ONE MORE

If you have hurt someone, own your part and apologize. Let your actions back up your words.

05 / TALK TO GOD

God, help me live the love I talk about. Amen.

WRITE OR DRAW ONE THOUGHT

A REAL INVITATION

BIG IDEA / Jesus welcomes people, and we can invite them without pressure.

01 / THE STORY

The church's family game night was on Friday. Avery wanted to invite Riley, but she worried he would think she had only been friendly to get him to come. She decided to be honest. "My church is doing a game night Friday. Some of us are going. Want me to ask my mom to send your family the details?" Riley said he would ask at home. Avery smiled. "Cool. No pressure." They spent the rest of recess talking about which board game made everyone the most competitive. Her invitation was real, and so was their friendship.

02 / READ MARK 2:13-17 (NLT)

Jesus invites Levi, a tax collector, to follow Him and spends time with people others avoid. Jesus came to help people who need Him. We can invite friends into community while respecting their choices and families.

03 / THINK IT THROUGH

1. What makes an invitation feel kind rather than pushy?
2. What details would help someone know what to expect?

04 / GO ONE MORE

With a parent's or guardian's okay, offer one specific invitation. Respect the answer.

05 / TALK TO GOD

Jesus, help me invite people with courage and kindness. Amen.

WRITE OR DRAW ONE THOUGHT

COME AND SEE

BIG IDEA / You do not need every answer to invite someone to explore.

01 / THE STORY

Riley said, “I don’t know. Church sounds like sitting still for a really long time.” Jace laughed. “Some parts are quieter. Game night definitely isn’t.” Avery did not argue. “You could come check it out and decide for yourself. My mom can tell your family what it’s like.” Riley nodded. “Maybe.” Avery wanted to turn maybe into yes, but she stopped. A good invitation gave Riley information and space. They changed the subject and practiced free throws until the bell rang.

02 / READ JOHN 1:43-46 (NLT)

When Nathanael doubts Philip's news about Jesus, Philip says, “Come and see.” Philip is open and honest instead of fighting. Curiosity can be a first step, and people deserve space to explore.

03 / THINK IT THROUGH

1. How do you respond when someone disagrees with you?
2. Why can “come and see” be better than an argument?

04 / GO ONE MORE

Answer a question honestly, or say “I’m not sure.” Offer to explore together if they want.

05 / TALK TO GOD

God, give me confidence without making me pushy. Amen.

WRITE OR DRAW ONE THOUGHT

WHEN THE ANSWER IS NO

BIG IDEA / Love stays kind when someone says no.

01 / THE STORY

Riley's parents had family plans, so he could not come to game night. "Sorry," he told Avery. "Maybe another time." Avery felt disappointed. For a moment, she almost said, "But you promised you'd think about it!" She stopped. Riley had never promised anything. "No worries," she said. "How did your sister's appointment go?" He told her that his sister had finally returned to school for half days. Avery was glad she asked. Their friendship was bigger than a single event.

02 / READ MARK 10:17-22 (NLT)

In Mark 10, a rich man approaches Jesus, hears a difficult invitation, and walks away. Jesus does not chase him to force a yes. He loves him and tells him the truth. We can respect someone's decision and keep caring.

03 / THINK IT THROUGH

1. What does disappointment make you want to say?
2. How can a friendship stay safe after someone says no?

04 / GO ONE MORE

Practice accepting a small no today without guilt, bargaining, or embarrassment.

05 / TALK TO GOD

Jesus, help me care about people more than getting my way. Amen.

WRITE OR DRAW ONE THOUGHT

QUESTIONS ARE WELCOME

BIG IDEA / Honest questions deserve patient answers.

01 / THE STORY

At the library, Riley asked, “How do we know Jesus really came back to life?” Avery’s stomach tightened. She knew what she believed, but not how to explain every reason. “That’s a big question,” she said. “I’d like to learn more too.” They wrote it down and decided to ask Avery’s small group leader. The leader did not laugh at Riley or tell him to stop asking. She opened the Bible, talked about Thomas, and asked what else they wondered. Avery left with new questions of her own. That was okay. Learning did not have to end in one afternoon.

