

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE**TODAY'S BIBLE STORY**

I Think It's About... Forgiveness
 Forgive One Another/
 Jesus Forgives Peter
 Colossians 3:13
 (Supporting: John 13:36-38; 21:1-19)

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Forgive One Another.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

Our God is a God who strengthens and encourages you. May he give you the same attitude toward one another that Christ Jesus had.
 Romans 15:5, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Live It Out—Discover how to love like Jesus

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

PRELUDE: Setting the Tone for the Experience

See the Getting Ready pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today. In the

Prelude folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

SMALL GROUP**10**
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing Time for Fun Interaction
 Early Arriver
 Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP**30**
MIN

STORY: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways
WORSHIP: Inviting People to Respond to God Opener

SMALL GROUP**20**
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect Bible Story

HOME: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)
 Devotionals for Kids
 Parent Cue App



TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

I Think It's About... Forgiveness
 Forgive One Another/
 Jesus Forgives Peter
 Colossians 3:13
 (Supporting: John 13:36-38; 21:1-19)

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Forgive One Another.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

Our God is a God who strengthens and encourages you. May he give you the same attitude toward one another that Christ Jesus had.
 Romans 15:5, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Live It Out—Discover how to love like Jesus

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE KIDS' HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY, WORSHIP, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS KIDS ENTER.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

Host enters.

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME INTRO

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

OPENER

HOST: "Hi, everyone! I'm so glad to see you here today! My name is (your name) and I absolutely LOVE coming here to [your environment's name]!"

"I think you'll be so happy you came too, because we're going to have lots of fun discovering how to live and love others like Jesus. When we do that—when we live and love like Jesus—it can actually change the world! Now, that might sound hard, but check out what the apostle Paul wrote in the book of Romans.

SLIDE: MEMORY VERSE

HOST: *Our God is a God who strengthens and encourages you. May he give you the same attitude toward one another that Christ Jesus had.*
 —Romans 15:5, NIV

"We'll talk more about that in a few minutes, but first, let's kick off our fun with another team competition! That's right, the Red Team and the Blue Team are competing all summer long with a series of games. So, let's get started with our next competition!

"As you can see, there's a tape line dividing the room. Let's have Red Team on this side (*point to one side*) and the Blue Team on that side (*point to the other side of the room*).

We're going to play a game we like to call 'Reverse Charades'.

It's a lot like regular charades, but instead of one person acting something out and everyone else guessing, everyone on your team will act something out and a leader will try to guess the answer!

"So, when it's your team's turn, your team leader will stand on the stage, facing the audience. Then, behind their head, you'll see something on the screen. Do not say what it is!! Just look at the picture and start acting it out.



If your leader guesses the answer correctly, you'll go to the next one. The team who gets the most correct answers in one minute, wins!

“Okay, let's try a practice round to make sure everyone understands. We'll get the Worship Team to help us keep score. If they say 'leader says' before they give the instruction, then you do it. But if they DON'T say 'leader says,' don't do it... or you'll be out! And just so you know, we'll be moving quickly—blue team, red team, blue team, red team, and so on.

SLIDE: REVERSE CHARADES SLIDES

Choose one Small Group Leader to represent each team as the guesser. Let each team do a practice round of guessing one word. Remind kids not to say the name of what they see on the screen, but to just act it out until the leader guesses it correctly.

Give the Worship Team the items to keep score, instructing them to mark one tally mark down when a team guesses the reverse charade correctly. Play as many rounds as time allows, and declare a winner for the day. That team (Red or Blue) will get one point. Each week the winning team will get one point.

“That was so fun! And congratulations to the (Blue or Red) Team for winning this week's competition. And if your team didn't win this week, don't worry! You'll have another chance to win every week this summer!

“Now, let's all get up on our feet to sing and praise God with our Worship Team!”



WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.

WORSHIP LEADER: "Alright, friends! Shake off any wiggles and get ready to spread some joy! We're about to sing 'This Little Light!' This song reminds us to share Jesus's love and kindness with everyone we meet. It's like being a walking, talking light for Him! So, let's clap our hands, smile big, and sing about letting our light shine for Jesus!"

