

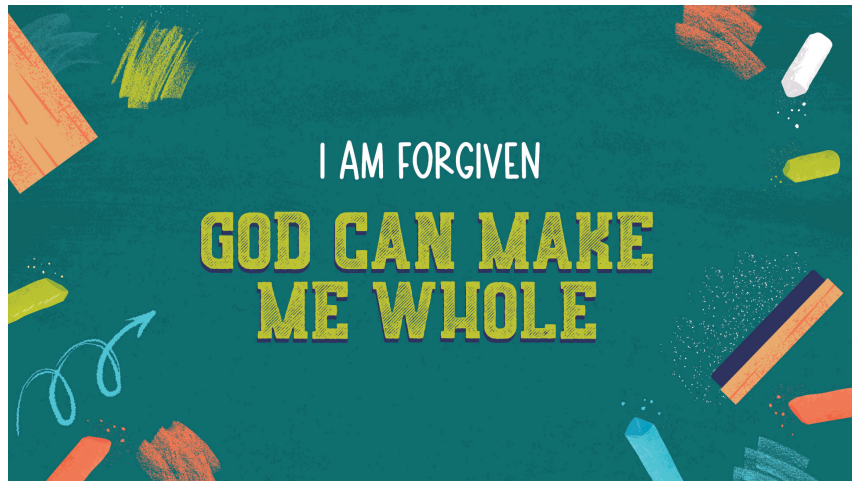


I Am Forgiven — God Can Make Me Whole

Leader Guide • All Leaders

10/11/2026

Center Grove Kids Ministry



Bible Story: Jesus Forgave Peter (Luke 22:54-62; John 18:15-27; 21:12-19)

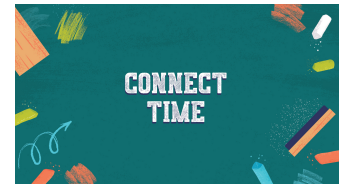
Theme Verse: "As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us." (Psalm 103:12)

Small Group

1. Connection Questions / Small Group Leader

Leader Tip

Upon arrival children will go to their designated pod based on their grade level for small group connections time. Each "pod" will have a leader waiting for them to begin connections conversations to start the morning.



Use these questions to help you get to know kids as they arrive. Ministry happens best through relationships. By spending this time with kids at the beginning of the session, you will be able to make stronger connections as you begin teaching about how God knows them!

- What was the best part of your week?
- Can you tell me about your favorite book, TV show, or movie?
- Do you think you would want to travel around the world in a hot air balloon or a sailboat, and why?
- What is something you like best about your home?
- If you could shrink down to the size of an ant, what do you think the world would look like and what would you do?



2. Countdown Video / Large Group Leader

5 minutes

The Countdown Video is meant to be played as a signal to transition to Large Group. The video is fun and interactive with opportunities for the kids to respond and cheer.



Leader Tip

Help kids engage and interact with the video by calling out what is happening, asking for their guesses, and cheering with them.



Presentation

Play Oct2026_S2_CountdownVideo_Kids



3. Welcome / Large Group Leader

2 minutes

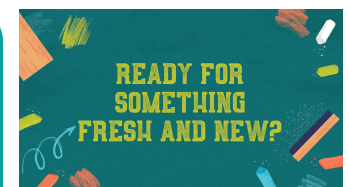
Leader Tip

Between songs remind children of the purpose for giving an offering. Give them examples of ways the offering contributes to the church and community. Ask students if they know how else our giving reaches out. Then remind them that during the next worship song they can bring their offering forward and drop it into the basket.

*Warehouse Kids Leave After Worship Song

Script

Hey friends! I am ____, and I am pumped you are here today! Turn to someone next to you and say, "You made it!" (*You made it!*) When we start something, erase it, and then start again in a new way, we call it a *fresh start*. What do we call it? (*A fresh start!*) That is right! Our Theme today is *Fresh Start* because we get to learn that we can be forgiven by God. Now let's get ready to move, cheer, and learn together. Call out, "Fresh start!" in 3-2-1! (*Fresh start!*)



4. Stage Game — Fresh Start Laundry Launch / Large Group Leader

8 minutes

Supplies

☐ Paper

50 per group

☐ Hula hoop

2 per group

☐ Masking or painter's tape

1 per group

Leader Tip

Consider using the papers from the Pumpkin Patch Party game if they were not used in the Pumpkin Pals craft.

Leader Prep: Place the hula hoops in the front of the room. Mark a throwing line 6 feet in front of the hula hoops, placing the paper on the center of the line.

