

K-5 | W3

Today's Suggested Schedule—July 2026, Week 3

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

Bottom Line: God's kingdom grows when you 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

Loud sounds, bright lights, and large groups can be overwhelming or overstimulating for some children. To create a more inclusive large group experience, consider offering adaptive tools like noise-canceling headphones, sunglasses, sensory-friendly items, or access to modified spaces.

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 (15 minutes)

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction

Opening Activity

Large Group (35 minutes)

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God

Opener

Worship

Bible Story

Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Bible Story Review: King for a Day (K-1st grade), You Break It, I Fix It (2nd-3rd grade), Bible Story Extension and Discussion Questions (Preteen)

Application Activity: Counting Forgiveness (K-1st grade), Heavy or Light Backpack (2nd-3rd grade), Take a Snapshot (Preteen)

Memory Verse Activity: Three Pillar Pose (K-1st grade), Memory Verse Suncatcher (2nd-3rd grade), Verses to Take with You (Preteen)

Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss (K-1st grade, 2nd-3rd grade), Make It Personal with Prayer (Preteen)

Home: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)

Devotionals for Kids

Parent Cue App



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

Large Group Opener

5 min

Opener

What You Need

No supplies needed

Setting the Tone for the Experience

What You Say:

OPENER

HOST: "Hey, everyone! Welcome back to Kingdom Quest! 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, and the full name of our series this month is 'Kingdom Quest—Living the Greatest Adventure.'"

"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!"

"Before we get started talking about God's kingdom, let's kick things off with a quick warm-up. Everyone, stand up!"

"Turn to the person next to you. That's your partner for this warm-up. One of you will be the Leader, and the other will be the Mirror. Leaders, you're going to make a simple move with your arms or body. Mirrors, your job is to copy the Leader exactly."

"Ready? Leaders, go ahead and make your first move!"

(Pause while kids play the game.)

"Nice! Now switch roles. Mirrors become Leaders. New move ... go!"

(Pause while kids play the game.)

"Awesome. Stay with your same partner for one more round, and switch roles again. Leader, choose one last move. Ready ... go!"

(Pause while kids play the game.)

"Great job! You're warmed up! You all can take a seat. 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 balloon.)

"Okay, racers, here's the deal. Each of you has a balloon, but here's the trick: You can't hold it with your hands. You have to keep the balloon 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 balloon 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 balloon 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 balloon. 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.)

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

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

10 min

Worship | Amazing Music

5 min

Closer | Worship Song

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

Over & Over Again | Worship Song

What You Need

No supplies needed

Inviting People to Respond to God

What You Say:

AMAZING MUSIC

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hey, everyone! I'm really glad you're here. Right now, we get to do something really special together: We get to worship. Worship is more than singing—it's a way of focusing our hearts on God. It's like pressing pause on everything else so we can remember who God is.

SONG: "Closer" Dance Motion, Lyric or Instrumental Lyric Videos are available with Amazing Music on APlay

"I love moments like this because they remind us that God doesn't change. Whether we're having a great day or a tough day, He stays steady. That's one reason we worship, because God is always with us, always doing good, and always leading us forward. Let's sing this next song together!

What You Say:

SONG: "Over & Over Again" Dance Motion, Lyric or Instrumental Lyric Videos are available with Amazing Music on APlay

"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 take a minute to review our Memory Verse for the month. 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

WORSHIP LEADER: *"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!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WORSHIP LEADER: "Romans 14:17!"

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

WORSHIP LEADER: "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!"

"Thanks for worshipping with me today, friends!"

15 min

Bible Story

5 min

StoryLab Bible Story | Video

What You Need

No supplies needed

Creating a Safe Place to Connect

What You Do:

- Download the slides and have them ready to use. If you do not have screen capabilities, you have Orange's permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.
- Confirm that your church has appropriate licensing to perform or play music and sound effects in your kids' environments (see above under Opener).
- Place the deflated balloon on the table for the Storyteller to use during the teaching.

5 min

So and So Show Bible Story | Video

What You Need

No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Download the slides and have them ready to use. If you do not have screen capabilities, you have Orange's permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.
- Confirm that your church has appropriate licensing to perform or play music and sound effects in your kids' environments (see above under Opener).
- Place the deflated balloon on the table for the Storyteller to use during the teaching.

