

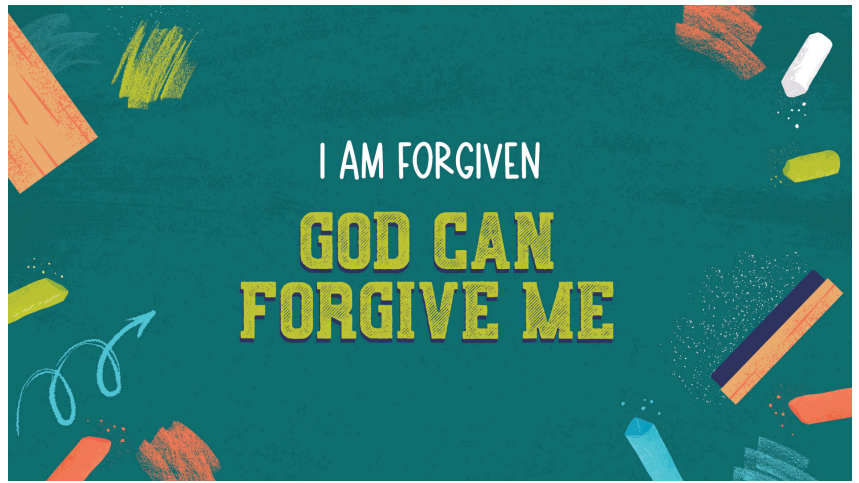


I Am Forgiven — God Can Forgive Me

Leader Guide • All Leaders

10/04/2026

Center Grove Kids Ministry



Bible Story: Jesus Forgave and Healed a Man (Mark 2:1-12; Luke 5:17-26)

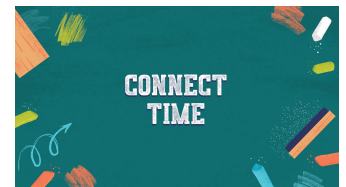
Theme Verse: "As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us." (Psalm 103:12)

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 your favorite thing to do after school?
- What are some things you like about your friends?
- How long have you lived here, and what are some of your favorite things about where we live?
- If you could change places with anyone in the world, who would it be and what would you do?



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

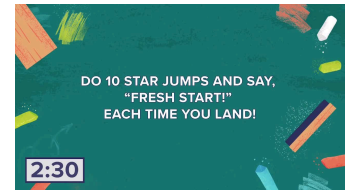
Help kids engage and interact with the video by calling out what is happening, asking for their guesses, and cheering with

them.



Presentation

Play Oct2026_S1_CountdownVideo_Kids



3. Welcome / Large Group Leader

2 minutes

Leader Tip

Move to the front during the last 15 seconds of the timer to get the kids excited and lead them to count down the last 10 seconds.

Script

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.



4. Stage Game — Old And New / Large Group Leader

10 minutes

Supplies

☐ “Old And New” printable 1 per group

Leader Prep: Print the “Old And New” printable on cardstock, 10 pages total. Shuffle the papers.

Game Rules:

1. Select five volunteers to come to the stage and hold one paper in each hand, making sure the images are hidden from the rest of the group.
2. Invite two players to compete against each other in finding matches.
3. Direct one player to point to two cards, asking those volunteers to turn over their cards one at a time.
4. Award one point to the team if the player makes a correct pair of matching old and new objects or have the players turn their cards back over and move to the other team if it is not a match.
5. Alternate turns until all matches have been found.
6. Track points for each team and announce the team with the most matches as the winner.

Script

All right friends, we are going to play a super fun game called “Old and New!” Old and what? (*New!*) First, I need five volunteers to come to the front and be card holders. You will hold your card with the picture facing you so no one else can see it. These cards have old and new pictures of the same items. (*Call players and distribute papers.*)

Next, two players will compete against each other to find matches. (*Choose players.*)



Players, on your turn, you will point at one volunteer's hand, who will flip over that card. Then you will point at another volunteer's hand, who will flip over that card. If you match an old item with the new version of that item, then you earn a point. If there is no match, then those volunteers will flip their cards back over, and the other player gets a turn. We will keep going until all the matches are found. Everybody cheer for our players. You can even give suggestions to help the players on their turns! Let me hear you say, "Let's go!" (*Let's go!*)

Keep It Going: Shuffle the papers and play again with new volunteers and players. Allow kids to point and motion to communicate rather than talking.