Game Rules:

1. Place players into teams: Red, Purple, and Green versus Blue, Yellow, and Orange.
2. Direct one player from each team to stand in the “washing machine” hula hoop, one player from each team to stand in front of the other team’s washing machine, and the third player to stand behind the throwing line.
3. Start the video countdown.
4. Instruct the players on the throwing line to take one piece of paper at a time, crumple it up as “dirty laundry,” and toss it into the washing machine. Direct the players standing between the throwing line and the washing machine to try and stop dirty laundry from reaching the other team’s washing machine. Encourage the players in the washing machine to help catch and place the dirty laundry in the hoops.
5. Count the papers in the hoop at the end of the countdown and declare a winner.

Script

It is time for a game! Let me here you say, “Oh yeah!” (*Oh yeah!*) Today we are playing a fun game called “Fresh Start Laundry Launch!” When dirty clothes get cleaned in a washing machine, they are fresh and clean—which is the inspiration for this game. First, let’s make two teams by selecting one player from each of the Red, Purple, and Green Teams to make team A and one player from each of the Blue, Yellow, and Orange Teams to make team B. (*Select players, inviting them to the front.*)

Here is how this game works. One player from each team will stand in a hula hoop, which is your team’s “washing machine.” Your job is to get as many pieces of “dirty laundry” into your washing machine in two minutes without stepping out of the hula hoop. (*Direct players to stand in hula hoops.*)

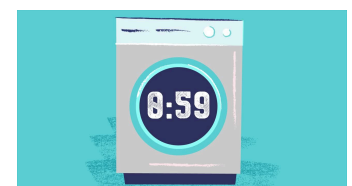
One player from each team will stand in front of the other team’s washing machine, between the hula hoops and the throwing line. Your job is to try and stop the other team’s dirty laundry from getting into their washing machine. You cannot catch the laundry, but you can knock it in the air and even try and knock it toward your own washing machine. (*Direct players to stand between the hula hoops and the throwing line.*)

Finally, the last player will stand anywhere behind the throwing line. You will crumple up one piece of paper at a time and try to throw the “dirty laundry” into your team’s washing machine. The team with the most dirty laundry in your washing machine at the end of the countdown wins! Everyone else, cheer for your team! Count down from three to get our game started. Ready? 3-2-1!



Presentation

Play Oct2026_S2_StageGame_Video1_Kids



Keep It Going: Play with new players. Change the way players toss the paper. For example, underhand, with their non-dominant hand, or while spinning in a circle before they throw.

Script

Let's see who cleaned the most laundry! (*Count paper balls, throwing them away as you count before declaring the winner.*) Let's cheer for all of our players as they sit down. (*Allow time.*)

Wow, that was amazing! Look at all that laundry that will be so fresh! When we talk about God giving us a fresh start, we are talking about God giving us forgiveness. This means that, even though we make wrong choices, God loves us and forgives us when we ask. When we ask for forgiveness, He does not hold those wrong choices against us; rather, He gives us a fresh start. Everybody, say, "I am forgiven!" (*I am forgiven!*) That is right! God loves us and gives us a fresh start through His forgiveness when we ask, believe, and trust Him!



5. Main Idea Video / Large Group Leader

5 minutes

Script

Now we get to watch a video of DIY Dan—a man with a plan to make new inventions using old parts. Of course, he wants to do it himself. That is why he is DIY Dan! Get our video started with me. When I say, "Hey, Dan!" you say, "Let's DIY!" Ready? "Hey, Dan!" (*Let's DIY!*)



Presentation

Play Oct2026_S2_MainIdeaVideo_Kids



Script

That PopCar 4000 was really something! It was cool! It was fast! But it was missing something important. What was it missing? (*Popcorn!*) Right! The car was not whole and complete without the popcorn. That is a good reminder that *we* are also incomplete without God's forgiveness. Point to yourself and say, "Who, me?" (*Who, me?*) Yes, you! All of us make wrong choices and need God's forgiveness. Today we get to learn how God loves us so much that He forgives our wrong choices and makes us whole. That means God leads us to be the full and complete people He made us to be—His children! Let me hear you say, "**God can make me whole!**" (*God can make me whole!*)



6. Object Lesson / Large Group Leader

7 minutes

Supplies

☐ Art kit

1 per group ☐ Bible

1 per group

Leader Tip

Create an art kit by placing various art supplies (such as paintbrushes, markers, pencils, and so forth) in a box. Bring the art kit

out with you to use as an object lesson. A small table to hold your Bible and the art kit may be helpful as you teach.

