

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

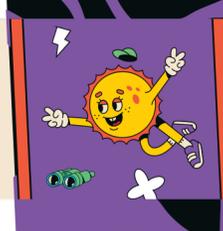
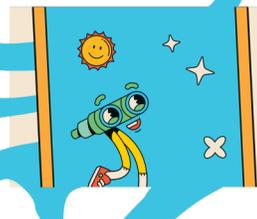
STORY: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways
WORSHIP: Inviting People to Respond to God Opener

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



WEEK
TWO
JULY 2025

LARGE GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Pray for Me
Pray for One Another/
The Church Pray for Peter
1 Timothy 2:1
(Supporting: John 13:36-38; 21:1-19)

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Pray for 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: "What is going on, my campers! How many of you love a good hot marshmallow over the campfire? You know...when it is nice and ooey gooey and it is falling right off the stick? Delicious. How many of you love a good hot potato over the campfire?"

(Confused by the lack of response)

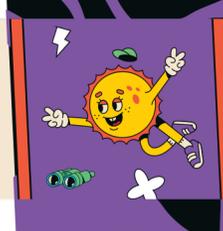
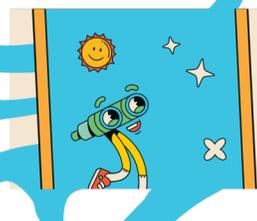
Seriously? How about a GAME of hot potato? What if there were a way to combine these?"

Depending on the size of your group, this can be an all play with multiple groups or a stage game with one volunteer group.

"Let's get in groups and get this going!"

Introduce one giant marshmallow and start the music. Every time the music stops, the person holding the marshmallow is out and sits in place. After a few rounds, introduce a second, third, fourth marshmallow into the game to make it more complicated and exciting. The more marshmallows you use, the more kids you can play with because several get out each round. If time allows, put the winners of all the groups against each other in an epic round.

HOST: (After the game) "I love that game...I just want s'more every time! Now, let's stand and worship together!"



WEEK
TWO
JULY 2025

LARGE GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.

WORSHIP LEADER: "Yes, it's time for us to lift our voices and worship God together! Let's go 'all in' today and give God all we've got with 'Alive!' Can we do that? It's always more fun when you give 100 percent to whatever you're doing. Clap your hands, jump up and down! Sing with all of your heart! Let's give God all our praise for making us feel so ALIVE!"

[VIDEO: "ALIVE" LIVE LYRICS](#)

"That was electrifying! You truly sang 'Alive' with amazing energy! Now, let's keep that focus on God as we sing about His incredible power and how truly great He is. In Psalm 145:3, it says, 'Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom.' 'Great Are You Lord' is perfect for this, reminding us of His majesty. Let's sing together, declaring His awesome power!"

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

WORSHIP LEADER: "Amazing! Let's pray."



BIBLE STORY

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.

SLIDE: "WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?" TITLE

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "Alright everyone, for today's story I'm going to need a little help. We're going to play 'What Happened Next?'"

This or That Edition.'

"Basically, at different points in the story, I'll stop and ask: *What happened next?* We'll put two different options on the screen of things that could have happened next in the story. You'll turn to your body to face the direction of the answer you believe is correct. Sound good?"

(Pause for responses.)

Great! Let's get started!

"If we want to love like Jesus, we need to pray for one another. We can see the power of prayer in the book of Acts. The book of Acts tells the story of the early church and how it grew as new believers trusted Jesus and received the help of the Holy Spirit. Jesus' disciples, or apostles, began teaching about Jesus and healing others through His power. The religious leaders didn't like that one bit, so they were pleased when some of Jesus' followers were arrested and even killed.

"Okay, so here's our first What Happened Next? question. With Jesus-followers getting arrested and even killed, what did the disciples do? What happened next? Did they... *(point to the audience left)* travel to other regions to share the good news... or *(point to the audience right)* did they begin wearing clever costumes so they wouldn't be recognized?"

SLIDE: "WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?" SLIDE #1

"Okay, everyone make your choice!"

"Great! The answer is that many of the disciples left Jerusalem to take the good news to other regions and to people from different backgrounds. If you got that one right, give yourself a pat on the back. If you got it wrong, don't worry! You'll get another chance soon. Everyone have a seat, and let's keep going!"

PETER IS ARRESTED

STORYTELLER: "The believers in the early church knew just how important it is to talk with God about everything. The apostle Paul wrote this in a letter to his friend Timothy.

Open the Bible to 1 Timothy 2:1 (NirV) and read.

First, I want you to pray for all people. Ask God to help and bless them. Give thanks for them. (NirV)

"We can see how this played out in the early church. The Jesus-followers had scattered to new towns and cities, but the news about Jesus took off. More and more people from different places believed in Jesus. God even led Peter to share the story of Jesus with a Roman commander named Cornelius who lived in Caesarea.

"Okay, so here's our next What Happened Next? question. Peter shared the story of Jesus with a Roman Commander named Cornelius. What happened next? Did the Roman Commander... *(point to the audience left)* arrest Peter right



away... or (*point to the audience right*) did Cornelius and his family decide to follow Jesus too?

SLIDE: "WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? SLIDE #2

"Okay, everyone make your choice!

"Great! The answer is that Cornelius and all his family and household believed and were baptized! If you got that one right, give a friend a high five. If you got it wrong, that's okay! You'll get another chance soon. Everyone have a seat, and let's keep going!

"After this, Peter returned to Jerusalem to tell the believers there what had happened.

"Okay, so here's another What Happened Next? question. When Peter returned to Jerusalem, what happened next? Did he... (*point to the audience left*) get arrested and thrown into jail... or (*point to the audience right*) did he get invited to a super-fun bounce house party at Herod's palace?

