



WEEK
FOUR
SEPTEMBER 2023

SMALL GROUP
K-1

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Please Forgive Me
Forgive One Another
Colossians 3:13

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

Early Arriver
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
Bottom Line
Prayer
Closer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Bible Story Review: Friendship Shimmy
Application Activity: Think-Pair-Share-Forgive
Memory Verse Activity: At All Times
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

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



WEEK
FOUR
SEPTEMBER 2023

SMALL GROUP
K-1

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 for every heart and every upcoming conversation about forgiveness. Ask God to help make the environment feel like a safe and comfortable place for kids to share their feelings. Pray that kids would accept God's forgiveness so they can pass that forgiveness on to others. Ask God to help them know how deep and wide God's love is and that they can understand how to show that love to others.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Please Forgive Me
Forgive One Another
Colossians 3:13

1. EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container

WHAT YOU DO:

- Warmly greet each kid by name as they arrive.
- Show them where they can place their offerings.
- Challenge kids to do a series of challenges as quickly as possible like:
 - Clap 20 times.
 - Do 25 jumping jacks.
 - Say the alphabet.
 - Sing "Happy Birthday."
 - Touch the floor then jump in the air ten times.
 - Say, "Rubber baby buggy bumpers" five times.
 - Spin around ten times.

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, Nlrv**

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.



WEEK
FOUR
SEPTEMBER 2023

SMALL GROUP
K-1

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: Rolls of toilet paper

WHAT YOU DO:

- Help kids get into groups of two or three.
- Give each team a roll of toilet paper.
- At your signal, groups race to wrap one kid like a mummy.
- The first team to get all of the toilet paper onto their teammate, wins!
- After celebrating, do the reverse and cue kids to UNWRAP their teammates!
- The first team to get all the toilet paper OFF their teammate, wins.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"You guys did a great job of working together to quickly wrap and unwrap your teammates! **[Transition]** In Large Group, we'll hear about something else we can do quickly. Let's go learn more."

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Please Forgive Me
Forgive One Another
Colossians 3:13

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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, Nlrv

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.



WEEK
FOUR
SEPTEMBER 2023

SMALL GROUP
K-1

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

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



*** 1. FRIENDSHIP SHIMMY**

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Prepared tissue boxes and ping-pong balls or plastic Easter eggs; *Optional: upbeat music*

WHAT YOU DO:

- Help kids get into groups of three.
- Attach a tissue box to one kid on each team.
 - Make sure the box rests on the small of each kid’s back and that the belt is snug.
- Put eight ping-pong balls or Easter eggs in each kid’s box.
- At your signal, the kids begin moving their bodies to get the balls out while their teammates cheer them on.
 - Kids may not touch the box or the belt with their hands or arms.
 - Kids may only touch the floor with their feet.
- The first kid to jump, wiggle, and shake out all the balls wins for their team!
- Play until every kid has a turn.
- Add fun by playing upbeat music during the game.

WHAT YOU SAY:

“That. was. AWESOME! You guys did such a great job of trying your hardest to get those [ping-pong balls/eggs] out—FAST! In a crazy way, that’s like our Bible story today. The balls are like the anger and hurt we feel when people do things that annoy us or hurt our feelings. It can be SO easy to hold onto that hurt and anger and keep it inside, but God has a better plan for us to be quick to forgive! Because when we forgive others, we choose to let go of the anger and hurt that’s like ‘junk’ in our hearts. And when we do that, we can live in true peace and friendship with others.

[Make It Personal] (Tell kids about a time you forgave a friend, even if it was hard. The friend may have said or done something that hurt your feelings, broken a promise, or lied to you. Tell how God gave you peace after you chose to forgive. And if appropriate, tell how your forgiveness gave God room to repair the friendship.)

“So this week, remember our game and be quick to forgive. Because **friends forgive one another.**”

TODAY’S BIBLE STORY

Please Forgive Me
Forgive One Another
Colossians 3:13

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, Nlrv

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.



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



2. THINK-PAIR-SHARE-FORGIVE
[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible, dry erase boards (or similar), and dry erase markers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Help each kid find a partner.
 - If you have an odd number in your group, make a group of three or partner yourself with a kid.
- Give each pair a dry erase board and marker.
- Lead kids to think of times when a friend might hurt another friend's feelings.
- Ask prompting questions as needed to spur their thinking juices.
- Some possible situations might be a friend who:
 - doesn't let you pick what you want to play.
 - says something mean to you.
 - laughs at you or ignores you.
 - plays with another friend when they said they'd play with you.
 - says they don't want to be your friend anymore.
- Lead the kids to work together to write and/or draw pictures of those times.
- Encourage each team to share what they drew or wrote.
- Guide the kids to erase their pictures.
- Briefly unpack the concept that when we forgive, it's like we erase—or forget—the hurtful thing someone said or did. We don't actually forget what they did, but we don't keep being mad at them for it once we've forgiven them.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Let's be real. People are going to do and say things that bug you or hurt your feelings, **EVEN** your friends! So one of the most important ways to **BE** a good friend and **KEEP** a good friend is to be quick to forgive. Forgiving doesn't mean that what they did was okay—and it **DOESN'T** mean that it's okay to let someone **KEEP** hurting you. It just means that you're choosing to do what Jesus would do.