Script

Let's play a guessing game. I am going to call someone up to look inside this special box. You will try and get everyone else to guess one of the items in the box without saying what that item is. Ready? *(Call up a volunteer, helping the volunteer to lead kids in guessing an item. Repeat multiple times.)* Great describing and guessing! All of these items together make up an art kit. They make up a what? *(Art kit!)* Now imagine that you are making a picture and you make a choice that you want to undo. Maybe you colored outside the lines, spilled some paint, or even tore the paper. You do not have to throw it away! You can use the tools in this kit to fix and change it. You might draw something wrong, but you can cover it with paint and make it new. Or maybe you accidentally swipe some paint where you did not mean to. You can make it into a happy little bird.

Sometimes it seems like we've made messes in our lives because of choices we have made, like messing up a piece of art. We can make wrong choices, have unkind thoughts, and have selfish attitudes that can leave us feeling like something is missing. The good news is that God does not leave us in pieces. Like the different items in an art kit can make any piece of art look new and amazing, God gives us everything we need to be whole. God brings the broken parts of our lives together and makes us whole, no matter what choices we have made. God can forgive us, restore us, and help us become who He created us to be. Let me hear you say, **"God can make me whole!"** *(God can make me whole!)*



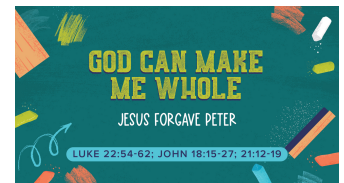
7. Video-Led Bible Story (Option 1) / Large Group Leader

8 minutes

Supplies

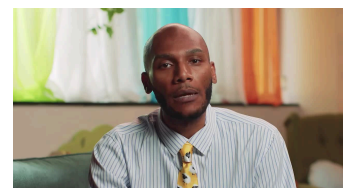
Script

(Open the Bible.) Now it is time to learn from the Bible! From what? *(The Bible!)* Good job! The Bible is God's true message to us about Himself, and it is 1 book made of 66 smaller books. Today we are going to learn a story from two books in the Bible called Luke and John. Luke and what? *(John.)* Awesome! Luke and John are two books in the New Testament, the second part of the Bible. Today we are going to hear about how Jesus forgave a man named Peter. Say, "Peter!" *(Peter!)* Let's learn about Jesus and Peter and see how amazing it is to be forgiven and made whole!



Presentation

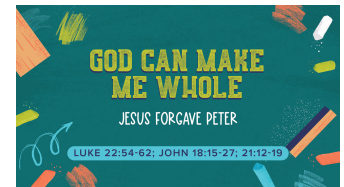
Play Oct2026_S2_BibleStoryVideo_Kids



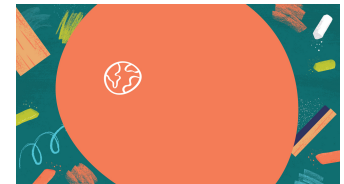
Script

Peter's wrong choice must have made him feel terrible. Peter and Jesus were friends. But when Peter was asked if he was friends with Jesus, he did not tell the truth. Peter loved Jesus, but he still made a wrong choice and said he did not even know Jesus. That probably left Peter feeling ashamed and sad. But Jesus did not turn away from Peter. Instead, He forgave Peter and welcomed him back. Peter's wrong choice left him broken, but forgiveness and welcome from Jesus made Peter whole again. Our wrong choices can leave us feeling sad, embarrassed, or ashamed. But Jesus forgave Peter, and He forgives you too! Let me hear you say, "I am forgiven!" (*I am forgiven!*)

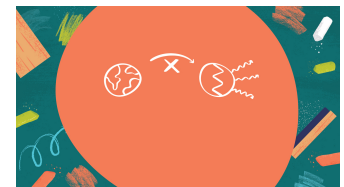
No matter what we do, God loves us, forgives us, and gives us a fresh start when we ask! God can make us whole, which means His forgiveness removes broken things in our lives and helps us be who He made us to be. Say, "**God can make me whole!**" (*God can make me whole!*) When we say God makes us whole, we do not mean that our bodies are broken. We mean the way we live and the choices we make cause us to live in brokenness. We all sin and make wrong choices that do not match the way God created us to live. But God can forgive us, help us choose what is right, and bring us back to the way He designed us to live. That is what it means when we say that God makes us whole. God takes our messy moments, wrong choices, and sin, and He makes us whole through His forgiveness!

**Script**

(Circle 1) God designed the world complete and perfect with no brokenness in sight. In the beginning, nobody lied like Peter did or made wrong choices like we do. God created people to live in close relationship with Him, trusting Him and following His ways. Jesus invited Peter into a close friendship, learning from God and living life God's way.

