



GETTING READY

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Host
- Tape measure
- Level
- Allen wrench
- Hard hat
- Slips of paper that say "Righty-Tighty" or "Lefty-Loosy" (printed from the LG Assets PDF; you'll need equal amounts of each)

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

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

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide
- Forgiveness Slide
- Blank Bottom Line Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Righty-Tighty, Lefty-Loosy paper slips (printable)

2. Bible Story

What You Need:

- **Storyteller**
- **Three male Small Group Leaders (or other adults/older students)**
- **Bible**
- **Storyteller's phone**
- **Frowny face sign (printed on cardstock from the LG Assets pdf), or a poster board frowny face (see "What You Do")**

Large Group Visuals:

- **One Big Story Intro (Video)**
- **Blank Bottom Line Slide**
- **Bottom Line Slide**
- **Frowny face sign (printable)**

3. Worship

What You Need:

- **Only Way**
- **Wide Open**

Please Forgive Me

Bible Story: Please Forgive Me (The Story of the Lost Son) • Luke 15:11-24

Bottom Line: Everyone needs to be forgiven.

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 can trust God no matter what.

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

Worship 1: Only Way

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

Opener

HOST: "Hi, everyone! My name is [your name], and this is [your environment's name]. We are so glad you're here with us, because today is an awesome day!"

"This whole month we're talking about forgiveness."

CG: Forgiveness Slide

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

CG: Theme Slide

“Here’s the cool part. Forgiveness is up to you! Of course, you need God’s help to do it. But it’s a choice YOU can make. You can do it yourself—and that’s why forgiveness is such an awesome D.I.Y. project. Forgiveness can help you fix a relationship!

“Usually when you hear about D.I.Y. projects, you think about people fixing up houses. They need lots of special D.I.Y. tools—like a tape measure.

Hold up the tape measure and use it to measure yourself (from your feet to the top of your head).

“Or a level.

Hold up the level and look at the bubble while you try to get it straight.

“Or this little guy—an allen wrench!

Hold up the allen wrench.

“When you need to tighten something with a screwdriver or a wrench, it can be tough to remember which way to turn it. (*Turn the allen wrench in the air, back and forth.*) One way makes it tighter and one way makes it looser. So someone really smart came up with a fun way to remember. Does anyone know the rhyme? (*Pause for response.*) Yep! It’s Righty-Tighty, Lefty-Loosy!

“When you turn something to the right, it makes it tighter. When you turn something to the left, it makes it looser. Get it? Righty-Tighty, Lefty-Loosy! That’s the name of today’s game. And guess what? ALL of us get to play!

Hold up the hard hat with the slips of paper.

“Inside this hard hat, I’ve got slips of paper that say Righty-Tighty or Lefty-Loosy. When I say, ‘Turn,’ you’ll turn either to your left or to your right—and HOLD your pose.

Turn with your back to the kids, so your left is their left and your right is their right.

“For example, I could choose Lefty-Loosy. (*Turn so you’re facing left, and freeze.*) Or I could choose Righty-Tighty. (*Turn so you’re facing right, and freeze.*)

Turn back to face the kids.

“It’s up to you—whichever way you want to choose. I’ll draw a slip of paper, and whoever is facing the direction that’s written on the paper gets to stay in the game. If you’re NOT facing the direction written on the paper, you’ll have to sit down. We’ll keep going until we have a winner. Okay, everybody stand up and let’s play!

SFX: Fun music (instrumental)

“Ready, set, turn!

Draw a slip of paper from the hard hat. (Drop it on the floor when you're done instead of putting it back in the hard hat.)

(Reading the slip of paper) "Looks like it's . . . Lefty-Loosy! That means if you're facing this way, to the right (turn with your back to the kids and point to the right), you can have a seat. But if you're facing this way, to the left (point to the left), you're still in the game.

Note: Make sure you always point in the direction of the correct answer after each round, so kids who are still learning their directions don't get confused.

Turn back to face the kids.

"All right, if you're still standing, it's time for Round Two. You can choose the same direction, or you can switch. It's up to you! Ready, set, turn!"

Keep drawing slips of paper and going through as many rounds as you need to narrow it down to one winner. (You can let some of the kids who are "out" draw and/or read the slips for later rounds so they still feel involved in the action.)

When you get down to just two or three kids, tell them they have to choose different answers to make sure one person wins in the end.

"That was so fun! And, bonus—now you know more about how to tighten and loosen things! Now let's welcome our worship leaders to the stage."

Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.

Worship 2: Wide Open

Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.

VIDEO: One Big Story Intro

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Hello, friends! I’m excited to tell you an amazing story of forgiveness that we can find in the Bible. *(Hold up Bible.)* This is a story that Jesus told in order to help people understand something important.

“Let me explain what was happening around that time. Everywhere Jesus went, there were always crowds of people who followed Him. The religious leaders at that time were angry that Jesus chose to hang out with everyone—even with people who had done wrong things. These religious leaders believed that they were better at keeping all the rules than everyone else . . . so they thought they were closer to God than everyone else. Jesus knew that wasn’t true. So He told them a story, otherwise known as a parable. This parable would help them understand what He meant.

“Before we get into the story Jesus told, I’ve got a question for you. Raise your hand if you feel like your parents are always taking pictures of you. *(Pause for response.)* Me, too! When I was younger, my parents were ALWAYS making me stop what I was doing to pose for a picture.

“Well, I thought it might be fun if we could do something similar here today. I’ll need three Small Group Leaders to join me on stage to help tell this story.

