



HARMONY

TOGETHER IS BETTER



WEEK
FOUR
SEPTEMBER 2023

SMALL GROUP
PRETEEN

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Please Forgive Me
Forgive One Another
Colossians 3:13

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

Why is forgiveness important?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Friends forgive one another.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"A friend loves at all times.
They are there to help when trouble
comes."
Proverbs 17:17, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Friendship—Using your
words and actions to show
others you care

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.

Check out our Pinterest page here <https://bit.ly/447HSzi> for a visual on some of the activities.

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Just for Fun
Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP

35
MIN

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

Welcome/Opener
Worship
Bible Story (Communicator Script)
Key Question
Prayer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Application Activity: Take a Snapshot
Bible Story Review: Bible Story Extension and
Discussion Questions
Memory Verse Activity: Verses to Take with You
Prayer Activity: Make it Personal with Prayer

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Parent Cue Card (print or email)
Devotionals for Kids
Parent Cue App



HARMONY

TOGETHER IS BETTER



WEEK
FOUR
SEPTEMBER 2023

SMALL GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group



Before kids arrive, pray that God would give you the wisdom to know how to respond to questions the kids may ask today about forgiveness and hurt. Thank God for Jesus and His sacrifice of forgiveness on the cross.

1. JUST FOR FUN

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite kids to place their offering in the offering container.
- Ask kids to sit in a circle and then tell them to think of a song. (They shouldn't tell anyone what it is.)
- Choose a volunteer to go first.
- They will hum the tune to the song they thought of for the group. The rest of the group should try to guess what song it is.
- If they have trouble guessing it, allow the kid who hummed it to give a clue.
- Go around the circle, allowing every kid a chance to hum their tune.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Please Forgive Me
Forgive One Another
Colossians 3:13

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

Why is forgiveness important?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Friends forgive one another.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

**"A friend loves at all times.
They are there to help when trouble
comes."
Proverbs 17:17, NIV**

MONTHLY VIRTUE

**Friendship—Using your
words and actions to show
others you care**

BASIC TRUTH

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



HARMONY

TOGETHER IS BETTER



WEEK
FOUR
SEPTEMBER 2023

SMALL GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body



2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

• Choose a volunteer to be "Captain" and have them stand at one end of your group space.

• Tell the rest of the group that they are going to be "Crew

Members." They will line up at an even distance from their "Captain" so that everyone is facing the Captain.

• The line where the Crew Members are standing will be considered the "Start" line, and where the Captain is standing will be considered the "Finish" line.

• Crew Members will take turns asking the Captain questions, starting with "Captain, may I . . .?"

• They will request permission to move a certain way forward, closer to the "Finish" line.

▫ These requests may vary.

▫ Encourage kids to be creative. (ie: *Captain, may I take one somersault forward?* or *Captain, may I take three sideways steps forward?*)

▫ Kids cannot repeat a method of moving forward that's already been requested that round.

▫ Kids also cannot request for any type of moving forward in increments larger than 3 (ie: *three giant steps forward, three bunny hops forward, etc.*)

• If anyone forgets to start off their question with, "Captain, may I . . .?" they have to say, "Captain, do you forgive me?" and then go back to the starting line.

• Continue giving Crew Members turns to make their requests until someone reaches the Captain.

• That Crew Member is the winner and will become the Captain for the next round.

• Continue to play rounds as time allows.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Great job! I'm very impressed with your creativity! In our game today, not only was it important to think of creative ways to move forward, but you had to remember to ask permission for every move you made. And if you didn't, you had to ask for forgiveness! In today's Bible story, we'll see how forgiveness is an important part of being a good friend."

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Please Forgive Me
Forgive One Another
Colossians 3:13

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

Why is forgiveness important?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Friends forgive one another.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

**"A friend loves at all times.
They are there to help when trouble
comes."
Proverbs 17:17, NIV**

MONTHLY VIRTUE

**Friendship—Using your
words and actions to show
others you care**

BASIC TRUTH

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

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



HARMONY

TOGETHER IS BETTER



WEEK
FOUR
SEPTEMBER 2023

SMALL GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO IMAGINE

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Please Forgive Me
Forgive One Another
Colossians 3:13

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

Why is forgiveness important?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Friends forgive one another.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

**"A friend loves at all times.
They are there to help when trouble comes."**
Proverbs 17:17, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Friendship—Using your words and actions to show others you care