5 min

Bible Story (Live)**What You Need**

No supplies needed

What You Say:**BIBLE STORY (STORYTELLER SCRIPT)***SLIDE: Theme Background**(Things to have ready: Set up the table at the front of the teaching area so the Storyteller can place their Bible on it and read from it. Deflated balloon on the table.)***INTRODUCTION****STORYTELLER:** "Hello, friends! Welcome back to Kingdom Quest! All summer long, we've been talking about God's kingdom. Our theme this month is: 'Kingdom Quest—Living the Greatest Adventure.'

"But what is God's kingdom? Well, God's kingdom is where He is King! It's where He reigns, and where His ways—His love, His faithfulness, His truthfulness, and His goodness—are the way things operate. God's kingdom is a good, good place that we want everyone to be a part of! We want more people to see how awesome God, the King, is and join His kingdom!

"Before we jump into today's Bible Story about God's great kingdom, I want to find out something important. Raise your hand if you've ever had a moment when someone annoyed you just a little bit.

(Pause while kids raise their hands.)

"Yeah, that looks like most of us. Now raise your hand if someone has ever annoyed you a lot.

(Pause while kids raise their hands.)

"Yeah, same here. It happens to everyone!

"Sometimes it shows up fast, doesn't it? One minute, everything is going great, and then, BOOM, your little brother 'accidentally' knocks over the LEGO® tower you spent forever building. Or someone bumps into you at recess and just walks away without even saying sorry. Or maybe someone makes a joke about you. Those moments can change your whole day in about two seconds.

"Today's Bible Story begins with someone who had been thinking about moments just like that. Moments when people mess up, or disappoint you, or hurt your feelings. This person went straight to Jesus with a big question about what to do in those situations.

"And Jesus answered ... just not in the way anyone expected. His answer surprised everyone listening."

SETTING UP THE STORY

"Jesus spent a lot of time with His disciples, teaching them what life in God's kingdom is really like. They often came to Him with real questions—questions about how to handle problems, how to treat people, and how to live in a way that honors God.

"One day, Jesus was teaching them about how people should handle conflict with each other and what to do when someone sins against you or hurts you. The disciples were listening closely because they wanted to understand what Jesus meant. And as Jesus explained these things, one of His closest followers, Peter, spoke up.

"Peter had a genuine question. He wanted to understand how far forgiveness was supposed to go. How many times should a person keep forgiving someone who did the wrong thing? Where was the limit?"

peter asks about forgiveness

STORYTELLER:

(Open the Bible and read Matthew 18:21-22 NIV.)

Peter came to Jesus. He asked, "Lord, how many times should I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?"

Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but 77 times."

"Peter was probably thinking, 'I'm giving a pretty generous number—seven times!' But Jesus told him something huge. Jesus didn't mean we should count all the way up to 77 and then stop forgiving. He meant forgiveness isn't something we keep score on. It's something we keep choosing.

"And this balloon can help us understand why Peter even asked the question. When someone hurts your feelings or treats you unfairly, it can feel like pressure starts building inside your heart.

(Blow a small breath into the balloon.)

"Someone says something unkind.

(Blow into the balloon again.)

"They don't apologize.

(Blow into the balloon again.)

"And you keep thinking about it.

(Hold up the lightly filled balloon.)

"The pressure gets bigger. Has anyone ever gotten upset with someone, and you feel this pressure building? It's a real thing. Or maybe you've

forgiven someone, and they mess up again ... so you're back to being upset at them.

"Jesus wanted Peter, and us, to understand something. So Jesus told a story ... a story about a king, a giant debt, and a servant who was forgiven something HUGE. Let's see what Jesus said."

(Let the balloon slowly deflate.)

THE KING FORGIVES A HUGE DEBT

STORYTELLER: "Jesus began His story by talking about a king who was checking on all the money people owed him. One of his servants owed him an amount so huge that it would have been impossible to ever pay back.

(Open the Bible and read Matthew 18:23-27 NIV.)

"The kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to collect all the money his servants owed him. As the king began to do it, a man who owed him 10,000 bags of gold was brought to him. The man was not able to pay. So his master gave an order. The man, his wife, his children, and all he owned had to be sold to pay back what he owed.

"Then the servant fell on his knees in front of him. 'Give me time,' he begged. 'I'll pay everything back.' His master felt sorry for him. He forgave him what he owed and let him go."

"Ten thousand bags of gold was a debt so gigantic, no one could ever repay it—not even if they worked their whole life. But when the servant begged for more time, something incredible happened. The king didn't just give him a few extra days. He didn't make a smaller deal. He completely erased the entire debt. The servant walked away totally free.

