



GETTING READY

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Host
- Four kid volunteers
- Hammer
- Screwdriver
- Four pairs of pliers
- Four buckets (or plastic bins)
- Enough packing peanuts to fill two of the buckets (see "What You Do")
- 14 "money bags" (paper lunch bags with "filler" like wadded-up paper, stapled shut, with a \$ drawn on the outside)
- Craft paper/fishing line Bible timeline and Today's Story Image (*optional*)

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter and exit the room
- Fun music for the game

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide
- Forgiveness Slide
- Blank Bottom Line Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Blank Memory Verse Slide
- Memory Verse Slide
- Timeline (*optional*)—CG or printed

- Today's Story Image (*optional*)—CG or printed

What You Do:

- Make the 14 “money bags” by filling paper lunch bags with wadded-up paper, stapling the bags shut, and drawing a large dollar sign (\$) on the front and back of each bag.
- Put seven “money bags” in two of the buckets. Then fill those same two buckets with packing peanuts. The two full buckets will go on the front of the stage for the game (one per team), and the two empty buckets will go against the back wall of the room.

2. Bible Story

What You Need:

- Storyteller
- Bible
- Table
- Large prop bin, including:
 - Large stuffed animal or action figure wearing a crown (choose carefully, since this character is supposed to represent God; it's best if the stuffed animal is something fairly generic)
 - Two more stuffed animal or action figures with no crown
 - One of the small paper money bags from the Opener
 - Giant money bag (large brown papery grocery bag or trash bag filled with “filler” like paper or balloons, with a \$ on the front)
 - Laundry basket that can be set upside down to make a “jail”

Large Group Visuals:

- One Big Story Intro (Video)
- Blank Bottom Line Slide
- Bottom Line Slide

What You Do:

- Download the slides and have them ready to use. If you do not have CG capabilities, you have Orange's permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.
- The One Big Story Intro Video is available with the monthly download. You can find it in the “Prelude” folder under “Monthly Planning.”

3. Worship

What You Need:

- Alive Again
- Good Grace

Mercy Mercy Me

Bible Story: Mercy Mercy Me (The Unmerciful Servant) • Matthew 18:21-35

Bottom Line: Forgive others because God forgives you.

Memory Verse: Put up with one another. Forgive one another if you are holding something against someone. Forgive, just as the Lord forgave you. Colossians 3:13 (NIRV)

Life App: Forgiveness—Deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn't have to pay

Basic Truth: I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 35 minutes)

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

SFX: Play high-energy music as kids enter.

CG: Theme Slide

Host is on stage, welcoming the kids as they enter.

Worship 1: GOOD GRACE

Opener

HOST: "Hi, everyone! Welcome to [your environment's name]. I'm your host, [your name], and we've got a lot of fun coming your way today!"

"Raise your hand if you know what D.I.Y. means. (Pause for answers.) That's right! D.I.Y. means 'do it yourself.' When I think of D.I.Y., I think of projects and tools. But D.I.Y. can really be anything you can do yourself!"

"One really important thing we can all D.I.Y. is forgiveness. You can 'do it yourself' with forgiveness because forgiveness is really up to you! But you need God's help to do it."

CG: Forgiveness Slide

“Forgiveness is deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn't have to pay.

CG: Theme Slide

“Jesus told a really great story to help us understand forgiveness . . . which we'll get to in just a little bit. But first, I've got a fun game we can play that uses some D.I.Y. tools.

“I've got a few tools here with me today, so I'll hold them up one at a time and see if you know what they are.

“Does anybody know what this is?

Hold up the hammer and pause for responses.

“You got it! It's a hammer! What about this one?

Hold up the screwdriver and pause for responses.

“Yep! It's a screwdriver! Okay, one more. What's this one?

Hold up one of the pairs of pliers and pause for responses.

“These are pliers—and actually, we’ll be using them in our game today. Let me get some volunteers!

Pick four kids (two pairs of two). Give each of them a pair of pliers, and have them stand behind their buckets.

(To contestants) **“When I say, ‘Go,’ you’ll use your pliers—and ONLY the pliers—to remove a money bag from your team’s bucket. One money bag at a time!**

Use pliers to pull a money bag out of one of the buckets (to demonstrate).

“You’ll use the pliers to carry the money bag to the bucket behind you.

Continue to demonstrate.

“You’ll continue to pull out money bags and carry them to your team’s bucket in the back. The first team to get ALL their money bags into their bucket wins!

Bring the money bag back and put it back in the original bucket.

“Got it? Great! Let’s try it. (To audience) Everyone cheer them on, okay? Three . . . two . . . one . . . go!

SFX: Fun music

Comment on the action and lead the audience in cheering for the contestants.

“That was incredible! Great job, both teams. Let’s give all of our contestants a round of applause as they head back to their seats.

Dismiss kids to their seats.

“Now, everyone, you can jump up on your feet, because it’s time for us to sing and worship God together.”

Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.

Worship 2: GOOD GRACE

Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.

VIDEO: One Big Story Intro

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Hi, everyone! I’m excited to pick up God’s Big Story with you today with a story that Jesus once told.

“When Jesus was living here on earth, He traveled around with several of His friends, teaching people. One of Jesus’ friends was named Peter. One day, Peter came to Jesus with a question:

Open the Bible to Matthew 18:21 (NirV) and read.

