



Pathway Kids Spring 2026

Leader Guide

March 9, 2026

next steps
IN DISCIPLESHIP

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

Mar 16- Spring Break- No Groups



At a Glance



The Code



Gospel Page



**Live Like Jesus-
Leader Devos**

Group Schedule

Leaders Arrive: 6:15 PM
Snack: 6:30 PM – 6:45 PM
Outside Play: 6:45 PM- 7:15 PM
Small Group: 7:20 PM- 8:00 PM
Dismiss: 8:00 PM- 8:05 PM



Opening Game:

Supplies:

- Bibles

Welcome

- Thank kids for coming.
- Introduce new kids.

Introduce the Lesson

Say: Today we'll find out that Jesus forgives when it's hard. And we'll learn that we can forgive when it's hard, too. Let's start today by talking about something that's hard—carrying something heavy.

Share

- Share about something heavy you've carried. Maybe you had to have help carrying a piece of furniture because it was so heavy. Or maybe you carried the groceries into the house all at once so you wouldn't have to make a second trip.
- Have kids share about something heavy they've carried. They might share about carrying a box with a new toy in it or playfully carrying a smaller sibling.
- After small groups have discussed, have adult or teen helpers share with the whole group what they talked about in their small groups.

Summarize

Open a Bible, and say: It must've been hard to carry those things. You had to use your muscles! Lead kids to make muscles. Today we're finding out we can do something else that's hard—forgive. When someone hurts us, we can forgive and be friends with the person. Jesus shows us how because Jesus forgives when it's hard.

Pray, thanking Jesus for forgiving us and others even 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
- clear contact paper (3 feet per group)
- permanent marker
- tissue paper in various colors (one 6x6-inch square per child)

Easy Prep

- Cut a piece of contact paper about 3 feet long. Use the permanent marker to draw a basic outline of a person on the non-sticky side of the contact paper. You’ll want the piece of contact paper and outline of the person to be large enough so each child will be able to stick several small pieces of tissue paper inside the human outline. Kids will be creating a mosaic of tissue paper pieces. Peel off the backing, and hang the contact paper where kids can reach it, sticky side out.

Rip Tissue Paper

Say: Today we learned that Jesus forgave his enemies when they treated him so badly. And we found out that Jesus forgives us, too, for all the wrong things we do. Jesus loves us so much! Sometimes it can be really hard to forgive others—especially when they hurt us. But Jesus shows us we can forgive even when it’s hard.

Share one or two things people do that hurt others. For example, you might say when people hit others it hurts their bodies. Rip off a small piece of tissue paper.

Say: When people hurt us or do something wrong, it’s like they broke or ripped our hearts. Wrong things hurt!

Give each child a tissue paper square.

Ask: • What are other things people do that are wrong or hurt others?

Lead kids in ripping off a small piece of tissue paper for each example given. Have kids keep their ripped pieces in front of them, and continue until every child has several small tissue paper pieces.

Deeper Bible: cont

Make a Mosaic

Pick up a pile of tissue pieces, and then let them fall from your hand onto the floor.

Say: Look at all these ripped and broken pieces. Wrong things and sins hurt us and make us feel broken! But when we forgive people, it can make something beautiful. It can help us be even better friends with people when we forgive them. Jesus forgives when it's hard, so we can forgive when it's hard, too.

If someone gets mad and grabs a toy from my hand, it hurts me and makes me sad. But if I say "I forgive you" (press a ripped piece of tissue paper to the sticky side of the contact paper inside the human shape) and I remember everyone messes up, my friend will feel better, knowing I forgave his mess-up. And we can play nicely from then on. Lead kids to each add a ripped piece of tissue paper inside the human shape.

Say: Look, it's already starting to be beautiful with all those colors, after just one example of forgiveness. Review some of the examples kids shared about ways people hurt others and a way forgiveness can be a good thing. Have kids each add a piece of tissue paper for each example you share. Continue until the human shape is filled with colorful tissue paper and you have a mosaic. Hang the mosaic in a window, and point out how the light shines through. Invite kids to tell what they like about it.

Say: Look at this beautiful person. He's full of ripped pieces of tissue paper—sort of like the things we do that hurt others and the things others do that hurt us. But Jesus teaches us to forgive. And when we forgive others, it makes something beautiful. That's why Jesus forgives when it's hard, and we can forgive when it's hard, too.

Memory Verse:

“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

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 Purpose

Supplies Needed:

- Activity/Color 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 the coloring pages and supplies.

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.