02 / READ JOHN 20:24-29 (NLT)

Thomas struggles to believe the news that Jesus is alive. Jesus meets him and responds to his doubts. Asking sincere questions can be part of growing in understanding and trust.

03 / THINK IT THROUGH

1. What question about God or the Bible have you been afraid to ask?
2. Who is a patient, trustworthy adult you can ask?

04 / GO ONE MORE

Write down a genuine question and bring it to a trusted parent or leader.

05 / TALK TO GOD

Jesus, help me seek truth with courage and humility. Amen.

WRITE OR DRAW ONE THOUGHT

BETTER TOGETHER

BIG IDEA / A welcoming community helps people grow.

01 / THE STORY

On Sunday, Avery noticed Riley standing with his parents near the game tables at the church's community afternoon. They had decided to try an event after all. Instead of leaving him to figure everything out, Avery introduced him to the group, showed him where snacks were, and explained how the game worked. Then she stepped back so he could choose where to play. By the end, he was laughing with kids she had never met. Avery liked being part of a place where everyone could contribute, ask questions, and belong.

02 / READ ACTS 2:42-47 (NLT)

The first Christians spent time learning, praying, sharing meals, and helping people who had needs. Their life together showed God's generosity. Communities can make welcome visible through everyday relationships.

03 / THINK IT THROUGH

1. What makes a group feel safe for someone new?
2. How can you welcome someone without sticking to them all day?

04 / GO ONE MORE

At your next group activity, introduce someone, explain one thing, and make room for their choices.

05 / TALK TO GOD

Father, make our church and our friendships places of welcome. Amen.

WRITE OR DRAW ONE THOUGHT

YOU MAY NEVER KNOW

BIG IDEA / Faithful people plant and water; God gives growth.

01 / THE STORY

Weeks later, Ms. Ortiz announced that Nora's mural had been selected for the school entrance. Nora thanked the entire team. Jace pointed at Avery. "She started the idea." Avery shook her head. "Nora drew it. Riley helped plan. Everyone painted." For once, nobody argued about who deserved the credit. The work had moved forward because different people had done different parts. Avery remembered her bean sprout and thought about friendship: not every good result can be traced to one person.

02 / READ 1 CORINTHIANS 3:5-9 (NLT)

Paul says one person plants, another waters, and God makes things grow. Each person's work matters, but no person controls the whole result. Faithfulness is bigger than getting the credit.

03 / THINK IT THROUGH

1. When do you want recognition for your efforts?
2. Whose contribution can you celebrate?

04 / GO ONE MORE

Thank someone for a specific way they helped, especially if their work went unnoticed.

05 / TALK TO GOD

God, make me faithful even when somebody else gets the spotlight. Amen.

WRITE OR DRAW ONE THOUGHT

GIVE PEOPLE A CHANCE

BIG IDEA / Grace lets people grow beyond old mistakes.

01 / THE STORY

Last semester, Jace had made jokes about a younger student during lunch. He had apologized, but some classmates still brought it up. When the younger student joined an after-school team, several kids groaned. “He probably hates us,” one said. Jace felt ashamed. Riley spoke up: “Maybe we should ask him what he thinks instead of deciding for him.” Jace approached the student, apologized again without asking for instant forgiveness, and offered to play together. The student chose to join the game. Trust did not become perfect in one day. But it had room to grow.

02 / READ ACTS 9:26-28 (NLT)

After Saul becomes a follower of Jesus, many believers are afraid to trust him because he had harmed Christians. Barnabas helps others see that Saul's story is changing. Grace does not erase consequences, but it leaves room for genuine growth.

03 / THINK IT THROUGH

1. Why is it hard to believe someone can change?
2. How can you give a chance while keeping wise boundaries?

04 / GO ONE MORE

Challenge an unfair label. Ask a trusted adult for help if past behavior involved harm or safety.