Script

Look at how our players worked together. Everybody, say, "We did it together!" (*We did it together!*) And a special congratulations to the winners from the ____ Teams! Let's cheer for all our players and volunteers while they take a seat. (*Allow time.*)

Those "new" pictures were like a fresh change from the "old" pictures. Going from old to new like that can remind us of the fresh start God offers us. We all make wrong choices that go against God's best plans for us. Those wrong choices are called *sin*, and sin is a big deal because it breaks our relationship with God. But God made the way for us to have a fresh start and be forgiven of our wrong choices. We can all be forgiven by God when we ask Him. Everybody say, "I am forgiven!" (*I am forgiven!*) When we ask God to forgive us, He does. Always! How often does God forgive us when we ask? (*Always!*) When I say, "What are you?" you say, "I am forgiven!" "What are you?" (*I am forgiven!*)



5. Main Idea Video / Large Group Leader

5 minutes

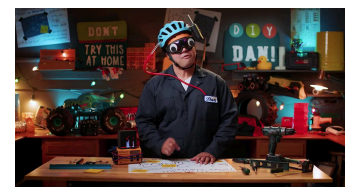
Script

Sometimes people will take something old and make something new, giving it a fresh start. Well, that is what DIY Dan loves to do! Ask, "Who is DIY Dan?" (*Who is DIY Dan?*) Get ready to meet him by saying, "Let's DIY!" (*Let's DIY!*)



Presentation

Play Oct2026_S1_MainIdeaVideo_Kids



Script

A "How-Sorry-Are-You Machine" seems like a good idea, but Dan *actually* apologizing to his neighbor was a much better idea. Say, "Much better idea, Dan!" (*Much better idea, Dan!*) Dan needed to ask his neighbor for forgiveness, but we *all* need to ask God for forgiveness. We all make wrong choices, and those wrong choices need to be forgiven. The great thing we get to learn today is that God can forgive us. Everyone, say, "**God can forgive me!**" (*God can forgive me!*)



Supplies

☐ Magnetic drawing board1 per group ☐ Bible

1 per group

 Leader Tip

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

 Script

I have something really cool to show you today. This is a magnetic drawing board. Everyone, say, "Ooo!" (*Ooo!*) Say, "Ahh!" (*Ahh!*) What can I do with this? (*Draw a big smiling face.*) Can you guess what it is? (*A smiley face!*) Right, a smiley face! Can I get a volunteer to come and draw something else? (*Invite a child to the front and quietly instruct her to draw a tree without erasing the face. Show it to the audience.*) What do we have now? (*Allow responses.*) Yes, a tree. But it is a little hard to see. Can I get another volunteer to come and draw something else? (*Invite another child to the front and quietly instruct him to draw a house without erasing anything else. Show it to the audience.*) What do you think it is? (*Allow responses.*) It is a house, but it is getting more and more difficult to see!

The more we draw on this magnetic board, the bigger mess we make. Say, "Big mess!" (*Big mess!*) But when I shake it, it wipes away the old drawing and gives a fresh start. (*Shake the board.*) Wow! Let me hear you say, "Fresh start!" (*Fresh start!*) God can forgive us and give us a fresh start too. We all make wrong choices when we choose our own way rather than following God's way, and those things are like the scribbles on the board. But we do not have to be fresh and spotless before God forgives us.

When we admit that we make wrong choices and ask God to forgive us, He doesn't hold our wrong choices against us. Instead, God forgives us, and *He* is the One who gives us a fresh start. Everybody, say, "Fresh start!" (*Fresh start!*) That is right. That means when we make a wrong choice, we do not have to stay stuck feeling bad or thinking God will not love us anymore. We can trust that God is ready to forgive us, every single time. And just like I can start a new picture on this board, we can start fresh every day with God. Say, "**God can forgive me!**" (*God can forgive me!*)



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

Supplies

 Script

(*Open the Bible.*) Today, we get to hear an amazing true story from the Bible. From where? (*The Bible.*) The Bible is God's true message to us about Himself. Today's Bible story comes from two books in the New Testament called Mark and Luke. Let me hear you say, "Mark and Luke!" (*Mark and Luke!*) Good job. Mr. Kirkman, who is a counselor at Cherry Hill Academy, will tell us all about God's forgiveness. Let's count down to watch the Bible story together! 3-2-1!





Presentation

Play Oct2026_S1_BibleStoryVideo_Kids



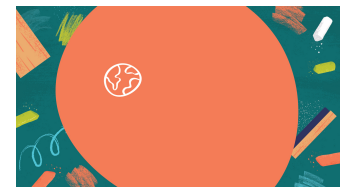
Script

Imagine what it would be like to not be able to walk and then to meet Jesus. You hope He will heal you because others have been healed by Him. But then you get to experience His forgiveness *and* healing! The man and his friends may have thought the best thing Jesus could do was heal the man's body. But Jesus gave the man something better! Jesus showed that He has the power to forgive sins and give the man a fresh start, even when it seems impossible.

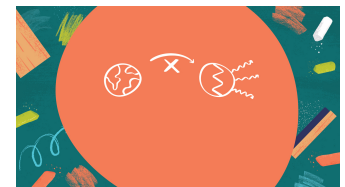
You might wonder if forgiveness is *actually* better than physical healing. You might even think, *But what if I do not think my choices are wrong, and I do not feel like I need forgiveness?* That is a really good question. Sometimes we might not realize our choices hurt ourselves or others. Sometimes we don't even realize the choices we make are *actually* wrong and go against what God says is best. The truth is that sin is a big problem. In fact, it is such a big problem that we need help to fix it.

**Script**

(Circle 1) When God created the world, it was perfect and good. No one needed God's forgiveness and a fresh start because everything was perfect. God designed people to have a perfect relationship with Him and others and while enjoying the world He created. But something went super wrong! Say, "Super wrong!" (*Super wrong!*) Remember today's Bible story? The man we learned about was hurting on the outside and on the inside. That's not part of the perfect world God made. Everybody ask, "What went wrong?" (*What went wrong?*)

**Script**

(Circle 2) When we look at our world and even ourselves, we can see that there *is* brokenness. We can see that the world and people are not perfect, like how God created them. Point one hand to your left and one to your right. (*Demonstrate and allow time.*) See how our hands are pointing in opposite directions? That is like us choosing to do what we think is best instead of following what God says is best and that is called *sin*. The first two people God created sinned, and since then, all people sin. Sin breaks our perfect relationship with God. When we make choices that hurt others, ourselves, or our relationship with God, we might not think it is a big deal. Sometimes, we can be like the man in the story who could not walk. He thought he just needed his legs to be healed. But like him, you and I also need God's forgiveness more than anything else. While our sin is bad news, there is good news! Say, "Good news!" (*Good news!*)

**Script**

(Circle 3) Jesus came to make the way for us to be forgiven. God sent Jesus, His only Son, to take the punishment we deserve for our sins. Let me hear you say, "Wow" (*Wow!*) Jesus was perfect and never sinned, but when He died, He took our punishment for sin. When Jesus came back to life on the third day after He died, He showed that He is more powerful than both



sin and death. Through this, Jesus made a way for us to be forgiven. Jesus showed the man in today's Bible story that He could offer God's forgiveness. God can also forgive our sins and give us a fresh start.

If we ever wonder whether or not we *really* need God's forgiveness, we can remember that we are not the ones who decide. God is! And what He says about us in the Bible is actually true, even if it goes against what we feel. Our feelings can deceive us, but God's truth will never trick or deceive us. And what God says is true! Every person needs to be forgiven and receive a fresh start. Point to yourself and say, "Who, me?" (*Who, me?*) Yes, you! All people everywhere need forgiveness!

God forgives us when ask Him; then we can repent and turn away from sin to trust and follow Jesus instead. Point one hand to the left and one to the right again. (*Demonstrate and allow time.*) Now take your right hand and point to the left, just like your left hand is pointing. (*Allow time.*) That is what *repentance*, or turning away from sin to follow God, looks like. We *repent* when we turn from going our own way and choose to follow God's way. Let me hear you say, **"God can forgive me!"** (***God can forgive me!***) We all need forgiveness, and God can forgive us. Say, "God gives me a fresh start!" (*God gives me a fresh start!*)

If you have questions or want to know more about forgiveness and Jesus, talk with me or your Team Leader.

Small Group

9. Fresh Start Bowling — Older Game / Small Group Leader

9 minutes

Kids take turns rolling a playground ball to knock over plastic cups.

Big Goal: Know that that there is no sin too big for God's forgiveness.

Leader Prep: Set out supplies.

1. Place kids on two teams, providing each team with paper, pencils, child-safe scissors, tape, and plastic cups.
2. Invite kids to work with their team to write 10 wrong choices kids their age make, cutting apart and taping each choice on its own plastic cup.
3. Direct each team to set up their cups in a triangle, like a traditional bowling setup.
4. Allow kids to take turns with their teams rolling playground balls to try and knock over their cups. Once the cups are knocked over, reset the cups and play again.

Supplies

☐ Blank paper	2 per group	☐ Pencils	2 per group
☐ Child-safe scissors	2 per group	☐ Clear tape	2 per group
☐ Playground balls	2 per group	☐ Plastic cups	20 per group

Script

What To Do: We are going to play a game called "Fresh Start Bowling!" Everybody, say, "Fresh Start Bowling!" (*Fresh Start Bowling!*) First, let's make two teams. (*Allow time.*) With your team, brainstorm and write down 10 wrong choices kids your age might make, such as lying, disobeying parents, being mean, and so forth. Once you write all 10, cut them out and tape each one on a plastic cup. (*Allow time.*)



Now work together to set up your cups on one side of the room in a triangle, like bowling pins. *(Allow time, assisting as needed.)* Now, line up on the other side of the room and take turns rolling your playground ball to knock over the cups. Once they are all knocked over, set them up again and keep playing. Try to get a strike if you can!

Keep It Going: Set up the cups on the opposite sides of the room, challenging kids to try and knock over the other team's cups. On each turn, kids can choose to roll the playground ball or set up one of their own team's knocked-over cups.

💡 **Leader Tip**

Stand where you can see all the kids and cheer for each toss, calling out kids' names to help everyone feel included.

💬 **Script**

Loud And Clear: Great bowling! Knocking over those cups with the wrong choices written on them is a great reminder that God can "knock" out our sin by forgiving us. We all sin and make wrong choices. Even when some sins seem worse than others, we *all* sin and *all* need forgiveness. The good news is that God can forgive us, which is why He sent His Son, Jesus, for us. Say, "**God can forgive me!**" (*God can forgive me!*) When God forgives us, we get a fresh start! Say, "Fresh start!" (*Fresh start!*)

👥 **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 all learn a verse from the Bible to remind us that we can be forgiven by God. When I say, "Fresh start" you say, "I am forgiven!" "Fresh start!" (*I am forgiven!*)





Presentation

Play Oct2026_ThemeVerseVideo_Kids



Script

This Bible verse shows us that God forgives us completely. Just like the east is so far from the west— and you cannot measure it—God removes our sins from us and gives us a fresh start through His Son, Jesus. Everybody, say, **“God can forgive me!”** (*God can forgive me!*) That means we can always have a fresh start with God.



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

3 minutes

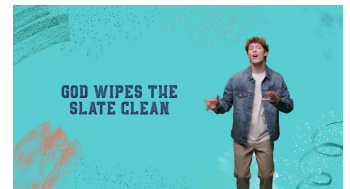
Script

God gives us a fresh start when He forgives us. That is worth celebrating! Let me hear you say, “Oh yeah!” (*Oh yeah!*) Let’s stand up, get ready to move, and sing our Theme song together as we remember that we are forgiven.



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.