

K-5 | July 19th W3

Leader Summary - Like the king in this parable, God has forgiven each one of us of a huge debt—one created by our sins. And because we've been forgiven, we are called to pass that forgiveness to the people who have wronged us. [BOTTOM LINE] God's kingdom grows when you forgive.

Small Group 9:15/11:00 (20 minutes)
Connect Time

Large Group 9:35/11:20 (30 minutes)
Countdown and Welcome
Large Group Game
Worship
Story
Prayer

Small Group 10:05/11:50 (25 minutes)
Basic Truth and Story Review
Activity 1
Activity 2
Prayer

Home:
Devotionals for Kids



Bible Story

The Servant Who Had No Mercy • *Matthew 18:21-35*

Bottom Line

God's kingdom grows when you forgive.

Conversation Starter

What and who do you need to forgive?

Monthly Memory Verse

God's kingdom is not about eating or drinking. It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy. All this comes through the Holy Spirit. • Romans 14:17 NIV

5 min

Connect Time

9:15/11:00

5 min

Welcome Time

What You Need

 (VIDEO: ARRIVAL MUSIC)

1

5 min

Large Group

9:35/11:20

Countdown & Welcome

What You Need

No supplies needed

What You Do:

From doors opening to start of large group - Play intro music in the background as you greet and intentionally engage with students, following the KidCity check-in procedures. Set out a few different stations of toys, puzzles, games, or blocks.

Connect time is spent building relationships with some intentional connecting with kids before Large Group. You can do small activities while you chat together (like coloring or playing or just sit and listen to each other. You can ask your kids relationship-building questions like:

- How old are you?
- Do you have a favorite stuffed animal?
- Do you have a brother, sister, or pet? What are their names?
- What do you like to play at home?
- What's your favorite food/color/animal/ice cream flavor?

Transition to Large Group..

Cue countdown video and invite kids to sit down with their group leaders.

(SLIDE: Theme)

"Hey, everyone! Welcome to KidCity! I'm so glad you're here today. This room already feels alive and ready for a great morning. If today is your first time with us, thanks for joining. We're happy you're here!

"This whole summer, we've been learning about God's kingdom. But what is God's kingdom? Well, God's kingdom is anywhere where He reigns! He is loving, joyful, kind, trustworthy, holy, and righteous—and all of these really great things. God's kingdom is good because the King is good. And we want God to spread this good kingdom everywhere because it is so good!

We are going to have a lot of fun today, so first let's go over our KidCity Expectations.

(SLIDE: KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS)


5 min

Game- Moonwalk

What You Need

 Beach balls

4

 Velcro/Floor tape

2

"Now, let's quickly go over our KidCity Expectations (rules) so we can make sure that we make the most of our time today:(Don't dwell on these too long, but make sure you review them briefly so we can set everyone up for success.)

1. Be Kind
2. Be Safe
3. Have Fun

What You Say:

It's officially game time! Today's game is called ... 'Moonwalk!'

SLIDE: Moonwalk! Title

"I need four racers who are ready to take on a challenge that's a little silly and a lot of fun. And honestly, it's kind of going to look like you're walking on the moon, which has always been a dream of mine!

"Raise your hand if you want to play 'Moonwalk!'

(Choose four kids from the ones who have their hands raised, invite them to the game area, and line them up next to each other at the start line. Give each kid a beach ball.)

"Okay, racers, here's the deal. Each of you has a beach ball, but here's the trick: You can't hold it with your hands. You have to keep the ball squeezed between your knees the entire time.

"If it drops, you have to stop and put it back between your knees before moving again. The first person to reach the finish line with their ball wins! Sound good?

"Everyone else, pick a racer to cheer for. Point to your racer so they know you're supporting them!

(Pause while kids point.)

"Racers, get ready. On your mark ... get set ... moonwalk!

AUDIO: Upbeat music

(Play the game. Make sure players are keeping their ball between their knees the entire time.)

"Wow, they definitely look like they're walking in space! I wonder if astronauts would agree?

(Play until one of the kids crosses the finish line with their ball. Declare the winner.)

"And ... we have a winner! Great job, racers! And great cheering from the rest of you!

(As time allows, continue with more rounds. Ask for four new volunteers at the start of each round.)

