

Lesson Plan

October 18th, 2026

This Month's Truth: I Am Forgiven

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)

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: In the book of Exodus, God's people were rescued from deadly snakes when Moses obeyed God by creating a bronze snake. Everyone who was bitten and looked at the snake was healed. Jesus referred to this story to teach that we can always look to Him for forgiveness and hope. (Read John 3:14-15.) Kids will learn that God gives us hope. We can trust that His love and forgiveness are always available for us through Jesus.

Pray: Lead the group in prayer, inviting God to help your team see the kids you serve with His loving and hope-filled perspective.

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 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!)

Chalky Matches

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.

What To Do: 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!)

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

What You Say: 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!)

Transition Script to go into the Intro Video: 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!

Play Intro Video

What You Say: 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 from 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!)

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 Numbers 21:4-9; John 3:14-17.) 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!)

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: 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!

Use the Three Circle Graphics on the Playlist

(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!

(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.

(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!

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: 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!

Play Theme Verse Video

What You Say: 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.

Large Group Closing:

What You Say: When we confess our sin and turn away from it, God forgives us. Even when we make wrong choices, we can have hope that He will continue to forgive us each time we ask. God invites us to start fresh and follow Him. That's amazing news! Everybody, say it with me, "I am forgiven!" (I am forgiven!) Say "God can give me hope!" (God can give me hope!) The Israelites had hope that, when they looked at the bronze snake statue, they would be healed and rescued. We can have hope that, when we ask Jesus to forgive us, we will be forgiven and live in His love.

Let's take a moment to talk with God and pray together in 3-2-1.

Closing Prayer: God, thank You for loving us and forgiving us when we sin and make wrong choices. Whatever we face in life, we can have hope in You and Your love and forgiveness. Thank You for always giving us a fresh start. 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: Now we get to discuss and discover more about each other and God as we talk about how He gives us a fresh start!

1. If you had chalk and could draw something on the ground outside, what would you draw? Pretend to draw it and see if we can guess it! (Allow responses.)
2. The Bible tells us God can give us hope that He will forgive us when we ask. Let's open our Bibles to **John 3:14-15** and read about it together. (Invite kids to open their Bibles. Read the passage aloud or invite a kid who volunteers to read the passage aloud. Be sure to have Bibles available for kids who need one. Help kids find the passage so everyone can follow along together.) Jesus said that just as Moses lifted up the bronze snake statue to save the Israelites, He would be lifted up so that anyone who believes in Him can be rescued from sin and enjoy life with God forever. How can what Jesus said help us have hope? (We can trust that God will love and forgive us—now and in the future—so that we can have a relationship with Him forever.)
3. The Israelites had hope that God would rescue them, even when they made wrong choices. What can we do when we make wrong choices? (Tell God we are sorry and ask for His forgiveness. Remember that God will always love and forgive us.)
4. We get a fresh start from God when He forgives us. And that is a reason for great hope! What is something you learned today? Is there anything you have questions about? (Allow kids to answer and share your own answer.)

Option #2: Look to Hope

Leader Prep: Set out supplies.

1. Fold the chenille stem in half, so the folded portion is at the top and the two loose ends meet at the bottom.
2. Place your fingers on the fold (down about a fingertip's length) and take each side of the chenille stem and fold it up to the side, ensuring that there is still about 1 inch between where the fold starts and the top folded portion of the chenille stem.

3. Fold both “arms” back in and down, creating a cross shape with the side beams around 1 inch each.
4. Slide two beads onto the top of the chenille stem cross, ensuring that there is still a small loop at the top. Consider using a pencil tip to help make the top loop.
5. Slide four beads on each side beam, bending the outside edges of the chenille stems back over the final beads on each side to secure them in place.
6. Slide seven beads up the bottom of the cross, bending the bottom edges back over the final bead.
7. Cut and tie in a long yarn piece to make a necklace or a small yarn piece to make a keychain.

What To Do: We are going to make a craft that looks like a cross. It will be a reminder of our Bible story and the hope that we have in God. While the Israelites looked to a bronze snake to be healed, we get to look and remember the hope of forgiveness we have because Jesus died on a cross and rose again. So let’s “Look to Hope!”

First, take your chenille stem and fold it in half so the folded part is at the top and the two ends are at the bottom. (Demonstrate and allow time.)

Place the middle fold between your finger and thumb to measure about an inch. Hold the fold in place as you pull one loose end out and to the side. Then repeat for the other loose end. (Demonstrate and allow time.)

Fold each arm back toward that middle fold, then fold the ends down so you have a cross shape. The longest part of the cross should be at the bottom. (Demonstrate and allow time.)

We are not done yet! Now we get to add beads! Take three beads and slide them onto the top of your cross. There should still be a little loop there that you can make a little bigger. (Demonstrate and allow time.)

Next, put three beads on each side of the cross. This time, after you slide them on, fold the outside end of arms back over the final beads to keep them in place. (Demonstrate and allow time.)

Finally, slide seven beads up the bottom part of the cross. Like with the sides, fold the edges of the chenille stem back over the final bead. (Demonstrate and allow time.)

Great job! You can keep your cross just like that, or I can give you a small piece of yarn to make a keychain or a long piece of yarn to make a necklace.

Keep It Going: Encourage kids to choose patterns with their beads.

Leader Tip: Model each step slowly and clearly before kids try it. Walk around to help with tricky folds. Use kids' names and praise their effort to keep them encouraged and connected while they create.

Loud And Clear: Look at the crosses you made! Every time you see your cross, remember that God gives us hope through Jesus. God sent Jesus so we could be saved from sin and have life forever. We can have hope that God can and will forgive us when we ask, no matter what. We can turn away from our sin and believe in Jesus, meaning we trust that He took the punishment for our sin and rose back to life, making the way for us to have a relationship with God. Even when we make wrong choices, we can have hope and know that God will forgive us when we ask. We can have hope that God will what? (Forgive us!)

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 sin, we can have hope and trust that God will forgive us when we ask.

Loud And Clear: When we sin, we can become discouraged. But we can know that God forgives us when we ask and gives us a fresh start. No matter what happens, we can have hope that God can and will forgive us. God sent His Son, Jesus, so we could be forgiven and have a forever relationship with Him. That is hope we can count on every day!

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 for loving and forgiving us when we make wrong choices. Thank You for giving us hope every day and helping us have a fresh start. Help us remember that, like You forgave the Israelites, You forgive us and invite us to trust You. We love You, God! 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.