

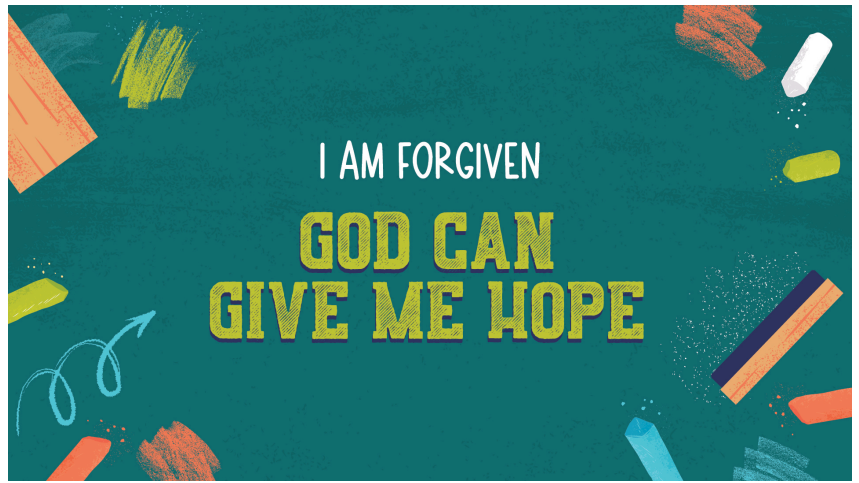


I Am Forgiven — God Can Give Me Hope

Leader Guide • All Leaders

10/18/2026

Center Grove Kids Ministry



Bible Story: The Bronze Snake (Numbers 21:4-9; John 3:14-17)

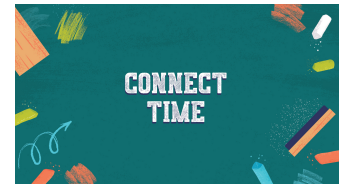
Theme Verse: "As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us." (Psalm 103:12)

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?
- What is an animal you like whose name starts with the same letter as your name?
- What is something you do to help out around your home?
- Where is somewhere you would like to visit and what would you do there?
- If you could create a new holiday, what would happen on that day?



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.



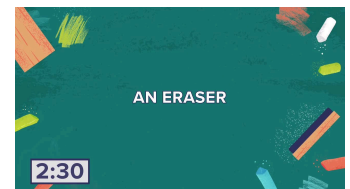
Leader Tip

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_S3_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 everyone! I am ____, and I am so glad you are here today! Can I hear you say, "Fresh start!"? (*Fresh start!*) That is right! Our Theme is *Fresh Start*. When we get a fresh start, it is like the old stuff never happened, and we get to start again. We get a fresh start when we are forgiven by God, which we will learn today. Let me hear you say, "Let's go!" (*Let's go!*)



4. Stage Game — Chalky Matches / Large Group Leader

5 minutes

Supplies

☐ No supplies needed 0 per child

Leader Prep: None

Game Rules:

1. Start the video.

2. Direct kids to march in place while they search for a match between the two sides on the screen, instructing them to jump up and down when they spot it.
3. Encourage kids to give high fives to neighbors when the match is revealed, and they get it right.
4. Play for six rounds until the video ends.

Script

We get to play a game called “Chalky Matches!” Everyone, say, “Let’s see the chalk!” (*Let’s see the chalk!*) Everyone will stand up and start marching in place, and I will start our game video. There will be chalk pictures on the left and right sides of the screen. While the drawings in the pictures look very similar, only two will *actually* match. How many will match? (*Two!*) Right! When you spot the match, start jumping up and down. Be quick! You will only have 10 seconds to spot the match. When the answer is revealed, give a neighbor a high five and celebrate when you get it right. Ready for some “Chalky Matches?” Stand up, start marching in place, and say, “I’m ready!” (*I’m ready!*)



Presentation

Play Oct2026_S3_StageGame_Video1_Kids



Leader Tip

Remind kids to march, jump, and high-five during the game. Participate from up front to encourage whole group participation.