"Imagine the servant carrying this giant weight, this impossible debt. This was a big deal! But then, the king did an amazing thing. The debt was forgiven. The servant didn't owe anything anymore.

"You'd think a person who was forgiven of something that big would walk away full of thankfulness and kindness. You'd think he would want to help others too. But that's not what happened next."

the servant refuses to forgive a small debt

"After being completely forgiven, the servant went out and found another man who owed him a tiny amount of money—nothing even close to what he had owed the king.

(Open the Bible and read Matthew 18:28-30 NIV.)

"But then that servant went out and found one of the other servants who owed him 100 silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he said.

"The other servant fell on his knees. 'Give me time,' he begged him. 'I'll pay it back.' But the first servant refused. Instead, he went and had the man thrown into prison. The man would be held there until he could pay back what he owed."

"This was shocking! The king had forgiven the first servant of an enormous debt so big that he never could have paid it back. But when someone owed that same servant just a tiny amount, he refused to show the same mercy. He didn't give grace. He didn't give time. He just demanded payment.

"Watch what happens when we refuse to forgive.

(Blow some air into the balloon.)

"Someone hurts you, and you're so upset about it.

(Blow more air into the balloon.)

"You hold onto it, and you keep thinking about what they did.

(Blow more air into the balloon.)

"You replay it in your mind—you might even have a hard time sleeping because you keep replaying it.

(Blow more air into the balloon.)

"You stay angry, and you've now become so full of pressure and stress, one little thing could easily make you pop.

(Balloon should be full of air now.)

"This is what unforgiveness does to our hearts. Instead of letting the pressure go, it builds ... and builds ... and builds.

"But when we forgive, the pressure gets released. It frees our heart, just like the king freed the servant from his huge debt.

(Release all the air from the balloon.)

"But there's more to the story. When the king heard what the servant had done, he called him back immediately.

(Open the Bible and read Matthew 18:32-34 NIV.)

"Then the master called the first servant in. 'You evil servant,' he said. 'I forgave all that you owed me because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on the other servant just as I had mercy on you?' In anger his master handed him over to the jailers. He would be punished until he paid back everything he owed."

"Jesus finished His story by saying:

(Open the Bible and read Matthew 18:35 NIV.)

"This is how my Father in heaven will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

"The king was angry because the servant refused to show the same forgiveness he had already been given. When we let go of the pressure inside, we make room for God to fill our hearts with peace, joy, and love instead. We make room for Him to grow His goodness in our hearts."

wrapping up THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "In the parable Jesus told, the king forgave the servant's enormous debt—a debt so huge, he never could have paid it back. But that same servant refused to forgive someone who owed him only a small amount. When the king heard what happened, he was upset. He had shown mercy, but the servant chose not to show mercy to someone else.

"Jesus told this parable so His friends would understand how God's kingdom works. God forgives us completely, just like the king forgave the servant. And because we've been forgiven so much, we're meant to forgive others too.

"And when we forgive others like Jesus has forgiven us, we are pointing to God's kingdom. We are being forgiving like God! And God will do great kingdom things when we forgive like He does.

"In fact, that's what our Bottom Line is all about today. Let's take a look.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

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

(Host enters and joins in.)

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

10 min

Closing

5 min

WHAT'S OUR PART IN THE STORY?

What You Need

No supplies needed

5 min

PRAYER

What You Need

No supplies needed

Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

What You Say:

WHAT'S OUR PART IN THE STORY?

HOST: "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 the King who has forgiven us of so much."

What You Say:

PRAYER

STORYTELLER OR HOST: "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."

AUDIO: Play calm music as the kids exit.

SLIDE: Theme

Optional Video (Media Package): Theme Loop

Getting Ready | K5

Large Group

Here's everything you need to know to get ready for this week.

APlay

APlay is your all-in-one presentation, preparation, and curriculum ecosystem that saves you time and money. APlay is free with your curriculum subscription! APlay offers powerful tools that build media playlists, compile curriculum documents, auto-update supply lists by child count, cast media to screens, and so much more.

Built to work in harmony with your curriculum, APlay Service Builder allows leaders to drop in, toggle on and off, or customize teaching plans, worship elements, and media assets in seconds. For even more value, upgrade to Amazing+ to unlock the parent app, Parent+.

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (25 minutes)

Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God (10 minutes)

1. Opener

What You Need:

- Host
- Floor tape
- 4 balloons (Consider having more in case some pop!)
- 4 kid volunteers (Ask for new volunteers at the start of each round!)