10 min

Worship

9:45/11:30

5 min

Closer & Over & Over Again | Worship Songs


What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

Memory Verse

What You Need

 Large Group leader has Bible Open to verse 1

"That was so much fun! You all did great!"

"Looks like it's time to check out our Bottom Line for today. It will help us understand something huge about God's kingdom. Let's see what it says!"

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] "God's kingdom grows when you forgive. Can you say that with me?"

KIDS AND LEADER: **[Bottom Line]** "God's kingdom grows when you forgive."

"Great job, friends! We will learn more about that soon!"

"One of the best things we get to do together is worship God. When we worship, we're choosing to focus on who God is, and we're reminding ourselves that He is our King. Let's start worshipping together!"

What You Say:

"This week, I want you to remember something important: Worship doesn't stop when the music ends. You can worship God in the small moments of your day.

"You don't need a stage or a microphone to worship God—all you need is a heart that pays attention to Him. So wherever you go this week—at home, in the car, at the water park, or at the store—take little moments to talk to God and remember who He is. That's how you keep growing closer to Him as your constant friend every single day.

"Let's review our Memory Verse, this verse helps us understand what God's kingdom is really like. It's not a kingdom of castles and crowns. It's full of good things—things that are right, peace, and joy—because God, the King, is so good!"

"Our Memory Verse is found in Romans 14:17. I'll read it first, then I'll guide you through it!"

SLIDE: Memory Verse

"God's kingdom is not about eating or drinking. It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy. All this comes through the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:17 NIV).

"Now, let me guide you through it. Repeat after me—nice and loud!

LEADER: *"God's kingdom is not about eating or drinking."*

KIDS AND LEADER: *"God's kingdom is not about eating or drinking."*

LEADER: *"It is about doing what is right"*

KIDS AND LEADER: *"It is about doing what is right"*

LEADER: *"and having peace and joy."*

KIDS AND LEADER: *"and having peace and joy."*

LEADER: *"All this comes through the Holy Spirit."*

KIDS AND LEADER: *"All this comes through the Holy Spirit."*

LEADER: *"Romans 14:17!"*

KIDS AND LEADER: *"Romans 14:17!"*

"Here's what I want you to remember this week: When you stay close to the Holy Spirit, God's Spirit Himself, He will grow the good things of God's kingdom in you. Things that are right, things that are peaceful, and things that are joyful. You stay close to God through His Spirit, and those good things will just grow in you!

"Let's focus in next to our Bible story"

10 min

Bible Story

9:55/11:40

5 min

StoryLab Bible Story | Video

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

So and So Show Bible Story | Video

What You Need

No supplies needed

10 min


Closing

10:05/11:50

5 min

WHAT'S OUR PART IN THE STORY?

What You Need

 Large Group leader has Bible Open to story 1

5 min

PRAYER

What You Need

No supplies needed

What You Say:

"Here's the thing: We're just like the first servant. Every single one of us has done things that go against God and His ways. We've sinned. And just like the servant owed a huge amount, our sin is something we could never fix on our own.

"But God is like the king in the story. Because Jesus paid for our sin, God forgives us completely. He gives us a fresh start, just like the king gave the servant a brand-new beginning.

"And because God has forgiven us of so much, He wants us to share that forgiveness with others. Not because what they did was okay ... and not because it didn't hurt ... but because forgiveness lets the pressure go. It keeps our hearts soft instead of tight and frustrated.

"Forgiving someone doesn't mean what they did was okay or you should let them keep doing it. If someone hurts you or makes you uncomfortable, tell a grown-up you trust! But forgiveness helps you let go of the pressure inside, so it doesn't grow bigger and bigger.

"When we forgive, we're choosing to live the way Jesus teaches us to live. And when we live that way, we are pointing to God and to His good kingdom! He is the King who forgives.

"Let's take a quiet moment to talk to God."

What You Say:

"God, thank You for forgiving us. Please help us forgive others the way You forgive us. When someone hurts our feelings or upsets us, remind us that we don't have to hold onto that pressure and frustration. You can help us let it go. Help our hearts stay soft, kind, and ready to forgive. We want to point to You and Your good kingdom by choosing forgiveness. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

SLIDE: Basic Truth Slide


5 min

Small Group

10:10/11:55

Basic Truth & Bible Story Review






What You Need

-  Basic Truth print out (found in Small Group Bin) 1

5 min

Activity 1- Kingdom Feud

What You Need

-  Bible 1
-  Paper 1
-  Marker 1
-  Kingdom Feud Activity page 1
-  Bells or buzzers or some other noise maker 2

What You Do:

Start your small group time looking at the Basic Truth statements. Discuss which basic truth fits into the story and why. Listen to the kid's different ideas.