Script

Wow, that was so much fun! Go ahead and sit down. (*Allow time.*) Great job finding those “Chalky Matches.” When we draw with chalk on a board or outside on the sidewalk, it is easy to erase or rinse things off and get a fresh start. Let me hear you say, “Fresh start!” (*Fresh start!*) Today is all about the fresh start that God gives us when we ask Him to forgive us. We all make wrong choices, but God can and loves to forgive us when we ask. Everyone, say, “I am forgiven!” (*I am forgiven!*)



5. Main Idea Video / Large Group Leader

5 minutes

Script

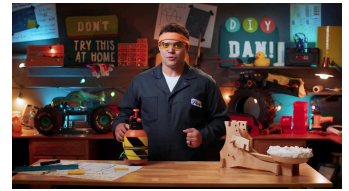
Repeat after me: “Do!” (*Do!*) “It!” (*It!*) “Yourself!” (*Yourself!*) Great repeating! I am not telling you to do something yourself. “DIY” stands for “Do It Yourself.” So let’s gear up for our video featuring the one and only DIY Dan, who knows all about doing things himself. Count down with me and say, “Go!” to get our video started. Ready? 3-2-1! Go!





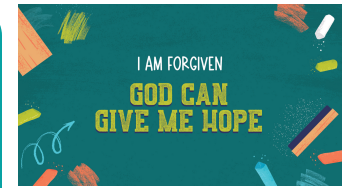
Presentation

Play Oct2026_S3_MainIdeaVideo_Kids



Script

Say, “Ba-Boom!” (*Ba-Boom!*) Say, “Ka-Boom!” (*Ka-Boom!*) Isn’t it awesome that DIY Dan finally got his “Everlast Super Solution” to work? Say, “So awesome!” (*So awesome!*) He *really* wanted to make it work, but it did not seem like a certain thing for those first tests. One thing that is certain for us is the hope we have that God forgives us. *Hope* means trusting that something good will happen. It is different than wishing and wanting because when we wish and want, we do not know for sure if that thing will happen or not. But hope is a for-sure thing. When we experience God’s forgiveness, we can have hope and trust that He will continue to love and forgive us. Let me hear you say, “**God can give me hope!**” (*God can give me hope!*)



6. Object Lesson / Large Group Leader

6 minutes

Supplies



Magnetic building tiles

Several per group



Bible

1 per group

Leader Tip

Bring the magnetic building tiles out with you to use as an object lesson. A small table to hold your Bible and the magnetic building tiles may be helpful as you teach.

Script

Check out these magnetic building tiles! Look how strong they are when we put them together. Can I get a volunteer to come and build something? (*Invite up a volunteer. Encourage kids to cheer and celebrate the creation.*) No matter how many tiles you add, they stick together and make something amazing. You do not have to wonder or be worried that one of them will not stick because the magnets were made specifically for this job! You can trust that they will stick together.

When we see tiles like this, we can remember something about God. Ask, “What can we remember?” (*What can we remember?*) We can remember that we can know and trust that God will “stick” with us through His love and forgiveness. God’s forgiveness means we never have to worry that He will leave us on our own. Sometimes we make wrong choices that leave us feeling broken and worried, and that can feel like we are breaking apart. But here is the amazing part—God’s forgiveness is stronger than anything we do wrong. He keeps us close, helps us start over, builds us up to be the people He wants us to be, and gives us hope.

Remember, *hope* means trusting that something good will happen. When we wish and want, we do not know for sure if that thing will happen or not. But hope is a for-sure thing. We can always have hope and trust that God will give us His love and forgiveness. Let me hear you say, “**God can give me hope!**” (*God can give me hope!*)



When you feel sad, ashamed, or like you have made a mistake that cannot be repaired, remember the tiles. We can still trust God's love. Because God gives us hope, we can know He will stick with us. He never stops loving us! He forgives us, gives us hope, and helps us grow into something amazing!