"God didn't wait for us to get our act together before sending Jesus to rescue us. (Read Romans 5:8.) Wow! God chose to be our friend and made a way to forgive us **FIRST!** And because of that, we can be quick to forgive, too. So remember that **friends forgive one another.**"

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Please Forgive Me
Forgive One Another
Colossians 3:13

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.



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



3. AT ALL TIMES

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Proverbs Pantomime" Activity Pages and Bibles

WHAT YOU DO:

- Guide kids to sit in a circle.
- Distribute the Bibles and help kids look up and read the verse using Bible navigation tips below.

Finding verses with kindergartners: Guide kids to open the Bibles to the marked page. Point to "Proverbs" at the top of the page as you say "Proverbs." Then guide kids to find the big number 17 on the page. Explain that this is the chapter number. Finally, guide them to look under the big 17 for the little 17; this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read the verse aloud. Then lead everyone to say the verse together.

Finding verses with 1st graders: Guide kids to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like. When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find "Proverbs" in the list under "Old Testament." You can help by telling them that Proverbs starts with the letters P-R. When the kids find Proverbs, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Proverbs. Help the kids find the page. When they find Proverbs, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 17. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 17 in chapter 17.

- Review the motions for *friend*, *loves*, *help* (NIRV), and *trouble*.
- Teach the motion for all.
- Briefly unpack that "all times" means that friends love and forgive each other no matter what—even when they annoy us or hurt our feelings.
- Practice signing the full verse a few times with the kids.
- Then guide kids to 'pass' the verse around the circle, with each kid saying and signing the verse to the kid beside them.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"God wants you to always treat your friends with kindness, even if they don't agree with you about everything—and even if they annoy you or hurt your feelings. When that happens, God can help you put up with one another. Because you can only live in true peace and friendship with others when you choose to forgive. **Friends forgive one another.**"

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Please Forgive Me
Forgive One Another
Colossians 3:13

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, NIRV

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.**



WEEK
FOUR
SEPTEMBER 2023

SMALL GROUP
K-1

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



4. PRAY AND DISMISS
[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Backpack and hand weights or canned food

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite a volunteer to put on the backpack then pick a friend to stand with them.
- Guide the friend to ask, "Will you forgive me?"
- Prompt the first kid to respond, "No."
- Add a weight to the backpack.
- Repeat the process two or three more times or until the backpack's burden becomes obvious.
- At this point, prompt the first kid to say, "I forgive you."
- Remove all the weights.
- Use the conversation below to bring the point home and lead kids into prayer.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Choosing not to forgive is like holding or carrying a heavy weight. It's not fun! And that's not what God wants for us. God wants us to forgive, just as we have been forgiven. Romans 5:8 says, 'Here is how God has shown his love for us. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.' Wow! Jesus **CHOSE** to give up His life for us. He loved us so much that He made a way for us to be forgiven. And because of that, we can forgive others, too. Let's pray.

"Dear God, Your love is more amazing than we can imagine! Thank You **SO MUCH** for sending Your Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. Thank You for making a way to forgive us before we even ask! Help us remember that You forgave us so we can be quick to forgive others. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to share today's Bottom Line.

Friends forgive one another.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Please Forgive Me
Forgive One Another
Colossians 3:13

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.



WEEK
FOUR
SEPTEMBER 2023

SMALL GROUP
K-1

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. EARLY ARRIVER

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

- 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:

- Rolls of toilet paper, one for every two or three kids

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.)

** If you don't have time to do all these activities, be sure to do activity #1.*

* 1. FRIENDSHIP SHIMMY [TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Duct tape, one roll for every Small Group
- Empty full-sized tissue boxes with the plastic removed, one for every three kids
- Belts or sturdy 36" rope, one for every three kids
- Ping-pong balls or plastic Easter eggs, eight for every three kids
 - If you provide Easter eggs, tape them closed.
 - Securely tape the middle of the belt or rope to the bottom of the tissue box so that kids can wear the

belt or rope around the waist and the tissue box opening can face out.

- *Optional: upbeat music*

2. THINK-PAIR-SHARE-FORGIVE [LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Dry erase boards (or similar like laminated paper), one for every two kids
- Dry erase markers
- Bible

3. AT ALL TIMES [HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- If not saved from previous weeks, print "Proverbs Pantomime" Activity Pages on cardstock, one set for each Small Group
- Bibles (For kindergarteners, mark Bibles at Proverbs 17)

4. PRAY AND DISMISS [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Backpack, one for each Small Group
- Hand weights or canned food, ten 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.**