BASIC TRUTH

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



1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT [LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Balloons

WHAT YOU DO:

- Ask for a volunteer who is able to blow up a balloon. Hand them a balloon.
- Invite the rest of the group to think of ways they have been wronged by someone else.
- Encourage them to raise their hands and take turns sharing their situations.
- Each time someone shares something, the kid with the balloon will blow a little air into the balloon.
- Continue allowing kids to share until the balloon is so large it looks like it's about to burst. (Try your best to get the balloon as full as possible without it popping in order to avoid the loud sound. Remember that some kids may have sensitivity to loud noises.)
- Once the balloon is full enough, ask kids these questions:
 - What would happen if we kept on sharing situations, and blowing air into the balloon?
 - Have you ever felt like you wanted to explode at a friend when they've done something wrong to you?
 - What can happen to a friendship when one friend explodes at another?
- Explain how when we don't forgive, things can tend to build up and build up. Sometimes, it may feel like we are about to explode.
- Pick up a deflated balloon, and tie a knot in it.
- Choose another volunteer and hand them the knotted balloon.
- Ask kids to continue sharing examples, just like before.
- Each time a situation is shared, the kid with the balloon will try blowing it up.
- No air will enter the balloon, preventing it from getting bigger and bursting.
- Explain that this shows us what it's like when we choose to forgive. Forgiveness protects our friendships and prevents damage that can often be very difficult to repair.
- Be sure to also take a moment to explain that there are times when if someone continuously does things to hurt us, we also have to protect ourselves. Forgiveness does not always mean we maintain a relationship with the person who has repeatedly wronged us. When this happens, we can still choose to forgive, while also creating healthy boundaries that keep us safe.



HARMONY

TOGETHER IS BETTER



WEEK
FOUR
SEPTEMBER 2023

SMALL GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body



TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Please Forgive Me
Forgive One Another
Colossians 3:13

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

Why is forgiveness important?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Friends forgive one another.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

**"A friend loves at all times.
They are there to help when trouble comes."
Proverbs 17:17, NIV**

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Friendship—Using your words and actions to show others you care

BASIC TRUTH

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

2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible, plastic disposable cups, timer or stopwatch

WHAT YOU DO:

- Ask for a volunteer. Hand them a Bible and tell them to look up Colossians 3:13 so they can read it for the group.
- Divide the group into two teams and tell them to gather with their teams on opposite ends of your group space.
- Assign one team the name "Team Up."
- Assign the other team the name "Team Down."
- In the empty middle space between the two teams, place the cups on the floor, spreading them out.
- Place half of the cups so that they are facing up.
- Place half of the cups so that they are facing down. Be sure that an equal number of cups are facing up and down.
- Explain that when you say, "Go!" you will start a three-minute timer, and each team is supposed to rush to the center of the group space and start flipping cups over a certain way, depending on which team they are on.
 - If they are on Team Up, their goal is to find every cup that is facing down and flip it so that it's facing up.
 - If they're on Team Down, their goal is to find every cup that is facing up and flip it so that it's facing down.
- Kids will be continuously running around, flipping over cups as they see them, until the timer goes off.
- After three minutes, tell kids to go back to where they were standing at the beginning of the game.
- Count how many cups ended up facing down and how many are facing up.
- The winning team will have the most cups facing their direction.
- Play again if time allows.
- After you're done playing the game, invite kids to sit down. Explain to them that when we choose to forgive someone, we are making the choice to take whatever someone has done to us and flip it over so we can move on from it. It's like what happened to the cups!
- Remind kids of what it says in Colossians 3:13. "Forgive, just as the Lord forgave you." Explain that God is quick to forgive us when we've messed up. God flips the cups over right away for us and restores the relationship with us. We can follow God's lead when it comes to our friends. (And other relationships, too!)



HARMONY

TOGETHER IS BETTER



WEEK
FOUR
SEPTEMBER 2023

SMALL GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding



3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

Ask:

- Have you ever had to forgive someone?
- Why is it sometimes difficult to forgive?
- Why is forgiveness important?
- How has God forgiven us?
- How do you think things would be different if God didn't forgive us when we mess up?

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Please Forgive Me

Forgive One Another
Colossians 3:13

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

Why is forgiveness important?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Friends forgive one another.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

"A friend loves at all times.
They are there to help when trouble
comes."