05 / TALK TO GOD

God, give me wisdom, courage, and hope for people who are growing. Amen.

WRITE OR DRAW ONE THOUGHT

PEOPLE, NOT PROJECTS

BIG IDEA / We care for people because they matter, not because we want a result.

01 / THE STORY

After the community afternoon, Jace asked, “Do you think Riley will come to church every week now?” Avery started to answer, but then she saw Riley stacking folding chairs with his parents. He was tired, laughing, and helping because he wanted to. “I don’t know,” she said. “He’s our friend either way.” They joined the cleanup crew. Soon they were sweeping crumbs, wrestling with the stubborn trash bag, and making each other laugh. Nothing about that moment needed to become an invitation. It was good to care because Riley mattered.

02 / READ JOHN 13:1-17 (NLT)

In John 13, Jesus washes His disciples' feet, taking the job of a servant. He shows what humble love looks like. People are never assignments to complete. We serve them for their good, just as Jesus serves us.

03 / THINK IT THROUGH

1. How can kindness become a way to get something?
2. What does friendship look like when there is no reward?

04 / GO ONE MORE

Do something helpful without mentioning it later or expecting a favor back.

05 / TALK TO GOD

Jesus, keep my love genuine and my motives kind. Amen.

WRITE OR DRAW ONE THOUGHT

YOUR NEXT RIGHT STEP

BIG IDEA / God can work through one ordinary act of courage.

01 / THE STORY

The school year was almost over. Avery thought about the first day she met Riley near the lockers. She had been nervous to say hello. Now Riley, Jace, and Nora were sitting on her porch planning a summer neighborhood service project with their families. Riley suggested making welcome bags for students who would move into the district next fall. “Someone did that for me,” he said. Avery smiled. She could not have planned that conversation on the first day. She had only taken the next right step and watched what happened.

02 / READ ACTS 9:10-19 (NLT)

In Acts 9, God asks Ananias to visit Saul, a man with a frightening past. Ananias is afraid, but he obeys. His one courageous visit becomes part of Saul's new beginning. God can work through ordinary people willing to do the next good thing.

03 / THINK IT THROUGH

1. What small brave choice are you avoiding?
2. Who can support you as you take it?

04 / GO ONE MORE

Choose one safe, specific act of kindness that stretches your courage a little.

05 / TALK TO GOD

God, help me take one faithful step even when I feel nervous. Amen.

WRITE OR DRAW ONE THOUGHT

THERE IS ROOM FOR ONE MORE

BIG IDEA / Jesus celebrates every person who comes home.

01 / THE STORY

At the end-of-year celebration, Avery stood near the school entrance beneath Nora's mural. Jace was explaining a game to two new students. Riley was handing out pencils for a summer reading challenge. Nora was sketching plans for next year's art club. Avery remembered a lost sheep, a crowded hallway, and one simple question: "Need help?" Riley walked over. "Are you going to sign my yearbook or just stare at the wall?" Avery laughed and grabbed a pen. Their friendship had grown through ordinary moments—prayer, listening, help, invitations, questions, and time. Next year there would be new faces in the hallway. She hoped she would notice them too.

02 / READ LUKE 15:1-7 (NLT)

Jesus' story of the lost sheep begins and ends with the shepherd's love and joy. God cares about each person. Going one more means staying open to the next person you can love, one faithful step at a time.

03 / THINK IT THROUGH

1. Where did you grow during these thirty days?
2. Who might need a welcoming friend next?

04 / GO ONE MORE

Celebrate one good step you took. Ask God to keep your eyes open for one more person.

05 / TALK TO GOD

Jesus, thank You for seeing me. Help me keep making room for others. Amen.

WRITE OR DRAW ONE THOUGHT

ONE MORE DOESN'T END HERE.

Every person matters to Jesus. You can keep noticing, praying, listening, welcoming, and serving long after these thirty days are finished.

One person I noticed:

One way I grew:

One next step I can take:

KEEP MAKING ROOM FOR ONE MORE.