



October 4, 2026

I Am Forgiven Elementary Leader Guide

the place for kids to take
their first steps with Jesus.

WIN

Forgiveness is our greatest need and Jesus freely offers it to everyone who responds to Him with faith.

BIBLE- *Jesus Forgave and Healed a Man- Mark 2:1-12; Luke 5:17-26*

TOOLS

Scan QR



ASK Leader



Leader Devos



Like It Counts

SOCIAL TIME

The first 10 minutes as kids arrive is a very important time in your small group. Because of this, we provide you with intentional activities to engage their interests and help lead into a great discussion. All of this is so that “boredom” is not an excuse. Everything is only available one time.

Every week you have:

- Roku Games to play together that are changed out monthly.
- 2 month specific games or group activities.
- Plus 2 Social Activities. ** Use one now and save the other for an incentive to participate in all the activities.

Games and Music (10 minutes)

What You Need: Instruction Page, Game Sets, Roku Game Instruction Page, “Old and New” Printable (1 set per group), Dry erase board, markers, and eraser

What You Do:

- Play worship songs and other songs available on Roku during the Social Game or while kids are playing.
- Using the supplies and game instruction page, choose one game to play with the kids today.
- As you are playing, use this as a time to call each kid by name and learn their names well.

Say: That was a fun game to get us ready to watch our Bible video. Let’s sit and listen to our story today.”

Bible Story Video (10 minutes)

Bible Story Recap- Say This

Imagine being unable to walk and meeting Jesus, hoping He would heal you. Jesus healed the man, but He gave him something even greater: forgiveness and a fresh start! We may not always recognize that our choices are wrong or hurt others, but sin separates us from God. It is a problem we cannot fix on our own. We need Jesus.

Gospel Connection: (refer to the 4 Circles poster in your small group spaces)

Circle 1- God created a perfect world where people had a loving relationship with Him and one another. But sin entered the world, damaging those relationships and bringing hurt on the inside and outside.

Circle 2- We all sin when we choose our way instead of God's best, and sin breaks our relationship with Him. Like the man who could not walk, our greatest need is God's forgiveness—and the good news is that Jesus makes forgiveness possible!

Circle 3- Jesus, God's perfect Son, died to take the punishment for our sins and came back to life, showing His power over sin and death. Because of Jesus, God can forgive us and give us a fresh start.

Circle 4- Jesus gives us a fresh start and a new life with Him. Until He returns, we can spend our whole lives growing closer to Jesus and following Him with everything we are and do.

The Bible tells us the truth: everyone needs God's forgiveness and a fresh start. If you have never believed in Jesus, you can pray with me after this. If you already believe in Jesus then we ask God to forgive us, we can repent, turning away from sin to trust and follow Jesus. We stop going our own way and choose God's way. Say, "God can forgive me and give me a fresh start!"

If you have questions about what all of this means or why it is important, find me or one of your Campus Leaders. We would love to talk with you more about how Jesus gives us a fresh start.

To mark your belief in Jesus today say this prayer with me:

Jesus, I believe. I believe that I am a sinner who needs a Savior and you are the Savior of the world. Thank you for coming for me, for dying in my place and being raised from the dead.

Today I believe. Thank you for giving me life. Amen!

Congrats on your new life with Jesus.

Let's all pray this together:

God, thank You for loving us so much. Thank You for sending Jesus to make the way for us to be forgiven and have a fresh start. Help us trust You, follow You, and remember that Your forgiveness is available. We love You. Amen.

Fresh Start Bowling

Big Goal: Know 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)

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.

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!*)

Let's chat about this more by looking at some questions that make us think deeper.

TALK ABOUT IT

Discussion Questions:

- How can moving from an old grade to a new grade or moving from an old place to a new place feel like a fresh start? *(Allow kids to answer and share your own answer.)*
- With the magnetic drawing board from our Object Lesson, we saw that you get a fresh start when you shake away an old drawing to make something new. How can a magnetic drawing board remind us of how God can forgive us? *(God can forgive us and give us a fresh start.)*
- The Bible tells us that we can be forgiven because of Jesus. Let's open our Bibles to **Mark 2:9-11 (pg. 1089)** 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 told this man who could not walk that his sins were forgiven, which was the most important gift the man could receive. Jesus showed that He has the power to forgive sins and give people a fresh start, not just on the outside but on the inside too. Why is forgiveness such good news? *(We all need to be forgiven, and God can forgive us.)*
- God made us to have a relationship with Him, but sin breaks that relationship. The good news is that God sent His Son, Jesus, to make the way for us to be forgiven and have a forever relationship with Him. What is different when God forgives us and gives us a fresh start? *(Allow answers and share your own answer.)*
- The Bible tells us that we get a fresh start because God forgives us when we ask and trust Jesus. What is something you learned today?

WRAP UP

Is there anything you have questions about? *(Allow kids to answer, and share your own answer.)* Let's pray and talk to God. *(Lead the group in prayer. Consider using the following prayer prompt.)*

God, thank You for sending Jesus to give us a fresh start for our sin, just like He did for the man in our Bible story. Help us remember that You are ready to forgive us and help us follow You. You can—and You do—forgive us, so help us enjoy Your forgiveness and share that good news with others. Amen.

God forgives us when we turn from sin to trust and follow Jesus! He removes our sin as far as the east is from the west and gives us a fresh start. Remember, we all need to be forgiven by God, and God forgives us when we ask!

GOING HOME

Pass out the coloring pages for kids to take home. Greet families as they arrive and tell them something about their child you saw today. Say goodbye and call everyone by name.