Proverbs 17:17, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Friendship—Using your
words and actions to show
others you care

BASIC TRUTH

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



HARMONY

TOGETHER IS BETTER



WEEK
FOUR
SEPTEMBER 2023

SMALL GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding



TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Please Forgive Me
Forgive One Another
Colossians 3:13

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

Why is forgiveness important?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Friends forgive one another.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

**"A friend loves at all times.
They are there to help when trouble
comes."
Proverbs 17:17, NIV**

MONTHLY VIRTUE

**Friendship—Using your
words and actions to show
others you care**

BASIC TRUTH

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

4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU [HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Prepared Twix candy bars, "Sweet Verses Questions" Activity Page, Bibles, pens or pencils

WHAT YOU DO:

- Put kids in pairs and invite kids to spread out with their partners.
- Give each pair of kids a prepared Twix bar, a Bible, a copy of the "Sweet Verses Questions" Activity Page, and a pen or pencil.
- Tell them to remove the slip of paper that is wrapped around their candy bar and work together to look up the verse on their slip of paper.
- Then they will read the questions on the "Sweet Verses Questions" Activity Page and work together to write down their answers.
- When they have finished answering the questions, they can open their Twix bar and share it, each taking one of the bars inside the pack.
- Give each pair a turn to read their verse out loud for the entire group and then share the answers they wrote to the questions. Allow time for discussion.
- Explain that these verses can all help us remember how to be a good friend to the people in our lives. If any of them are particularly relevant, encourage them to write that verse down and take it with them.



HARMONY

TOGETHER IS BETTER



WEEK
FOUR
SEPTEMBER 2023

SMALL GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal processing and application



TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Please Forgive Me
Forgive One Another
Colossians 3:13

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

Why is forgiveness important?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Friends forgive one another.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

**"A friend loves at all times.
They are there to help when trouble comes."**
Proverbs 17:17, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

Friendship—Using your words and actions to show others you care

BASIC TRUTH

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

5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: White board, dry erase marker, dry eraser

WHAT YOU DO:

- Ask kids if anyone wants to share things they have done where they've needed to ask God for forgiveness.
- Create a safe space for kids to share. Don't pressure anyone to share, but also remind them that everyone does things that require forgiveness.
- As kids share, write brief descriptions of what they say on the white board. (ie: "Lied to Mom" or "Called brother a mean name.")
- After everyone has had a chance to share, use the eraser to erase everything that was written on the white board.
- Remind kids that God forgives us, no matter what. This should motivate us to forgive our friends.
- Next, ask if anyone wants to share about how they may be struggling to forgive someone else.
- Start off by sharing an example of your own. (Be sure that the example you share is relatable. You should be willing to show your group how you mess up, too. But it should also be age appropriate. Not everything going on in your life should be shared with your group!)
- Once everyone has had a chance to share, remind kids that they can always talk to God and ask for help with forgiving others. God loves us, understands everything we go through, and will be there for us.
- Allow a few minutes of quiet time for kids to silently pray and ask God to help them with any situations they may have going on in their lives.
- Close your time together by praying for the whole group.



HARMONY

TOGETHER IS BETTER



WEEK
FOUR
SEPTEMBER 2023

SMALL GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION (15 MINUTES)

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.
(Choose one or both of these activities.)

1. JUST FOR FUN

Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Offering container

2. OPENING ACTIVITY

Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

WHAT YOU NEED:

- No supplies needed

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT (25 MINUTES)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

(Choose as many of these activities as you like.)

1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT [LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Balloons, two for each Small Group (don't blow them up!)

2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION [TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bibles, one for each Small Group
- Plastic disposable cups, 20-30 for each Small Group
- Timer or stopwatch, one for each Small Group

3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS [TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding

WHAT YOU NEED:

- No supplies needed

4. VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU [HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Full-size Twix candy bars, one for every two kids
- Tape
- Print "Sweet Verses" Activity Page on paper, one set for each Small Group
 - To prepare, cut apart and wrap each strip around a Twix bar. Use tape to fasten it onto the candy bar.
- Print "Sweet Verses Questions" Activity Page on paper, one copy for every two kids
- Bibles, one for every two kids
- Pens or pencils, one for every two kids

5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal processing and application

WHAT YOU NEED:

- White board, one for each Small Group
- Dry erase marker, one for each Small Group
- Dry eraser, one for each Small Group

HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

- Print on cardstock or email this week's devotionals and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resource: **Parent Cue app.**