

First Look | July 19

Today's Bible Story: The Servant Who Had No Mercy • Matthew 18:21-35

God's kingdom grows when you forgive.

Key Question: Who teaches you about God's kingdom?

Bottom Line: Jesus teaches me about God's kingdom.

Memory Verse: "Put God's kingdom first." • Matthew 6:33 NIV

1. Video on Jellyfin

Lead the children in worship to one song and then watch today's video lesson.

2. Pray

"Let's open up today in prayer. Dear God, thank You that You are kind and forgiving. Thank You for loving us so much. Help us forgive when someone bumps us, takes our crayon, or won't share. Help us put Your kingdom first. Thank You for Jesus, who teaches us about Your kingdom. We love You. In Jesus' name, Amen."

3. Forgiving Heart Suncatcher

What You Need:

- ☐ "Forgiving Heart Suncatcher Label" Activity Page
- ☐ Avery® Labels #5160 or equivalent
- ☐ Paper heart cutouts
- ☐ Clear Con-Tact® paper
- ☐ Tissue paper squares in a variety of colors
- ☐ ribbon
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Permanent marker

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Print "Forgiving Heart Suncatcher Label" on label paper, one label per child. Take out the removable heart from the suncatcher. Attach Con-Tact paper to the back of the template so the sticky side appears through the heart opening. Thread a piece of ribbon through the hole in each child's heart suncatcher and knot the ends together. Write each child's name on their suncatcher. Say and do the motions together with the children.

During the Activity: Give each child a suncatcher and encourage them to place tissue paper squares on the sticky part inside the heart shape. When finished, ask children to add their

Memory Verse label to the plate. Say and do the motions to the Memory Verse together one more time.

After the Activity: Connect the Memory Verse to the Bottom Line.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Friends, come over here and let’s do the motions as we say our Memory Verse together. Ready? ‘Put God’s (*point up with two hands*) kingdom (*make crown on head with hands*) first.’ (*Hold up one finger.*) Matthew 6:33 (*open hands like a book*). Great job!”

During the Activity: “Come sit down at the table! Today, we are going to make a heart suncatcher. The inside of your heart right here is sticky. (*Point.*) Fill your heart with lots of different colored pieces of tissue paper. (*Allow time.*) Wow! So pretty! Add this label to it. (*Pause.*) It has our Memory Verse written on it. Let’s say our verse together one more time as we do the motions. ‘Put God’s (*point up with two hands*) kingdom (*make crown on head with hands*) first.’ (*Hold up one finger.*) Matthew 6:33 (*open hands like a book*). Great job.”

After the Activity: “When we forgive, we show God’s love and His kingdom grows. Forgiving is one way to ‘Put God’s kingdom first.’ Jesus, thank You for teaching us how to forgive. Jesus teaches us the best things. **Who teaches you about God’s kingdom? [Bottom Line] Jesus teaches me about God’s kingdom.**”