



LIVE IT OUT

next steps
IN DISCIPLESHIP

Impact Kids Spring 2026 Older Kids Leader Guide

March 11, 2026

Live Like Jesus- Jesus was hurt and placed on a cross, but even then, He showed love and forgiveness to the people around Him. One man beside Jesus believed in Him, and Jesus promised that man he would be with Him in heaven. Luke 23:26-43

Bible- **Mar 11-** Luke 23:26-43 Jesus forgives when it's hard, so we forgive when it's hard.

Mar 18- Spring Break- No Groups

Memory Verse: John 15:5



At a Glance



The Code



Gospel Page



Live Like Jesus-
Leader Devos

Memory Verse Mania

We'll focus on one key Bible verse connected to what we're learning in Impact Kids. Kids will have a chance to memorize it, live, and share it.

Memory Verses:

Psalm 119:105, 1 Corinthians 12:4-5,

John 15:5, Ephesians 6:13

Bonus: Eph 6:10, Psalm 23:1, Matt 6:9-13, Psalm 100:2, Favorite Verse and extra bonus

Wednesday Group Schedule

Leaders Arrive: 6:15 PM

Family Dinner: 6:30 PM – 6:50 PM

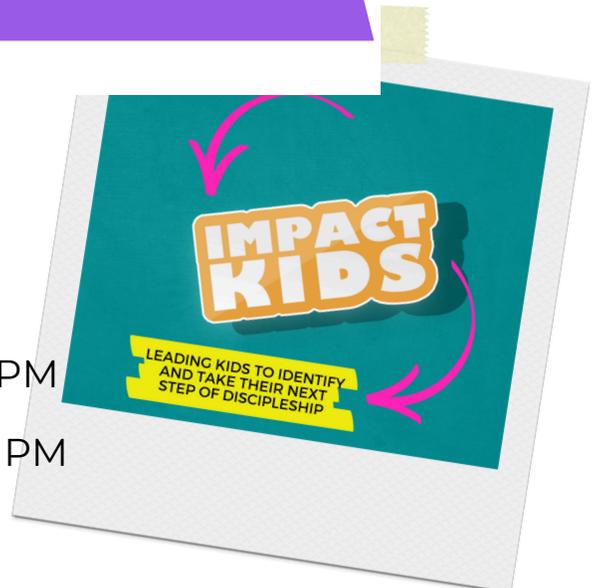
K-3rd Outside Play: 6:50 PM- 7:20 PM

4th & 5th Small Group: 6:50 PM- 7:30 PM

K-3rd Small Group: 7:25 PM- 8:00 PM

4th & 5th Outside Play: 7:30 PM- 8:00 PM

Dismiss: 8:00 PM- 8:05 PM



Opening Game:

Supplies:

- Bible

Welcome

- Thank kids for coming.
- Introduce new kids.

Introduce the Lesson

Say: Today we're going to learn that Jesus forgives when it's hard, so we forgive when it's hard. Not forgiving is kind of like carrying around something really heavy.

Share

- Tell kids about something heavy you've carried.
- Have kids form pairs. Ask kids to share about something heavy they've carried.
- After partners have discussed, ask two or three kids to share with the whole group.

Summarize

Open a Bible to Luke 23, and say: It's hard to carry heavy things for very long. We might get hurt! In the same way, carrying around grudges can hurt us more than it hurts the person we're mad at. Let's see how Jesus forgave even when it was hard for him. God gave us the Bible, his special book, to show us how forgiving he is. The Bible helps us get to know God and reflect his forgiving heart. And God is here right now, ready to talk to you! Let's talk with God now.

Pray, praising Jesus for forgiving when it's hard.

Talk About Video:

Discuss and Watch “Forgiven”

Say: We’re learning that Jesus forgives when it’s hard. Have you ever done something you thought someone wouldn’t forgive? Let’s see what happened when a little brother thought he was unforgiveable.

Watch “Forgiven.”

Ask: • The little brother thought of three options. What other ideas can you think of?

- Have you ever been in a situation like this? What happened?
- Imagine the little brother broke the laptop on purpose, instead of by accident. How would that make a difference in whether he deserved forgiveness?