**Script**

(Circle 2) But the first two people God made chose to sin. *Sin* is when we chose to do what we think is best rather than follow what *God* says is best and our sin separates us from God. Since those first people sinned, now *all* people sin. No matter how hard we try and fix our sin problem by doing good things, we can never be perfect and whole like God created us to be. Our sin deserves to be punished. Peter made a wrong choice when he denied knowing Jesus, and that choice led to regret, shame, sadness, and brokenness. But even when people sin, God's love for them does not change. God's forgiveness opens the door to a fresh start and being made whole again. Ask, "How?" (*How?*) Let me tell you!

**Script**

(Circle 3) God sent His only Son, Jesus, to make the way for us to be forgiven and be made whole. Jesus lived a perfect life and never sinned, but He died on a cross—taking the punishment we deserve for sin. Then Jesus came back to life, showing that He is more powerful than both sin and death. When Jesus came back to life, He invited Peter to continue following Him. Jesus showed that He loved and forgave Peter, and that forgiveness made Peter whole and complete so He could live the way God created him to live. God forgives us



too! He invites us to respond by confessing our sin to Him, asking for forgiveness, and repenting. This means turning away from sin so we can follow Jesus and be made whole, just like God designed from the beginning. Let me hear you say, “I am forgiven!” (*I am forgiven!*)

So what can you do when you feel ashamed or embarrassed because of a wrong choice? You can talk with God by praying. Tell God you are sorry and ask for His forgiveness. Peter got a fresh start and was made whole because Jesus forgave him and restored him. Jesus can do the same for you. Let me hear you say, “**God can make me whole!**” (**God can make me whole!**) That is right! If you have questions about turning from sin to follow Jesus or want to know more about how God makes you whole, come talk with me or your Team Leader.

Small Group

9. Can't Touch This — Older Game / Small Group Leader

7 minutes

Kids will work in groups to protect one teammate from being tagged.

Big Goal: Understand that God helps when we feel shame or embarrassment over wrong choices.

Leader Prep: None

1. Direct “Peter” and the other two teammates to form a circle, holding each other’s wrists.
2. Instruct the “Tagger” to tag Peter while the other players protect him by moving Peter and the circle away from the Tagger.
3. Switch roles when the Tagger touches Peter or after teams have played for a bit.

Supplies

☐ Stopwatch or timer 1 per group (optional)

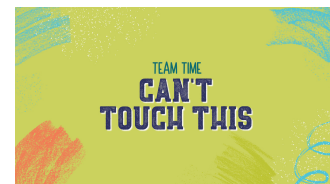
Script

What To Do: We are going to play a game called “Can’t Touch This!” In today’s Bible story, Peter made a wrong choice. But Jesus did not make Peter feel bad or ashamed. Instead, Jesus forgave Peter, inviting Peter to love and follow Him again.

In our game, you will make groups of four people. How many people? (*Four!*) Right! One of you will be “Peter” and one of you will be a “Tagger.” Peter and the other two players will make a circle. The Tagger will try and tag Peter, but the circle of friends will move around to keep Peter safe.

We want to play safely, so do not tug on each other’s arms, pull each other to the ground, or bump into other groups.

If the Tagger tags Peter, change roles and play again. If the Tagger does not tag Peter, change roles after a minute or two.



Leader Tip

Allow five kids in a group or join a group to ensure that all kids can participate.

Smaller Group Option: Invite one player to be a “Timer,” telling the kids when to stop and switch roles. Then that player can switch places with someone so that all kids are able to play.

Larger Group Option: Allow two groups to play while everyone else cheers, then switch.

💡 **Safety Tip**

Monitor safe and gentle play.

💬 **Script**

Loud And Clear: Great job! When we sin and make wrong choices, we can feel bad and embarrassed. It's like those feelings come after us, like the Taggers were going after Peter in our game. We might even wonder if we can be forgiven because we feel so broken. But, like Peter experienced in our Bible story, God can forgive us and make us whole. He helps us love and follow Him, living the incredible way He made us to live. Let me hear you say, **"God can make me whole!"** (*God can make me whole!*)

👥 **Large Group**

10. Video-Led Theme Verse (Option 1) / Large Group Leader

4 minutes

💡 **Leader Tip**

Theme Verse Motions:

As far as the east is from the west, (*Bring your right arm to your side with elbow bent and palm facing out, then do the same with the left.*)

so far has he removed our transgressions from us. (*Push your right arm straight out and around to the right with palm facing out, then do the same with the left, pushing it to the left.*)

Psalms 103:12 (*Hold both hands out like a book.*)

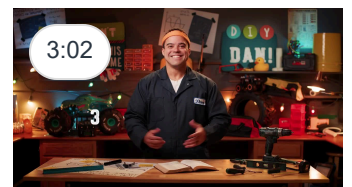
💬 **Script**

Let's learn our Theme verse along with DIY Dan! This Bible verse is all about God's forgiveness and how God gives a fresh start. Let me hear you say, "Fresh start!" (*Fresh start!*)
Awesome job!