I am made by God to be unique (one of a kind.)
 I am made by God to reflect His image (act like Him.)
 I am made by God to worship Him (to live in a way that shows Him love and honor).

I am loved by God no matter what so I can love God, love others, and love life.

I am loved by God no matter what so I can belong in God's family forever.
 I am loved by God no matter what so I can trust God to guide me.
 I am loved by God no matter what so I can be confident that God knows who I am.

I am made for a purpose, so I have value.
 I am made for a purpose so the Holy Spirit will help me do big things now.
 I am made for a purpose so I can tell people about God.

What You Do:

During the Activity:

- Open the Bible to Matthew 18:21-35, and show the kids where the Bible Story is.

- Review the parable of the servant who had no mercy by sharing these key points:
 - Peter asked Jesus how many times he needed to forgive someone.
 - Jesus answered, and then He told a story to share how God's kingdom works.
 - In the story, a king decided to get everyone who owed him debts to pay him.
 - One servant had a huge debt and begged and begged the king for time to pay.
 - Instead of making the servant pay back the humongous debt, the king forgave it! Completely!
 - But that same servant had someone who owed him a little debt.
 - Instead of forgiving the person who owed him, like the servant had been forgiven, that servant put the person who owed him in prison and demanded that he pay him his tiny debt.
 - The king heard that the servant wouldn't forgive the person who owed him, and the king was so upset. He threw the servant in jail until he could pay his huge debt.
 - Jesus said that we should forgive people who hurt us because we have been forgiven of so much.
- Divide the kids into two teams.
- Ask the teams to come up with a team name.
- On the paper, create two columns, and write the team names at the top of the columns.
- Position the bells/buzzers on either end of the table or floor.
- Have one person from each team come to the front and stand by their team's bell/buzzer.
- Explain you're going to play "Kingdom Feud."
- Read a review question from the list below. The first person to hit the buzzer/bell/clapper gets to answer.
- Read questions from activity page
- If they get the answer right, their team gets a point. If they get the answer wrong, the other team gets a chance to steal. Record each team's points on the paper.
- **3rd-5th grade- Ask these questions and discuss:**
 - What do you think Jesus wanted Peter to understand by saying "77 times"?
 - Why did Jesus compare our sin to a huge debt that we could never pay back?
 - The first servant probably thought the king's mercy was awesome—until he was asked to show mercy himself. Why is it sometimes easy to accept forgiveness but hard to give it?

What You Say:

"Great job! That was a close game. This story Jesus told was intense. He used these huge, crazy numbers to make a point we can't miss: the forgiveness God gives us is infinitely bigger than any forgiveness we could ever be asked to give someone else.

"When Peter asked how many times he should forgive someone, suggesting up to seven times, Jesus replied, '77 times,' meaning we should always forgive.


10 min

Activity 2

5 min

K-2nd- Counting Forgiveness

What You Need

 Soft ball or beanbag

1

"To explain further, Jesus told a story about a servant who was forgiven an enormous, impossible-to-repay debt by a merciful king. However, that same servant refused to forgive a much smaller debt owed to him and had the other servant thrown into prison. When the king found out, he punished the unforgiving servant, teaching that we must forgive others from the heart just as God has forgiven us.

"Jesus taught that God's kingdom grows through love and forgiveness, not power or force. **[Bottom Line] God's kingdom grows when you forgive.**"

What You Do:

During the Activity:

- Invite the kids to stand with you in a circle.
- Start tossing the ball back and forth between you and the kids.
- Each time the ball is caught, count one number higher. "One!" "Two!" "Three!"
- When you get to the number ten, stop the game.
- Say: "Okay, we counted to ten. Should we stop forgiving people after they've made ten bad choices?" (No!)
- Start the game again, but this time, try to count as high as you can before someone drops the ball.
- Keep it fun, and celebrate how high you can count.