Say: The big sister in this video forgave even when it was hard. It would’ve been even harder if he’d broken her laptop on purpose! But you know what? Jesus forgives when it’s hard. He forgave the people who were hurting him, even though that was on purpose. There’s nothing you’ve done that he won’t forgive!

Deeper Bible:

Supplies

- Bibles
- pony beads (2 large handfuls per child)
- paper
- crayons or markers
- individually wrapped candy (1 piece per child)

Hold On Tight

Say: When you were little, you probably learned how to resolve a conflict: one person says “I’m sorry” and the other says “I forgive you.” But what if the other person isn’t sorry? Do we still have to forgive?

- Let’s dig in to that.
- Give each child two large handfuls of pony beads. Have kids hold the beads tightly in each hand.

Say: Imagine those beads represent mean things people have done to hurt you. Imagine you’re still mad about those mean things, so you’re holding on to them. You are not letting go of your hurt feelings and anger. Now, without letting go of any of your beads, try to color a picture. Set out crayons and a stack of paper. Next, have kids try to tie their shoes while still holding the beads. If they don’t have shoes with laces, they can try to tie someone else’s shoes. Continue to have kids hold on to their beads.

Ask: • Describe how you felt trying to color a picture and tie your shoes while holding on to your beads.

Say: We’re learning that Jesus forgives when it’s hard. Sometimes it’s hard to forgive, so we hold on to grudges instead. That means we keep all those hurt feelings inside, on purpose. But that actually ends up hurting us! In fact, sometimes the person you’re mad at doesn’t even know you’re mad, so your unforgiveness only hurts you. Just like holding on to the beads held you back from doing normal, everyday things, holding on to grudges can keep us from living our fullest lives. Let’s see what the Bible says about that. Keep holding on to your beads until I say to let go.

Dig Deeper

In our Bible story, Jesus forgave people while they were still hurting him. They definitely weren't sorry! So let's see what our true motivation to forgive others is. As we read these verses, pay attention to why we forgive.

Read Colossians 3:13 and Ephesians 4:31-32.

Ask: • Based on these verses, what's the reason we forgive others?

Say: The reason we forgive others isn't because they feel sorry. It's because we know that God forgave us! We've all received forgiveness, so we can all pass it on. In fact, holding back forgiveness can limit us from experiencing God's forgiveness fully. Listen to this.

Read Mark 11:25.

With kids still holding on to their beads, give each child a wrapped piece of candy. Say: If you can use your hands to unwrap your candy in 20 seconds or less, without letting go of your beads, you may eat it. Count down from 20, and see if anyone was successful.

Ask: • What was it like trying to unwrap your candy?

Say: Maybe you got your candy unwrapped, and maybe you didn't. Either way, something that's usually really easy to do became really hard to do.

Why? Because you're still holding on to the bead grudges. Forgiving others helps us fully experience God's forgiveness. And God doesn't want us to put a limit on how much we'll forgive.

Read Matthew 18:21-22.

Ask: • Why do you think Jesus wants us to keep on forgiving?

Say: God doesn't put a limit on how many times he forgives us, and we can give that same unlimited forgiveness to others because God gives us the power to do so. That doesn't mean letting people continue to hurt us; we might need to spend less time with those who keep hurting us. But forgiveness means letting go instead of holding on to a grudge.

Ask: • What things do you do that show you're still mad at someone?

Say: Forgiveness means we don't talk badly about that person. Let's let go right now. Have kids put down their beads.

Ask: • How do your hands feel now that you've finally let go of the beads?

• How is that like the way it feels to forgive?

Say: Now that your hands are free, you can eat your candy if you weren't able to unwrap it earlier! Pause for kids to unwrap their candy.

Say: Jesus forgives when it's hard, so we forgive when it's hard. Even though forgiving can be hard sometimes, it's so much better for us than holding on to grudges!