Presentation

Play Oct2026_ThemeVerseVideo_Kids



💬 **Script**

Fantastic! This Bible verse reminds us that no matter what wrong choices we make, God can forgive us and give us a fresh start. That word *transgression* is another way to talk about our sinful, wrong choices. God removes our transgressions as far as the east is from the west, which is never ending! Let me hear you say, "Never ending!" (*Never ending!*) This means our



transgressions so far away that they are no longer a part of us. Instead, God makes us whole and helps us follow Him. Say, "I am forgiven!" (*I am forgiven!*) Say, "**God can make me whole!**" (*God can make me whole!*)

11. Host-Led Theme Verse (Option 2) / Large Group Leader

4 minutes

💡 Leader Tip

Choose between the Video-Led Theme Verse option or the Host-Led Theme Verse option. Watch the Theme Verse Video to learn the motions to this month's verse.

Theme Verse Motions:

As far as the east is from the west, (*Bring your right arm to your side with elbow bent and palm facing out, then do the same with the left.*)

so far has he removed our transgressions from us. (*Push your right arm straight out and around to the right with palm facing out, then do the same with the left, pushing it to the left.*)

Psalm 103:12 (*Hold both hands out like a book.*)



Presentation

Play Oct2026_ThemeVerseVideo_Kids



💬 Script

Let's stand up if you are able and learn our Theme verse! This Bible verse is all about God's forgiveness and how God gives a fresh start. Let me hear you say, "Fresh start!" (*Fresh start!*) Awesome job!

Repeat after me: (*Use the motions above.*)

As far as the east is from the west, (*As far as the east is from the west,*)

so far has he removed our transgressions from us. (*so far has he removed our transgressions from us.*)

Psalm 103:12 (*Psalm 103:12*)

You all did an amazing job! Give yourselves a big round of applause! (*Allow time.*) Now, let's go through it one more time, but this time say it in your deepest voice! Practice by saying your name in your deepest voice. (*Allow response.*) Great job! OK, let's do this.

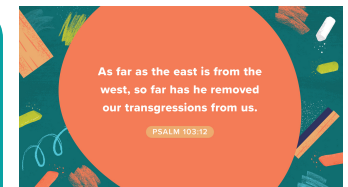
Repeat after me: (*Use the motions above.*)

As far as the east is from the west, (*As far as the east is from the west,*)

so far has he removed our transgressions from us. (*so far has he removed our transgressions from us.*)

Psalm 103:12 (*Psalm 103:12*)

Fantastic! This Bible verse reminds us that no matter what wrong choices we make, God can forgive us and give us a fresh start. That word *transgression* is another way to talk about our sinful, wrong choices. God removes our transgressions as far as the east is from the west, which is never ending! Let me hear you say, "Never ending!" (*Never ending!*) This means our



transgressions are so far away that they are no longer a part of us. Instead, God makes us whole and helps us follow Him. Say, “I am forgiven!” (*I am forgiven!*) Say, “**God can make me whole!**” (*God can make me whole!*)

12. Video-Led Theme Song — Motion Video (Option 1) / Large Group Leader

3 minutes

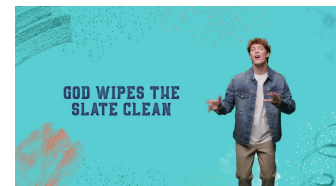
Script

When God forgives us, He gives us a fresh start! Let’s celebrate that together! Stand up, move, and sing along as we learn our Theme song!



Presentation

Play Oct2026_ThemeSong_MotionVideo_FreshStart_Kids



Leader Tip

Consider adding additional video-led worship music for kids.

Small Group

13. Team Time Optional Section / Small Group Leader

10 minutes

Supplies

☐ Bibles 1 per child

*Big Deal/Key Verse Review & Prayer Requests/Prayer Time

Finish up time in your small group pod by reviewing the Theme for the month, the verse and the “Big Deal” for today’s lesson. Ask for prayer requests, pray and wrap up.

Pickup (edit Leader Tip with information below)

During this time children may wait around the room while videos play on the screen. There must be a leader at the door to receive parents and a second leader checking tags as the exit the room.