What You Say:

"God is like the good king in the story who completely forgave the huge amount of money. When we trust that Jesus paid for our sin on the cross and choose to follow Him, God wipes out our sin debt. We were completely tied up in our sin ... but now, we're free! It's incredible. Because God has forgiven us of such a giant sin debt, He wants us to pass that forgiveness on to the people around us. Like Jesus told Peter, we can continue to forgive without putting limits on it.




"Forgiving someone doesn't mean what they did was okay or you should let them keep doing it. It doesn't even mean you have to keep being friends with them. If someone hurts you or makes you uncomfortable, tell a grown-up you trust!

"Forgiving someone says that you're trusting God to make things right. And when you forgive, it frees *you* from staying angry and becoming hard and bitter. Forgiveness isn't a feeling, it's a choice. And when you ask God for help and choose to forgive, you are showing your world God's good heart of forgiveness. And God will do great kingdom things when you choose to forgive. **[Bottom Line] God's kingdom grows when you forgive.**"

5 min

3rd-5th – Heavy or Light Backpack

What You Need

-  Velcro tape or painters tape for start and finish line 1
-  Bags with handles (Panera bags) 2
-  Heavy-but-safe items (like books or water bottles) 1

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Put velcro or painters tape down so you have two lines at least 5 ft apart from one another.
- Put the heavy items in the bags.

During the Activity:

- Divide the group into two teams.
- Ask for two volunteers to take their “heavy” bags.
- When you say: “Go!” have kids race from the start line to the other line and back to the start line.
- When the kids get back to the start, they will take their bag and hand them to the next kid in line, then they’ll race down and back. Continue until each kid on the team has had a turn.
- Ask the teams: “Was that easy or hard?”
- Now, remove all the heavy items out of the bags, making them light.
- Encourage the teams to race again, but this time with the “light” bags.
- Ask: “Was that easier or harder?” (*Easier!*)

What You Say:

“It was so much easier to race when the bag was light! When we don’t forgive someone, it can feel like carrying a heavy bag. It makes our hearts feel heavy and sad. But when we forgive, God takes the heavy feeling away! He makes our hearts feel light.

“God is like the good king in the Bible Story who completely forgave the huge amount of money. When we trust that Jesus paid for our sin on the cross and choose to follow Him, God wipes out our sin debt. We were completely tied up in our sin, but now we’re free!

“Because God has forgiven us of such a giant sin debt, He wants us to pass that forgiveness on to the people around us. Like Jesus told Peter, we can continue to forgive without putting limits on it.

“Forgiving someone doesn’t mean what they did was okay or you should let them keep doing it. It doesn’t even mean you have to keep being friends with them. If someone hurts you or makes you uncomfortable, tell a grown-up you trust!

“Forgiving someone says you’re trusting God to make things right. And when you forgive, it frees *you* from staying angry and becoming hard and bitter. Forgiveness isn’t a feeling, it’s a choice. And when you ask God for help and choose to forgive, you are showing your world God’s good heart of forgiveness. And God will do great kingdom things when you choose to forgive. **[Bottom Line] God’s kingdom grows when you forgive.**”

5 min

Prayer Time

5 min

Prayer

What You Need

No supplies needed

"God, thank You for the story Jesus told. It's a hard story to hear because it shows us how much we need Your help to forgive. Thank You for forgiving us for our huge debt of sin. Help us to be people who pass that forgiveness on to others. When it's hard, remind us of Your great mercy for us. We want Your kingdom to grow. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Supplies

Welcome Time	Quantity
1. (VIDEO: ARRIVAL MUSIC)	1

Game- Moonwalk	Quantity
1. Beach balls	4
2. Velcro/Floor tape	2

Memory Verse	Quantity
1. Large Group leader has Bible Open to verse	1

WHAT'S OUR PART IN THE STORY?	Quantity
1. Large Group leader has Bible Open to story	1

Basic Truth & Bible Story Review	Quantity
1. Basic Truth print out (found in Small Group Bin)	1

Activity 1- Kingdom Feud	Quantity
1. Bible	1
2. Paper	1
3. Marker	1
4. Kingdom Feud Activity page	1
5. Bells or buzzers or some other noise maker	2

K-2nd- Counting Forgiveness	Quantity
1. Soft ball or beanbag	1

3rd-5th – Heavy or Light Backpack	Quantity
1. Velcro tape or painters tape for start and finish line	1
2. Bags with handles (Panera bags)	2
3. Heavy-but-safe items (like books or water bottles)	1