Memory Verse Mania:

Supplies:

- Leader Tracking Sheets (1 set per group in leader folder)
- Memory Verse Mania Instruction Page (1 per leader in leader folder)
- Memory Verse Posters (1 copy for each kid)
- pompoms (at least 7 per child)
- plastic spoons (1 per child)

Explain Memory Verse Mania

Say: This Spring Impact Kids groups will be taking a Memory Verse Challenge called Memory Verse Mania. In this challenge, each week we will practice the verse. If you think you have it memorized before we practice, leaders will take time during Family Table to listen to you and mark on their Leader Tracking Sheets. Then on Feb 4, Mar 4, Mar 11, and April 29 you will get the chance to win a prize in our drawing. On May 6, we will celebrate everyone who memorized all the verses. If you can do it, we will share other verses from our lessons in the Fall to add to your memory banks. Storing God's Word in our hearts, helps us in the future. Are you ready to take the challenge? Here is your chance to practice the verse for this week. *(Send Posters home with kids- if kids already have a poster, there is no need to send more home.)*

“Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches.
Those who remain in me and I in them,
will produce much fruit.
For apart from me you can do nothing.”
John 15:5

Memory Verse Mania cont.

Scoop the Fruit

Say: Today we saw how Jesus forgave his enemies. That must have been hard, but Jesus forgives when it's hard. And when we stay connected with Jesus, he helps us forgive, too. Let's learn a Bible verse to remind us to stay connected with Jesus.

In John 15:5, Jesus says: "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing."

Jesus says that when we remain in him, we will produce much fruit. That means when we stay close to him and talk with him, he'll help us follow his way. But that doesn't mean we'll grow apples or oranges! It means that our lives will show we follow God by the things we say and do, just like a branch shows its fruit! Let's play a game where you and your partner will have to get all the fruit you can!

- Set a big pile of pompoms at the center of your playing area.
- Form pairs and have them link up at their elbows. If you have an uneven number, you or a helper can be a partner.
- Have all the pairs stand in a circle around the edges of the room.
- Give each child a spoon to hold in the unlinked hand. Let kids know they can use the spoons only—not their hands—to touch pompoms.
- Pairs will work together to scoop pompom fruit from the pile and carry it back to their starting position. Each pair can carry only two pompoms at a time—one per child.
- Pairs must stay linked together the whole game!
- For each pompom they collect, have kids say the next phrase of the memory verse until they finish with 14 pompoms total (one per child for each phrase).
- Help kids as needed, breaking the verse apart as follows:
 - "Yes, I am the vine;
 - you are the branches.
 - Those who remain in me,
 - and I in them,
 - will produce much fruit.
 - For apart from me you can do nothing."
 - John 15:5
- If time allows, play again, having kids transfer the fruit from their stash back to the center of the room.

Talk About It

Ask: • How did having a partner help you in this game?

Say: Staying connected to our partners helped us scoop up fruit. And staying connected to Jesus helps us grow fruit. The Bible tells us that God helps us grow fruit like love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Ask: • When do you have a hard time patiently waiting?

• When do you have a hard time being kind?

Say: Growing fruit like that is hard—or even impossible—for us to do on our own. But when we stay connected to Jesus, he'll help us grow more loving, peaceful, and forgiving like him.

Activity Page with a Point

Supplies Needed:

- Activity Page
- colored pencils
- crayons
- brown construction paper (cut paper into 2 inch strip , one 11 inches long the other 8.5 inches long per kid), transparent tape

Pass out activity pages and supplies.

SAY: Jesus forgives when it's hard. We all do wrong things. But Jesus died on the cross to forgive us—kind of like crossing out the wrong things we do. Let's cross out the wrong things you find on this activity page.

Distribute the activity pages and pencils. Kids will spot mistakes and cross them out.

Ask: • What wrong things did you notice in the picture? How did you know they were wrong?

• This question is just to answer in your heart: What wrong things have you done that you want Jesus to forgive? Allow time for kids to reflect.

Say: The wrong things in our picture were silly things. But when we do what's wrong, we've disobeyed God. That's not silly at all! But no matter what you've done wrong, Jesus will forgive you. Jesus forgives when it's hard.

SAY: Jesus forgives when it's hard. Jesus forgave people who rolled dice to win his clothes and who hurt him. And Jesus forgives us, too. Let's color the people Jesus forgave, and add a cross to show how Jesus forgives us all.

Allow time for kids to color. Help preschoolers tape the brown construction paper strips onto their pages to make a cross.

ANSWER KEY:

