

Lesson Plan

October 11th, 2026

This Month's Truth: I Am Forgiven

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)

Teachers rally with your team a few minutes before kids start to arrive: Rally is a pre-service time for you to be expectant and equipped before the kids start arriving. Go over the lesson and any ideas for the day. Pray over your space and for the kids that will be coming that they will be connected to the person of Jesus.

Share: Peter lied and betrayed Jesus, which seemed unforgivable. Yet when Jesus rose from the dead, He showed His love and forgiveness by inviting Peter to be a part of Jesus' ministry. (Read John 21:15.) Today, we will teach kids that God's forgiveness makes us whole and complete, leading us to live the way He created us to live.

Pray: Lead the group in prayer, asking God to help kids recognize their need for forgiveness and accept the gift of God's love through Jesus.

Pre Service

Arrival time, please use this time to build relationships with kids and encourage them to build relationships with one another.

Service

What To Do:

- **Teacher Start 5-minute countdown 5 minutes prior to service start time.**

Teacher Opener: 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!)

Head, Shoulders, Knees, Cup

What To Do: Are you ready to play a super fun, super silly game? (Let kids cheer.) It is called "Head, Shoulders, Knees, Cup!" Head, shoulders, knees, what? (Cup!)

Here is how we play. We will form two teams. (Form two even teams.) Face someone from the other team—like you are looking in a mirror! I will place a cup on the floor between you. Do not touch it yet! (Allow time and set out the cups.)

Now when I say a certain word, you will put your hands there. Let's practice! If I say, "Head!" you say, "Head" and touch your head. Let's try it. "Head!" (Head!) "Shoulders!" (Shoulders!) "Knees!" (Knees!)

Great job! Now if I say, "Cup!" that is your chance to grab the cup before your teammate does! If you grab it first, show a victory dance! Then place the cup back on the floor and get ready for the next round. If you are ready, say, "Let's go!" (Let's go!)

Keep It Going: Add in "elbows," "forehead," "hips," and "back" for an extra challenge.

Leader Tip: Invite a kid to be the caller if you have an uneven number or allow one group of kids to play in a group of three.

Safety Tip: Ensure that kids are standing far enough apart that they do not collide when reaching for the cup.

Loud And Clear: You all did such an awesome job playing "Head, Shoulders, Knees, Cup!" Give someone near you a high five! (Give high fives.)

Today we are going to talk about God giving us a fresh start, 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!

Transition Script to go into the Intro Video: 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!)

Play Intro Video

What You Say: 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!)

Worship

What You Say: Worship is telling and showing God how great, special, and wonderful He is. It means giving God the highest worth because of who He is and what He has done. Think of it as a giant “thank you” and a celebration party for God. So, let’s all come together and worship God this morning.

What To Do:

- Turn lights off
- 2 songs of worship
- **Teachers and Small Group Leaders worship with the kids, modeling what it looks like to give God our praise. Stand in the front of the room, or next to the kids- but not in the back.**
- Dismiss the kids back to their seats when the songs are over

What To Do:

- Have the kids **open up** a physical Bible and find the Bible story for that day.
- Use the Bibles provided in the classroom if a kid does not have their own Bible with them.

Transition Script to go into the Bible Story Video: (Open the Bible to Luke 22:54-62; John 18:15-27, 21:12-19.) 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!

Play Bible Story Video

Questions to consider asking after the video:

- What is something that you learned about God from the video?
- What is something that you learned about people?
- What can you take away from the video?
 - How can you apply the lesson from today into your life?

Making The Connection 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!

Use the Three Circle Graphics on the Playlist

(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.

(Circle 2) But the first two people God made chose to sin. Sin is when we choose 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 to 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!

(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 Small Group Leader.

Theme Verse Review:

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.)

What You Say: 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!

Play Theme Verse Video

What You Say: 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!)

Large Group Closing:

What You Say: We learned something so important—God forgives us and can make us whole. We all make wrong choices that do not match the way God created us to live. But when we confess our sin and repent, by turning away from sin to follow God's way instead, we get to experience His forgiveness and wholeness that only God can give. Whenever we feel ashamed or embarrassed because of our choices, we can ask God for forgiveness and know that He loves and forgives us. Then we get to experience the kind of welcome and wholeness that Peter felt in our Bible story! Now let me hear you say, "God can make me whole!" (God can make me whole!) That is right! Because of God's forgiveness, we can live every day like we are made whole.

Now, let's take a moment to pray and thank God for His forgiveness. Let's pray in 3-2-1.

Closing Prayer: God, thank You for Your forgiveness. Sin brings brokenness and shame to our lives, but Your love and forgiveness makes us whole when we turn from sin and trust in You. Thank You for giving us a fresh start and helping us live the way You made us to live. Amen.

Transition to Small Group Time: Split the kids into small groups. This can be done either by age, grade, or gender.

Small Group Time:

Option #1: Connection Questions

What To Do: Let's discuss and discover how God's forgiveness gives us a fresh start.

1. If you were working on a puzzle or making something out of building blocks and you discovered a piece was missing, how would you feel and what would you do? (Allow answers and share your own answer.)
2. The Bible tells us that God's forgiveness makes people whole. Let's open our Bibles to **John 21:15** and read about it together. (Invite kids to open their Bibles. Read the verse aloud or invite a kid who volunteers to read the verse aloud. Be sure to have Bibles available for kids who need one. Help kids find the verse so everyone can follow along together.) Jesus talked with Peter after Peter lied about knowing Him. Instead of being mad, Jesus welcomed Peter and gave him an important job. Jesus showed Peter that he was forgiven and could start fresh. We see that forgiveness fixes our broken relationship with God and makes us whole too. How can remembering that God forgives you help when you feel embarrassed or feel bad for making a wrong choice? (Allow answers and share your own answer.)
3. When Jesus forgave Peter, He made him whole again and gave him a fresh start. What do you think it looks like to live with a fresh start through God's forgiveness? (Allow answers and share your own.)
4. The Bible tells us we are forgiven when we respond to God by admitting our sin and turning away from sin to follow Jesus. God can give us a fresh start and make us whole, no matter what wrong choices we have made. What is something you learned today? Is there anything you have questions about? (Allow kids to answer and share your own answer.)

Option #2: Broken to Whole

1. Draw pictures that display the description in each piece of the second wheel.
2. Place the wheel with the opening on top of the other wheel.
3. Secure the wheels with a brass fastener.

Community Big Kids

What To Do: We are going to make a cool craft that will help us remember—and even retell—our Bible story. First, look at the circle that is divided into six pieces. Each one has a scene from our Bible story. Decorate each piece with a picture that illustrates the scene. (Allow time.)

Now you can attach the first circle on top of the second so you can see the scenes from the Bible story underneath. (Allow time.)

Keep It Going: Invite kids to use their wheels to retell the Bible story to each other.

Leader Tip: Encourage kids as they color and assemble their wheels, praising creativity and effort. Ask questions about their story sections to help them connect the craft to how God makes us whole and gives us fresh starts.

Loud And Clear: Look at your amazing story wheels! When Peter lied about being with and knowing Jesus, Peter sinned, which left him broken, upset, and ashamed. But when Jesus invited Peter to take care of His sheep, Jesus showed Peter that He forgave Peter and wanted to give him a fresh start. Our own wrong choices can leave us broken and ashamed, but God can make us whole when we experience His forgiveness. God helps us follow Him and live the way He made us to live. Say, “I am forgiven!” (I am forgiven!) Every time we turn our wheels, we can remember that God’s love and forgiveness take us from brokenness to wholeness in Him!

Option #3: Activity Page

What To Do: This activity page helps us remember some big things we have learned about today. As you color and work on activities, talk to a friend about some of your favorite parts of our time together.

Leader Tip: Get to know the kids better. Ask them what they remember about the Bible story or remind them that when we make wrong choices, God forgives us and makes us whole. Restating that to be made whole means God removes our sin and brokenness and helps us live the way He made us to live by following Him.

Loud And Clear: Sometimes we make wrong choices and feel sad, embarrassed, or ashamed. But when we ask for forgiveness and turn away from sin, God forgives us and gives us a fresh start. God’s love can make us whole again. We can trust Him and follow Him every day, knowing His forgiveness never runs out.

Close out in prayer:

What To Do:

- Ask for any specific prayer requests
- Pray with the group
- Lead the group in the prayer below.

What You Say: God, thank You so much for loving us and forgiving us, even when we make wrong choices. Thank You for giving us a fresh start and making us whole so we can follow You and live the way You made us to live. Help us remember Your forgiveness, follow You, and show Your love to others. Amen.

Dismissal:

Leader Tip: Work with your team to dismiss the kids in a fun, manageable, and safe way. As kids leave, make sure they have all of the crafts and papers. Share with the person picking them up something positive you observed today. Invite them back next week.