[VIDEO: "THIS LITTLE LIGHT" LIVE LYRICS](#)

"You radiated so much joy during 'This Little Light!' It's awesome to see you sharing God's love. Now, let's keep that focus on God as we sing about how truly great He is. 'Great Are You Lord' helps us think about all the amazing things God has done and continues to do. From creating the world to loving us unconditionally, He is truly wonderful. Let's sing with wonder and thankfulness for His incredible works!"

[VIDEO: "GREAT ARE YOU LORD" LIVE LYRICS VIDEO](#)

WORSHIP LEADER: "Awesome! Thank you for joining in worship today! Let's pray."



BIBLE STORY

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit. Enlist the help of the Host to help with switching the images on the easel. (Optional: Invite an adult volunteer to help switch the images.)

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “If we want to love like Jesus, we need to forgive one another. So, today we’re going to talk about a time when Jesus forgave someone else. Our story begins in the book of John. John is the fourth book of the New Testament in the Bible. (Hold up Bible.)

“John wrote down the true stories from the life of Jesus to show that Jesus is God’s Son. When Jesus lived on Earth, He chose disciples to follow and learn from Him. One of them was a fisherman named Simon Peter.

Hold up the action figure representing Peter.

“Peter was an all-in kind of guy.

Hold up the thumbs-up emoji.

“He got some things really right.

Hold up the thumbs-down emoji.

“And, he also got some things REALLY wrong. Peter was one of the first people to declare that Jesus is God’s Son.

Hold up the stop sign emoji.

“Yet minutes later, he tried to stop Jesus from following God’s plan.

Hold up the plate of food emoji.

Hold up the action figure representing Jesus and set the figure around the table with the other action figures of Jesus’ friends.

“During the final Passover meal Jesus ate with His friends, Peter (*hold up the action figure representing Peter*) promised to always stand up for his friend, Jesus (*hold up the action figure representing Jesus*).

Hold up the #3 emoji.

“But just hours later, after Jesus was arrested, Peter denied knowing Jesus three times.

Hold up the cross emoji.



“Soon after these events, Jesus (*hold up the action figure representing Jesus*) gave up His life and was killed. But He came back to life on the third day and appeared to His friends.

PETER FEELS AWFUL

STORYTELLER: “The apostle Paul wrote letters to the followers of Jesus in the cities he had visited. Here are some words he wrote to the church in Colossians.

Open the Bible to Colossians 3:13 (NirV) and read.

Put up with one another. Forgive one another if you are holding something against someone. Forgive, just as the Lord forgave you. (NirV)

Hold up the action figure representing Peter.

“These words definitely apply to Peter’s story.

Hold up the sad face emoji.

“Peter felt awful about denying Jesus. Even after Jesus returned to life, Peter’s excitement must have been mixed with feelings of guilt.

*Hold up the party horn emoji.
Hold up the action figure representing Jesus.*

“Jesus was back, which was really great. But none of His friends knew what would happen next. Peter went out to fish with several of the other disciples. And just like on the night before Jesus first called Peter to follow Him, the men didn’t catch any fish at all.

IT’S JESUS!

STORYTELLER: “Early in the morning, a Man called out to them from shore.

*Hold up the question mark emoji.
Open the Bible to John 21:4-7 (NirV) and read.*

Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore. But the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.

He called out to them, “Friends, don’t you have any fish?”

“No,” they answered.

He said, “Throw your net on the right side of the boat. There you will find some fish.”

When they did, they could not pull the net into the boat. There were too many fish in it. Then the disciple Jesus loved said to Simon Peter, “It is the Lord!” As soon as Peter heard that, he put his coat on. He



had taken it off earlier. Then he jumped into the water.

“This is such a cool part of the story because it was almost exactly what happened just before Jesus called Peter to follow Him when they first met! So, that’s one of the reasons why the group of Jesus’ friends realized that it was Jesus!