“Lord, how many times should I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?”

“Now, you should know that when Peter asked Jesus this question, he probably thought he already had a really great answer. Peter knew that he was supposed to forgive others when they had wronged him. I bet Peter thought that forgiving someone seven times would make him the nicest guy around. I mean, you’d have to be a pretty amazing guy to forgive the same person seven times, right?”

“Well, Peter was in for a HUGE surprise! Listen to what Jesus told him.

Open the Bible to Matthew 18:22 (NirV) and read.

“Jesus answered, ‘I tell you, not seven times, but 77 times.’”

“Wait—what? Did Jesus just say what I think He said? He totally did! Jesus said we should forgive someone 77 times! If you’re as confused as Peter probably was when he heard this answer, don’t worry. Jesus told a parable—or a story—to explain what He meant.”

Set the prop bin on the table.

GENEROUS FORGIVENESS

STORYTELLER: “Jesus said that the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to collect all the money his servants owed him.

Hold up the large stuffed animal or action figure wearing a crown.

“There was one man in the kingdom who owed the king 10,000 bags of gold.

Hold up another stuffed animal or action figure with no crown. Pull out the giant money bag and set it on the table.

“But this man wasn’t able to pay. He begged for more time to pay it back.

In a silly voice, make the “servant” stuffed animal speak to the “king” stuffed animal.

(As the servant) “Please, please, please! Let me have more time!

(To audience) “His master decided to forgive the man and let him go.”

GIVE ME MY MONEY!

STORYTELLER: “So then THAT servant found ANOTHER servant.

Set the king stuffed animal on the side of the table. Pick up the second “servant” stuffed animal or action figure so that you’re holding up the two “servants.”

“This man owed him 100 silver coins.

Put the small money bag on the table next to the giant one.

“The first servant choked the man and demanded his money back! The man begged for more time to pay it back.

In a silly voice, make the second servant stuffed animal speak to the first servant.

(As the second servant) “Please, please, please! Let me have more time!

“And then . . . the first servant had the man thrown into prison!

Set the second servant stuffed animal on the table, and set the laundry basket upside down over it.

“Can you believe that? *(Reference the first servant stuffed animal.)* The first servant had just been forgiven—BIG time. But he wasn’t willing to forgive someone else! It didn’t take long before the king found out what had happened.”

THE KING FINDS OUT

Hold up the king and first servant stuffed animals.

STORYTELLER: “The king called in the first servant.

Open the Bible to Matthew 18:32-33 (NirV) and read.

“You evil servant,” he said. “I forgave all that you owed me because you begged me to. Shouldn’t you have had mercy on the other servant just as I had mercy on you?”

“The king had the man thrown into jail until he could pay back the 10,000 bags of gold.”

Set the first servant stuffed animal underneath the upside-down laundry basket. Set the king stuffed animal on the table.

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Jesus often used stories like this one to help people understand God. He told this story, and then He said:

Open the Bible to Matthew 18:35 (NirV) and read.

“This is how my Father in heaven will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

“God puts no limit on how much He will forgive. And neither should we! We should forgive others because of the way God forgives us.

“Here’s what we need to remember:

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “Forgive others because God forgives you.”

“When you think about all the things God has forgiven you for, it can make it easier to forgive others. Forgiving someone who hurt you can be really hard, but God can help you! Let’s pray and ask Him to help us right now.”

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

Pray

STORYTELLER: “Dear God, thank You for always loving us and always forgiving us. You loved us enough to send Jesus to die on the cross and pay the price for our sins! Thank You for making a way so that we could experience Your forgiveness for ourselves. Help us to follow Your example and forgive others . . . even when it’s hard. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

Closer

HOST: "That story Jesus told is pretty amazing! And it had a hidden meaning, too. Did you catch it?"

CG: Today's Story Image

Optional: Place Today's Story Image on your timeline.

"God is like the king in the story. He forgave us a huge debt when He sent Jesus to die on the cross and pay the price for our sins. We're like the servant who was forgiven. So when someone does something that makes us mad or hurts our feelings, we have a choice to make. We can be angry at them, like the servant in the story, OR we can forgive them the way God has forgiven us!

CG: Timeline

"See, since the beginning of time, God has always been forgiving toward His people. He has always had a plan to fix our relationship with Him. When the time was right, He sent His Son, Jesus . . . and Jesus died on the cross to pay the price for our sins. All we need to do is believe, and we know God will forgive us for any of the wrongs things we've done. What Jesus did for us was the greatest act of forgiveness ever!

CG: Bottom Line Slide

"Remember: *[Bottom Line]* Forgive others because God forgives you."

"You can CHOOSE to forgive. You don't have to wait for someone to tell you to. We've been given forgiveness because of what Jesus did when He died on the cross, so we should ALWAYS forgive others. Remember, forgiving others is an amazing way to *[Basic Truth]* treat others the way you want to be treated.

CG: Blank Memory Verse Slide

"Our memory verse for this month is Colossians 3:13. Let's take a look.

CG: Memory Verse Slide

“Put up with one another. Forgive one another if you are holding something against someone. Forgive, just as the Lord forgave you, Colossians 3:13 (NirV).

“We can forgive because we know what it’s like to be forgiven! You can head to Small Group now and talk about that with your friends. I’ll see you later!”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

SFX: Play high-energy music as the kids exit.

CG: Theme Slide