Music and Sound Effects:

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter the room
- Upbeat music to use for the game

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide
- "Moonwalk! Title" Slide

Optional Videos:

- Theme Loop
- Countdown
- Theme Intro

What You Do:

- Download the slides or optional videos and have them ready to use. If you do not have screen capabilities, you have Orange's permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.

- Download music and/or sound effects on an authorized basis from a resource such as Apple Music®, Amazon Music®, and/or a sound effect library and have it ready to play. Or, if you choose to stream music, refer to the terms and conditions of your streaming service. Note that you will likely need a commercial license in order to stream music publicly. Also confirm that your church has appropriate licensing to perform music and sound effects in your kids' environments, such as a blanket PERFORMmusic™ license from CCS. *Note: Legally, a song and/or sound effect belongs to the songwriter/composer who created it and the publisher who markets it. Performance rights organizations (PROs) license public performances (live or recorded) of their members' music. PROs in the U.S. are ASCAP, BMI, and SESAC. It is up to you to make sure your church has permission to perform or play a recording of a song and/or sound effect.*
- Create a start and finish line with floor tape.
- Blow up four balloons and place them at the start line.

2. Worship and Memory Verse

What You Need:

- Worship Leader(s)

Music and Sound Effects:

- "Closer" - available on APlay with Amazing Music
- "Over & Over Again" - available on APlay with Amazing Music

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide
- Memory Verse Slide

What You Do:

- If you are utilizing the suggested songs from **Amazing Music-**, search for your desired video resource for each song under the Worship section on APlay and add to your service!
- You can access Amazing Music's Dance Motion, Lyric, and Instrumental Videos in APlay under the Worship section.
- Amazing Music Song Trainings are available in Amazing Leaders and FREE on YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/@AmazingKidsMusic>
- *Make sure your church has obtained licensing rights to play or perform music. You can obtain a license to perform worship music from Christian Copyright Licensing International (www.ccli.com). It covers over 200,000 worship songs for congregational singing. You are responsible for including the copyright information on all songs reproduced under the Church Copyright License (including song lyrics projected onscreen). This includes the song title, writer credit(s), copyright notice, and your church's CCLI license number. You can include this information on one of the lyric slides, or you can create a separate slide detailing this information, but the copyright information must appear at least once for each song you play or perform. For example:*

"Hallelujah" words and music by John Doe

©2000 Good Music Co.

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3. Bible Story

What You Need:

- Storyteller
- Host
- Table
- Bible
- Deflated balloon

Music and Sound Effects:

- Calm music to use as kids exit the room

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Background Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Theme Slide

Optional Video:

- Theme Loop

Optional Video: (available in APlay)

Our Large Group scripts are interchangeable with these videos so you can plug and play the way you need to each week.

For 252 Kids (Kindergarten through 3rd grade):

- *StoryLab*: Invite elementary kids to engage with inquisitive young hosts as they explore core biblical truths and stories in a STEAM-inspired setting.

For 252 Preteen (4th and 5th grade):

- *The So & So Show*: Guide preteens to explore questions of faith through a variety show full of humor and biblical truth.

Additional environment enhancements including:

- Motion graphics, including loops
- Countdown video

What You Do:

- Download the slides and have them ready to use. If you do not have screen capabilities, you have Orange's permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.
- Confirm that your church has appropriate licensing to perform or play music and sound effects in your kids' environments (see above under Opener).

- Place the deflated balloon on the table for the Storyteller to use during the teaching.

Supplies:

- Host
- Floor tape
- 4 balloons (Consider having more in case some pop!)
- 4 kid volunteers (Ask for new volunteers at the start of each round!)
- Music and Sound Effects
- Upbeat music to use as kids enter the room
- Upbeat music to use for the game
- Large Group Visuals
- Theme Slide
- "Moonwalk! Title" Slide
- Optional Videos
- Theme Loop
- Countdown
- Theme Intro
- Worship Leader(s)
- Music and Sound Effects
- "Closer" - available on APlay with Amazing Music
- "Over & Over Again" - available on APlay with Amazing Music
- Large Group Visuals
- Theme Slide
- Memory Verse Slide
- Storyteller
- Host
- Table
- Bible
- Deflated balloon
- Music and Sound Effects
- Calm music to use as kids exit the room
- Large Group Visuals
- Theme Background Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Theme Slide
- Optional Video
- Theme Loop
- Optional Video: (available in APlay)
- Motion graphics, including loops
- Countdown video