SLIDE: "WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? SLIDE #3

"Okay, everyone make your choice!

"Well, the answer is that Peter was arrested. If you got that one right, give me a thumbs-up. If you got it wrong, that's okay! You'll get another chance soon. Everyone have a seat, and let's keep going!

"As Passover drew near, King Herod arrested several believers, including James, who was John's brother and Peter's close friend. "Sadly . . . Herod had James killed. When Herod saw that this pleased the religious leaders, he had Peter arrested and put in prison too.

THE CHURCH PRAYS

STORYTELLER: "While he was in prison, Peter was watched closely by four groups of four soldiers each. I'm sure the situation seemed hopeless. James was dead and King Herod planned to put Peter on trial the next morning, which could easily lead to him losing his life, as well.

"Alright, it's time for another What Happened Next? question. When Peter was arrested, what did the church do to help? What happened next? Did they . . . (*point to the audience left*) come up with a super-spy plan to help him escape from prison . . . or (*point to the audience right*) did they pray and ask God for help?

SLIDE: "WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? SLIDE #4

"Okay, everyone make your choice!

"Well, the answer is . . . they prayed! If you got that one right, let me hear you say: 'Woo-hoo!' If you got it wrong, no worries! You'll get another chance soon. Everyone have a seat, and let's keep going!



“So the church prayed hard. They took their problems to the only One who could do anything about it . . . God!

“Okay, here’s another What Happened Next? question. When the church prayed for Peter, what happened next? Did God... *(point to the audience left)* send an angel to help Peter escape from prison... or *(point to the audience right)* did He send a snowstorm to distract the guards while Peter got away?

SLIDE: “WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?” SLIDE #5

“Okay, everyone make your choice! “Well, the answer is . . . God sent an angel to help Peter escape! If you got that one right, high-five a friend! If you got it wrong, that’s okay! Everyone have a seat, and let’s keep going!

“Even though Peter was chained to guards, with more guards keeping watch close by, he managed to fall asleep. Then, right there in front of the guards, an angel appeared! When Peter didn’t wake up immediately, the angel touched his side.

Open the Bible to Acts 12:7b-8 (NirV) and read.

Peter woke up. “Quick!” the angel said. “Get up!” The chains fell off Peter’s wrists.

Then the angel said to him, “Put on your clothes and sandals.” Peter did so. “Put on your coat,” the angel told him. “Follow me.” (NirV)

THE LORD ANSWERS!

STORYTELLER: “Peter followed the angel out of the cell, past the guards, through the prison, and out the big iron gate leading to the city. Then the gate opened by itself. The angel led Peter outside and down the street. And then the angel disappeared.

Open the Bible to Acts 12:11 (NirV) and read.

Then Peter realized what had happened. He said, “Now I know for sure that the Lord has sent his angel. He set me free from Herod’s power. (NirV)

“Peter wanted to share the good news, so he ran to the home of Mary, his friend John Mark’s mother. “Okay, we’ve got one more What Happened Next? question. When Peter showed up at Mary’s home, what happened next?

Did they... *(point to the audience left)* welcome him home, amazed at what God had done... or *(point to the audience right)* did they not believe it?

SLIDE: “WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?” SLIDE #6

“Okay, everyone make your choice!

“Well, the answer is... BOTH! So, everyone got that one right! Everyone have a seat, and let’s keep going!

“At Mary’s home, a servant girl named Rhoda came to the door. She was so shocked to hear Peter’s voice that she ran back to tell everyone . . . without letting him in! And guess what? *(Pause.)* They didn’t believe her—even though she kept



telling them it was true! Eventually, they opened the door and saw Peter. Peter explained his story and encouraged his friends. Then he left them to go find a safer place to hide.

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “In the morning, the guards couldn’t figure out what had happened to Peter. As for Peter’s friends, they got to see the power of their prayers being answered. Let’s read these words that Paul wrote.

Open the Bible to 1 Timothy 2:1 (NirV) and read.

First, I want you to pray for all people. Ask God to help and bless them. Give thanks for them. (NirV)

“Just like Peter’s friends and all the early Jesus-followers, we are called to pray for each other at any time, anywhere, about anything.

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

“So, **pray for one another.** Say that with me”

STORYTELLER AND KIDS: “**Pray for one another.**”

Host enters.

STORYTELLER, HOST, AND KIDS: “**Pray for one another.**”

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

WHAT’S OUR PART IN THE STORY?

HOST: “Peter’s friends were in the middle of actually praying for him when he showed up, and, at first, they didn’t believe it was him. Sometimes we pray without actually expecting God to listen. It’s easy to do.

“We’ve been talking about what it looks like to live and love like Jesus. And we have so many stories of times that Jesus prayed, often for other people. Peter’s friends lived this out, and Paul reminded us to do this too, by praying for everyone.”

STORYTELLER: “You can pray for anyone who crosses your path or anyone God brings to mind. Prayer is simply talking with God. And when you thank God for someone or ask God to help them, you can trust that God hears you.

“God might not answer your prayer exactly the way you expect, But God loves us and knows exactly how to help us. Like if you pray for a friend who is sick, God may simply give them peace and patience while they heal. God might even send someone to comfort them—like you! Any time you see someone in need, make a habit of taking a moment to pray for them. Ask God if YOU might be part of the answer to that prayer.”

SLIDE: VIRTUE

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME TRANSITION TO VIRTUE



“Praying for others is another way we ‘Live it Out’ as we 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 answering the prayers of the early church by helping Peter escape. Help us to know that we can always trust You to hear our prayers. And help us to pray for others. 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