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

7 minutes

Supplies

Script

(Open the Bible.) Now we get to hear from the Bible, which is God's true message to us about Himself, and today we are going to look at a story from the Old Testament. The Old Testament is what we call the first part of the Bible. And spoiler alert! We are also going to see how this Bible story in the Old Testament connects to the New Testament, which is the second part of the Bible. Let's check it out and see how these two parts connect together! We get to hear from Mr. Kirkman, who is a counselor at a school. He will show us how today's Bible story teaches us that God can give us hope! When I say, "Go," you say, "**God can give me hope!**" to get our Bible story started. Ready? Go! *(God can give me hope!)*



Presentation

Play Oct2026_S3_BibleStoryVideo_Kids



Script

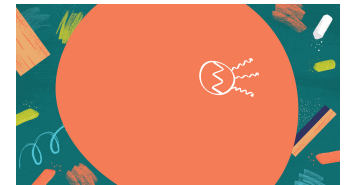
The Israelites were punished because of their wrong choices. But God did not leave them alone. Instead, God gave the people hope. What did God give the people? (*Hope!*) Right! God had their leader Moses make a bronze snake statue and put it on a pole so he could hold it high. Everyone who looked at it would be healed. It is amazing that God's Son, Jesus, talked about this true story. Say, "True story!" (*True story!*) Jesus taught that, like the people who looked at the snake statue in the story were healed from the snake bite, everyone who looks to Jesus and trusts in Him will be rescued from sin! Let me hear you say, "That is awesome!" (*That is awesome!*) This story reminds us that God gives us hope, even when we make wrong choices. God wants to help us start fresh, and He offers us forgiveness when we ask. Everybody, say, "I am forgiven!" (*I am forgiven!*)

Now sometimes we might wonder, *Will God always forgive me?* The answer is yes! Say, "Yes!" (*Yes!*) Yes, God will always forgive us when we ask! Even when we make wrong choices, God forgives us. Because of that, we can have great hope and trust that God will love us now and forever. How long? (*Forever!*) You got it! God's love never fades and never goes away, so we can know that His love and forgiveness are available when we ask. That is what hope is all about!

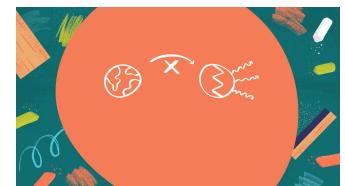
**Script**

(*Circle 2*) The story of the bronze snake helps us understand something important about God and about us. In the desert, God's people made wrong choices and sinned. They complained, disobeyed, and turned away from what God told them was best. Because of those wrong choices, things went wrong, and people got hurt. That happens to us too. We say things we should not say, do things that are unkind, and choose to do things that we know are wrong. *Sin* is when we choose to do what we think is best rather than follow what *God* says is best.

We all sin, and our sin separates us from God. No matter how hard we try, we cannot fix our sin problem on our own. In our Bible story, God's people deserved to be punished because of their sin. Our sin deserves punishment too. But in the same way God provided for the Israelites so they could be rescued, God provides for us too, and that's what gives us hope!

**Script**

(*Circle 1*) In the very beginning, God created a perfect world, and He created people to live in a perfect relationship with Him. God planned to be near, care for, and guide His people. God did not create people to be stuck in our wrong choices or separated from Him. He made us to be whole, loved, and full of hope in Him. Sin broke that perfect world and relationship, but part of God's perfect plan has always been to make the way for us to have a relationship with Him.

**Script**

(*Circle 3*) That is where the good news comes in! From the beginning, God and His only Son, Jesus, had this rescue plan in place. Jesus came and died on a cross to take the punishment we deserve for sin. Like the Israelites looked up at the bronze snake statue and were healed,



people can now look to Jesus and know He is the Son of God who came to rescue people from sin. Jesus came back to life, showing He is the true King of the world who has power over sin and death. He made the one and only way for us to be forgiven and have life with God forever. How long can we have life with God? *(Forever!)* Right!

The people in our Bible story who looked to the snake were rescued from death ... for a little while. But God had a greater rescue in mind—one that would secure eternal life even beyond death. No matter what sinful choices we have made, or will make, we can have hope in a life with God forever because of His forgiveness. We are forgiven when we turn from sin to believe, trust, and follow Jesus! Because of Jesus, forgiveness is always possible, and hope is always available. Repeat after me, **“God can give me hope!”** *(God can give me hope!)*

So what does this mean for your life? You can know that, when you sin, you can respond by turning to God. You can ask God for forgiveness, and you can trust that He still loves you and gives you a fresh start. You do not have to just wish or want God to forgive you. You can have hope and know for sure that He will!

If you ever feel unsure or have questions about following Jesus, forgiveness, or hope, you do not have to figure it out alone. You can talk with a leader here today or someone you trust at home. God’s forgiveness never runs out, and we can have hope in that truth.

Say it again, “I am forgiven!” *(I am forgiven!)* Say, **“God can give me hope!”** *(God can give me hope!)* Great job!

Small Group

9. High-Ten Toss — Older Game / Small Group Leader

6 minutes

Kids will toss and catch table tennis balls while trying to high-ten each other as many times as they can.

Big Goal: See that wishing and wanting are different than the hope we have in God and His forgiveness.

Leader Prep: Set out supplies.

1. Place kids in pairs, providing each pair with a table tennis ball.
2. Direct kids to toss the ball into the air and high-ten each other as many times as they can before one player in the pair catches the table tennis ball. Their total only counts if someone in the pair catches the ball.
3. Challenge kids to play until they can get 10 high tens.

Supplies

☐ Table tennis balls 3–8 per group

Script

What To Do: Turn to a neighbor and give a high five. *(Allow response.)* Now turn to another neighbor and give a high ten with both hands. *(Allow response.)* That is what you will need to do in our game called “High-Ten Toss.” I will assign you to pairs and give your pair a table tennis ball. Once you have it, you will find your own space in the room.

On my signal, one of you will toss up your table tennis ball, then the two of you will high-ten as many times as you can before one of you catches the ball. Your high tens only count if one of you actually catches the ball. Your goal is to try and high-ten 10 times. How many times? *(Ten!)* Raise your hand if you think you can do it? *(Allow responses.)* We will find out! Let’s get into pairs and play!



Keep It Going: Switch pairs and allow kids to play again. Set a higher number than 10 high tens if a pair is able to succeed. Play with groups of three or four, challenging kids to high-ten kids on either side of them.

Safety Tip

Monitor that kids are not giving hard high tens and that they are not interfering with other groups as they try to catch their table tennis balls.

Script

Loud And Clear: Way to high-ten! Turn to a friend and give one more high ten. *(Allow response.)* You may have really wanted or wished to get 10 high tens, but you could not know for sure if it would happen—especially *before* you even started playing. But today we learned there is a difference between wishing and wanting verses the hope that God can give us. Wishing for and wanting something is not bad, but we do not know if it will actually happen or not. With God, we have hope and can know for sure, without a doubt, that He will love and forgive us no matter what. Let me hear you say, **“God can give me hope!”** *(God can give me hope!)*

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 arm right 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.)*

Script

We are about to learn our Theme verse together, along with DIY Dan! This Bible verse reminds us that God’s forgiveness gives us hope. Get ready as we learn it together!





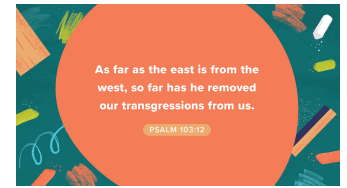
Presentation

Play Oct2026_ThemeVerseVideo_Kids



Script

Way to go! This Bible verse says that God removes our transgressions as far as the east is from the west, which is another way of saying sin is removed farther than we could ever see or measure! This is why we can have hope that God will love and forgive us when we confess our sin and ask for His forgiveness. Say, **“God can give me hope!”** (*God can give me hope!*) When we remember this Bible verse, we can trust that God is always ready to forgive and give us a fresh start.



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

3 minutes

Script

God forgives us and gives us hope, helping us start fresh! Let's celebrate that together! Stand up and get ready to follow along as we sing and celebrate the hope God gives us!



Presentation

Play Oct2026_ThemeSong_MotionVideo_FreshStart_Kids



Leader Tip

Consider adding additional video-led worship music for kids.

Small Group

12. 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.