Hold up the fish and bread emoji.

“Jesus told them to bring some of the fish they had just caught so they could have breakfast. Jesus gave the men bread and fish, and they ate together.

Hold up the figure representing Jesus and the figure representing Peter.

JESUS FORGIVES PETER

STORYTELLER: “When they were finished, Jesus spoke to Peter.

Hold up the angry face emoji.

“I’m sure Peter was wondering if Jesus was angry with him.

Hold up the heart emoji.

“But Jesus simply asked if Peter loved Him.

“Peter answered that he did love Jesus. Then Jesus said something interesting. He said:

Open the Bible to John 21:15 (NIRV) and read.

“Feed my lambs.”

Hold up the sheep emoji.

Hold up the action figure representing Peter.

“Why was Jesus talking about lambs? Well, Peter knew that Jesus had often compared Himself to a Good Shepherd. Jesus also compared all the people who needed and followed Jesus to sheep.

Hold up the action figure representing Jesus.

“Jesus wanted Peter to take care of all the people who would soon begin to follow Jesus. Jesus asked Peter if Peter loved Him two more times and both times, Peter answered the same.”

Hold up the number 3 emoji.

“This part is important because Peter had denied knowing Jesus three times. And now, THREE TIMES, Jesus was showing that He trusted Peter. He was asking Peter to take care of people, just like Jesus did.



Hold up the action figures representing Jesus and Peter.

“Then Jesus told Peter that things would not be easy for him. In the end, Peter would even give up his life for Jesus. But still, Jesus said, ‘Follow me!’ (John 21:19, NIV).

*Hold up the action figure representing Jesus.
Hold up the heart emoji.*

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Even though Peter wasn’t perfect, even though he abandoned Jesus when Jesus was arrested, Jesus forgave him. Just as Paul wrote many years later.

Open the Bible to Colossians 3:13 (NIV) and read.

Put up with one another. Forgive one another if you are holding something against someone. Forgive, just as the Lord forgave you.

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

“Forgive one another. Say that with me.”

STORYTELLER AND KIDS: “Forgive one another.”

Host enters.

STORYTELLER, HOST, AND KIDS: “Forgive one another.”

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

WHAT'S OUR PART IN THE STORY?

HOST: “Peter must have been SO relieved that Jesus forgave him. When someone forgives you, it’s like a heavy load is lifted off your shoulders. Jesus chose to forgive Peter, and Jesus forgives us for the wrong things we’ve done. And Jesus forgives us the moment we ask! Jesus died on the cross to pay for our sins so that we could be forgiven... and so that we could have a relationship with God that will last forever! So in response, we can choose to forgive others when they’ve wronged us.”

“So, if your little sister makes a mess in your room, choose to forgive, rather than just staying mad. Or if your friend hurts your feelings, choose to forgive, rather than saying something mean.

“And if your mom or dad messes up—because we ALL mess up sometimes—choose to forgive and show love instead of blowing up at them.

“Forgiving one another is also a great way to *[Basic Truth]* treat others the way we want to be treated. Because



when we don't forgive, our anger can get bigger and bigger and make us absolutely miserable! It's better for the other person and for us when we forgive!"

STORYTELLER: "Now, it's also important to know that choosing to forgive doesn't mean that you should let anyone keep hurting you. If that happens, tell a grown-up you trust right away! But when you forgive, it frees you from getting bitter and thinking about it all the time. Instead, focus on how Jesus loves us and forgives us all the time!"

SLIDE: VIRTUE

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME TRANSITION TO VIRTUE

"Forgiving others is one way we 'Live It Out' and discover how to love like Jesus. Let's pray."

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): VIRTUE TRANSITION TO THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

PRAYER

STORYTELLER OR HOST: "Dear God, thank You so much for forgiving us for the wrong things we've done. We all mess up sometimes. Thank You for loving us so much Jesus came to pay the price for our sins and to make a way for us to experience forgiveness. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS THE KIDS EXIT.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP