I Am Forgiven — God Can Give Me Grace

Leader Guide • All Leaders

10/25/2026

Center Grove Kids Ministry

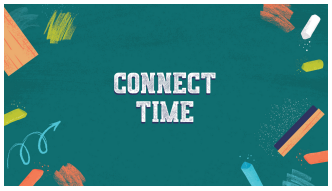
Bible Story: The Forgiving God (Psalm 103)
Theme Verse: “As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.” (Psalm 103:12)

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?
- Who do you like to spend time with outside of school?
- Would you rather jump in a big pile of leaves or go on a hayride? What makes that choice the most fun for you?
- What are five foods you would like to take on a picnic?
- What do you think it would be like to see in the dark? What adventures would you go on?

Large Group

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_S4_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! My name is ____, and I am so glad to be here with you today! Turn to your neighbor and ask, “Are you ready to have some fun?” *(Are you ready to have some fun?)* Give that neighbor a fist bump and say, “Yes, I am!” *(Yes, I am!)* Today we are going to learn how God gives us a fresh start! Let me hear you say, “Fresh start!” *(Fresh start!)* So fresh! Now let’s jump into some fun!

4. Stage Game — Five-Cup Flip / Large Group Leader

7 minutes

Supplies

- [ ] Table — 3 per group
- [ ] Plastic cups — 15 per group
- [ ] Table tennis balls — 15 per group

Leader Prep: Set the tables at the front with the long sides facing the audience. Place five cups, facedown, on each table and place a table tennis ball on the top of each cup.

Game Rules:

1. Invite three players from the Blue, Purple, and Yellow Teams to the front, directing players to line up behind one of the tables.
2. Start the game.
3. Direct the first player on each team to turn over one cup at a time, placing the table tennis balls inside each cup. Challenge the next players to turn each of their cups back over, placing the table tennis balls back on top of the cups, while the next players will again reverse the action.
4. Instruct each player to flip cups for two turns. The first team to finish wins.
5. Play again with players from the Red, Orange, and Green Teams.
6. Lead a final championship round with the winners from each game.

Script

Host Script: We have a fun game challenge called "Five-Cup Flip!" To play this game, we need three players for the first round to come to the front—one from each of the Blue, Purple, and Yellow Teams. *(Select players and line them up behind the tables.)*

When I say, "Go!" the first player on each team will turn over your cups one at a time and put each cup's table tennis ball inside. As soon as you are done, hurry to the back of your line because the next player will turn the cups *back* over, placing the table tennis balls back on top of each cup. Then the third player on your team will—you guessed it—flip the cups *back* over and place the table tennis balls back inside. Each player will flip your team's cups two times. How many times? *(Two!)* Right! The first team to finish wins.

Everyone else, cheer on your teams! 3-2-1 Go!

(Allow kids to play, cheering and keeping the energy high. Announce the winning team and allow those players to stand to the side while the other players sit down.)

We have three more teams who need to compete so we can have a championship round with the ____ Team. So let's get three players for the second round to come to the front—one from each of the Red, Orange, and Green Teams. *(Invite players.)*

You already know how to play, so let's see you get flipping in 3-2-1 Go!

(Allow kids to play, cheering and keeping the energy high. Announce the winning team, inviting those players to stay while the others sit down.)

Time for the championship! We've got the ____ Team versus the ____ Team. Who will win? Teams, line up behind a table. Everyone else, get ready to cheer. Let's play in 3-2-1 Go!

(Allow kids to play, cheering and keeping the energy high. Announce the winning team.)

Leader Tip

Consider organizing teams in different ways if you do not utilize team colors, such as grades or boys versus girls.

Script

Congratulations to the ____ Team! Let's cheer for all our players as these teams sit down. *(Allow time.)* Like how the players in our game took turns and started each round ready to play, God does something even better for us. When we make wrong choices, God forgives us and gives us a fresh start—a clean slate. We don't stay stuck in our wrong choices. We get to

experience God's forgiveness every time we ask! Say, "I am forgiven!" *(I am forgiven!)* When we make wrong choices, we can know that God does not leave us stuck and alone. Instead, He loves and forgives us and lets us keep going with a fresh start and clean slate when we ask. Everyone, say, "Fresh start!" *(Fresh start!)*

5. Main Idea Video / Large Group Leader

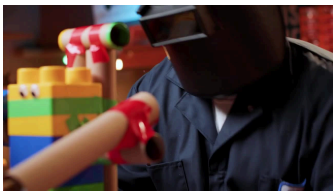
5 minutes

Script

Have you ever invented something or made anything from scratch? Many people like to turn different spaces, like sheds or garages, into their own personal Do-It-Yourself creative spaces. And that's what the star of our video, DIY Dan, has done! To get our video started, say, "Let's DIY!" *(Lets DIY!)*

Presentation

Play Oct2026_S4_MainIdeaVideo_Kids



Script

DIY Dan broke his son's invention, which was disappointing. Give a thumbs-down and say, "That's too bad!" *(That's too bad!)* But when DIY Dan's son, David, saw what happened, he did not get mad at his dad. Instead, David forgave him. Give a thumbs-up and say, "Great job!" *(Great job!)* Even though DIY Dan did not do anything to earn David's forgiveness, David forgave him anyway. That reminds us of *grace*, which is God's undeserved love and forgiveness.

When it comes to God, He shows us grace too! Point to yourself and say, "Who, me?" *(Who, me?)* Yes, you! God loves us even when we do not deserve it, and He shows us grace by forgiving us for our wrong choices. Everyone, say, **"God can give me grace!"** ***(God can give me grace!)*** God does not stay angry or hold our wrong choices against us. God loves and forgives us, no matter what. Grace is amazing!

6. Object Lesson / Large Group Leader

5 minutes

Supplies

- [ ] Clay — 6 per group
- [ ] Stopwatch or timer — 1 per group
- [ ] Bible — 1 per group

Leader Tip

Bring the clay out with you to use as an object lesson. A small table to hold your Bible, stopwatch, and the clay may be helpful as you teach.

Script

Host Script: Let's get one volunteer from each team to join me at the front and take a piece of clay. *(Allow time.)* You have 30 seconds to make something with your clay and see if the rest of us can guess what it is. Everyone else, cheer for your teammates. Ready? Go! *(Allow time, including a brief time for guessing.)* Thanks, volunteers. You can hand the clay back and sit down. *(Allow time.)* That was a challenge! I am sure you would have liked more time to make something, but none of you gave up.

As we saw when our volunteers only had 30 seconds to make something, shaping and molding clay does not happen all at once. It takes time, care, and attention. Even when the art isn't shaping up like the artist planned, the artist does not give up. That is kind of like how God interacts with us.

When we make wrong choices, God does not give up on us. He gives us grace. God shows us what? *(Grace!)* You got it! *Grace* is God's undeserved love. God does not reject us when we make wrong choices; He gives us a fresh start by forgiving us. Each time God forgives us and gives us a fresh start, it is like an artist starting again with clay. The *clay* does not have to try and make things right or better on its own. Instead, the artist keeps working. Like clay, God is shaping us into amazing people. When we make wrong choices, He does not give up on us. He does not tell us to fix ourselves. Instead, He forgives us when we ask, even when we do not deserve it. God's grace, love, and forgiveness are so amazing. Repeat after me: **"God can give me grace!"** ***(God can give me grace!)***

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

8 minutes

Supplies

Script

(Open the Bible.) Today we are going to hear a story from the Bible about God's grace. A story from where? *(The Bible!)* That is right! The Bible is God's true message to us about Himself. We get to hear today's Bible story from a school counselor named Mr. Kirkman. The Bible story comes from Psalm 103. Psalm what? *(103!)* Right! A *psalm* is a special song written to or about God, and today, we are going to learn about a psalm that talks about God's amazing forgiveness and grace to us. Let's get our Bible story started by saying, "I am forgiven!" in 3-2-1! *(I am forgiven!)*

Presentation

Play Oct2026_S4_BibleStoryVideo_Kids

8. Make The Connection / Large Group Leader

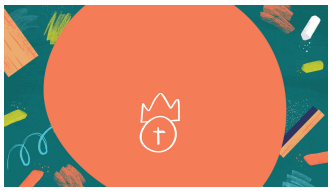
5 minutes

Script

Psalm 103 teaches us that God is kind, loving, and slow to get angry. God removes our *transgressions*, or sins, far from us. *Sin* is when we choose to do what *we* think is best rather than follow what *God* says is best. Sin is big deal, but God's grace and love are bigger. God forgives us and does not hold the wrong choices we make against us. No matter what wrong choice we make, God can forgive us.

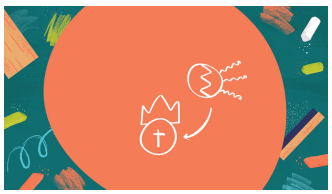
And the best part? We do not have to clean ourselves or make ourselves better to earn His forgiveness. We cannot earn forgiveness by being perfect or making all the right choices. God gives us forgiveness because He loves us, even when we do not deserve it. That is *grace*—God's amazing love that we do not earn or deserve. Let me hear you say, **"God can give me grace."** ***(God can give me grace!)*** That is right! Because of God's grace, we get a fresh start. No matter what wrong choices we make, God is ready to forgive us and help us forgive ourselves. He helps us let go of guilt and shame and, instead, gives us a fresh start. Say, "Fresh start!" *(Fresh start!)* When we understand grace, it can change how we live. We do not have to stay stuck in guilt or shame. We can trust God, ask for forgiveness, and let Him make things right again.

God has always had a plan to show His grace to people, even when they did not deserve it.



Script

(Circle 3) Before the world was even made, God and His Son, Jesus, had a plan to show love and forgiveness. When the right time came, God sent Jesus to share His love and forgiveness with the world. Jesus died on a cross, taking the punishment we deserve for our sin and wrong choices. When Jesus came back to life, He showed that He is more powerful than sin and death. He made the way for us to enjoy a relationship with God and His love and forgiveness forever.



Script

(Circle 2) Our sinful, wrong choices break our relationship with God. Since God is holy and perfect, sin makes Him angry because it goes against His perfect design. We can try and try, but we cannot fix our sin problem on our own. But because of God's *grace*—His undeserved love and forgiveness—we do not have to try to prove ourselves and earn His love. Instead, when we make wrong choices, we can turn to God and ask for forgiveness. He always says yes to forgiveness and removes our sin as far as the east is from the west! He is no longer angry because He forgives us and gives us a fresh start!

We cannot earn forgiveness and do not deserve it, but that is God's amazing grace toward us. In another book of the Bible called Romans, chapter five, verse eight it says, "But God proves his own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Jesus died for us

even when we were still broken by sin. That is grace, and God's grace is amazing! Everyone, say, "I am forgiven!" *(I am forgiven!)*

Script

(Circle 1) When we trust and follow Jesus, we experience His grace and forgiveness. Like we read in Psalm 103, God has compassion for us. He gives us grace, no matter what wrong choice we have made. In the very beginning, God created everything perfect and made people to have a perfect relationship with Him. While sin broke that perfect relationship, one day Jesus will return and make everything right and perfect again. Until then, we can keep enjoying God's underserved love and forgiveness and allow Him to help us love and follow Him.

So what does this mean for you and me? Sin can make us feel bad. We feel sad, ashamed, guilty, and embarrassed. But we cannot out-sin God's love. When we feel guilty over sin, we can remember God's amazing grace—the truth that He loves and forgives us, even when we do not deserve it. We can respond by confessing our sin to God and asking Him to forgive us, then turning away from our sin to follow His way instead. God gives us a fresh start and exchanges our shame and guilt for His love, grace, and forgiveness. He helps us make right choices that honor Him and show His grace to other people. That is what real forgiveness looks and feels like. It frees us from guilt, helps make things right, and fills our hearts with peace and joy.

You can talk to me or a Team Leader about what it means to follow Jesus and respond to His forgiveness. Ask questions, share your thoughts, or just talk about what you are learning.

God's love is bigger than our wrong choices, and it is nothing we can earn. He gives us a fresh start and helps us live the way He made us to live. Let me hear you say, "Amazing!" *(Amazing!)* His grace is always with you, and every day is a chance for a fresh start. Say, **"God can give me grace!"** ***(God can give me grace!)***

Small Group

9. Compassion Collection — Older Game / Small Group Leader

8 minutes

Kids will challenge each other to full-body rounds of "Rock, Paper, Scissors," winning and losing tissues as they play.

Big Goal: Understand the connection between God's compassion and grace.

Leader Prep: None

1. Distribute two tissues to each child.
2. Demonstrate how to play a full-body game of "Rock, Paper, Scissors." Jump up and down as you say, "Rock, Paper, Scissors." On the word, "Go," jump and land with your choice: legs together is "Rock," legs out to the side is "Paper," one leg in front of the other is "Scissors."
3. Instruct players that the loser must give the winner a tissue. When players run out of tissues, they must sit down until someone else gives them a tissue.

Supplies

- [ ] Tissues — 2 per child

Script

What To Do: In today's Bible story, Psalm 103 says that God shows us *compassion*, which means He sees our suffering because of sin and takes action to help. We get to play a game where you will have a chance to show compassion to each other. Each of you will start this game with two tissues. How many tissues? *(Two!)* Right. You will find a friend and play "Rock, Paper, Scissors." But this is not your ordinary "Rock, Paper, Scissors." This will involve your whole body, so everyone, stand up and we will learn the moves together. *(Allow time.)*

When we say, "Rock, Paper, Scissors," we will jump up and down on each word instead of knocking a fist on our palms. Let's give it a try! *(Demonstrate and lead kids.)*

Great! Now, on the word, "Go," we will jump and then land in our move. For "Rock," jump and land with your legs together. *(Demonstrate.)* Let's practice by jumping while we say, "Rock, Paper, Scissors," then choose "Rock" on, "Go." *(Demonstrate and lead kids.)*

Awesome! For "Paper," you will jump and land with your legs out to the sides. *(Demonstrate.)* Let's try again with "Rock, Paper, Scissors," ending with "Paper" as our move. *(Demonstrate and lead kids.)*

You have got it! Finally, for "Scissors," you will jump and land with one leg in front of the other. *(Demonstrate.)* Ready? Let's try it with "Rock, Paper, Scissors," ending with "Scissors" as our move. *(Demonstrate and lead kids.)*

Now you are ready to play! You will find a friend and play a full-body game of "Rock, Paper, Scissors." When you lose, you give the winner a tissue. When you run out of tissues, sit down. But teammates can show compassion by giving you one of their tissues, inviting you back into the game. Let's play!

Keep It Going: Play again and only give each kid one tissue, which makes for a lot more sitting out and choosing to show compassion!

Script

Loud And Clear: Great playing! Even better was getting to watch you all show compassion. You saw teammates sitting on the floor, not playing, and you took action to help. That is what God does for us when He forgives us. He saw us suffering because of the brokenness caused by sin, and He took action. He sent His Son, Jesus, to make the way for us to be forgiven. And God's compassion is tied to His grace because He made that way for us to be forgiven, even though we did nothing to deserve it. God shows compassion and grace to every person who turns from sin to love and follow Him. Say, **"God can give me grace!"** ***(God can give me grace!)***

Large Group

10. Video-Led Theme Verse (Option 1) / Large Group Leader — 4 minutes

Leader Tip

Theme Verse Motions:

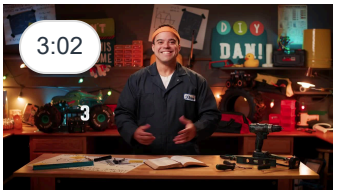
As far as the east is from the west, *(Bring your right arm to your side with elbow bent and palm facing out, then do the same with the left.)*
so far has he removed our transgressions from us. *(Push your right arm straight out and around to the right with palm facing out, then do the same with the left, pushing it to the left.)*
Psalm 103:12 *(Hold both hands out like a book.)*

Script

Everyone, let's learn our Theme verse along with DIY Dan! This Bible verse reminds us that God gives us *grace*—His undeserved love—which helps us start fresh. Our Theme verse is from today's Bible story, which is awesome!

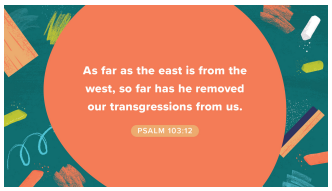
Presentation

Play Oct2026_ThemeVerseVideo_Kids



Script

Fantastic work! That word *transgressions* is another way to talk about sins and wrong choices. This Bible verse teaches us something really important about God. God removes our transgressions, or sins, as far as the east is from the west, which means so far that we cannot even measure the distance! The fact that He removes our sins so far and completely is an example of His undeserved love and forgiveness. When we remember God gives us grace, we can start fresh and trust Him every day. Say, **"God can give me grace!"** ***(God can give me grace!)***



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.