Bring three male Leaders up on stage. (Or you could use other adults or high school/college students).

(To Leaders) “Now, don’t worry, Leaders. You don’t even have to say anything. I’ll start telling the story, and then when I yell, ‘CLICK!’ I want the three of you to figure out a way to pose for a picture in a way that shows what’s happening in the story . . . then freeze. The challenge is that each person has to be in the picture, one way or another.

“Is everyone ready? Let’s begin.”

SHOW ME THE MONEY!

STORYTELLER: “A man had two sons. The younger son demanded his share of all the money and things the father owned . . . which he was not supposed to get until his father died. **CLICK!**”

Give the Leaders a few seconds to get in place. They’ll need to decide in that moment who’s who (father, older son, younger son). If they take too long, you can go ahead and assign them their roles and then let them figure out a pose.

When they get in place, pull out your phone and actually take a picture. Do your best to point out what’s happening in the scene. Ask the Leaders to explain it if you need to.

(To Leaders) “All right, Leaders, you can relax for a minute.

(To audience) “The father was brokenhearted, but he gave his son what he was asking for. The son packed up and left for a faraway country.”

EATING LIKE A PIG

STORYTELLER: “In this faraway place, the younger son spent everything he had on wild living. Soon he was completely out of money! The country he was living in was running low on food, so the son went to work for someone . . . feeding pigs. **CLICK!**”

Give the Leaders a few seconds to get in place. The younger son will probably stay the same person, but the others will probably become pigs. (Facilitate this if you need to.)

When they get in place, pull out your phone and take a picture. Do your best to point out what’s happening in the scene. Ask the Leaders to explain it if you need to.

(To Leaders) “Good job, Leaders. You can relax again.

(To audience) “The younger son was so hungry that he wanted to eat the pigs' food! Yuck! Then he remembered what things were like on his father's farm. He remembered that the servants who worked for his father ate better than the pigs did . . . so he came up with a plan.

“The younger son decided that he would go back home, admit he was wrong, and beg to be allowed to work as a servant on his father's farm. He was embarrassed and ashamed as he began to travel toward home.”

WELCOME HOME

STORYTELLER: “Well, as the younger son was traveling home, guess what happened! Here's how Jesus told it.

Open the Bible to Luke 15:20 (NirV) and read.

“While the son was still a long way off, his father saw him. He was filled with tender love for his son. He ran to him. He threw his arms around him and kissed him.

“CLICK!

Give the Leaders a few seconds to get in place. They'll probably go back to the same roles from the first photo as they pose for the scene. (Facilitate this if you need to.)

When they get in place, pull out your phone and take a picture. Do your best to point out what's happening in the scene. Ask the Leaders to explain it if you need to.

(To Leaders) “Thanks, Leaders. That's a great pic. You can relax.

(To audience) “The son quickly started giving the speech he had planned to say: *Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you (Luke 15:21 NirV)*. But the father told the servants to bring a robe, a ring, and sandals for his son. He said, ‘Let's throw a big party!’ CLICK!

Give the Leaders a few seconds to get in place. The father and younger son should be celebrating. Hand the frowny face sign to the older brother, and get him to hold it up while standing at a distance from the other two.

When they get in place, pull out your phone and take a picture. Do your best to point out what's happening in the scene. Ask the Leaders to explain it if you need to.

“The father had forgiven the younger son. He was overjoyed that his son who had been lost was now found!”

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: *(Walk over to the “older son”)* “But the story wasn’t finished yet . . . because the older son was still working out in the fields. Would he be as forgiving as his father? Hmmmm. We’ll find out next time!

“Let’s give our volunteers a round of applause as they head back to their seats!”

Dismiss the Leaders to their seats.

“The younger son had messed up. He really needed forgiveness from his father. But the truth is, we ALL need forgiveness! All of us have messed up. All of us have sinned.

“Jesus told that story because He wanted the religious leaders to understand that ALL of us need to be forgiven. And God is always ready to forgive us, no matter what we’ve done wrong!”

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “Everyone needs to be forgiven.

“And God is always there to welcome us home. Let’s pray and thank God for forgiving us.”

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

Pray

STORYTELLER: “God, thank You for this story that Jesus told about the younger son and the father. All of us mess up like the son did. But You are our Father who always forgives us and welcomes us home. Thank You for helping us understand what forgiveness is and that we all need it. Thank You that Jesus paid the price for our sins so we can all be forgiven! We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

Closer

HOST: “Wow. What an amazing story! Imagine what it must have been like for the people who were listening to Jesus tell it. Jesus made it VERY clear to everyone how much God loves us.

CG: Today’s Story Image

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

“See, God is like the father in the story. He’s always willing to forgive us when we mess up. We’re like the younger son in the story. All of us have sinned and made bad choices. But God loves us so much that He will ALWAYS be there to welcome us home. *[Basic Truth]* We can trust Him no matter what. We can come back to Him and know for sure that we’ll find His love and forgiveness.

CG: Timeline

“God has had a plan to rescue us from the very beginning. He knew that we would sin and make mistakes. He knew that sin would separate us from God. That’s why He sent Jesus to be our Savior. Jesus was the answer God had planned all along. When we believe in Jesus and believe that He died on the cross for us, then we’re no

longer separated from Him. We can receive His love and forgiveness and have a relationship with Him that will never end.

“Remember:

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “Everyone needs to be forgiven.

“That means we can also show forgiveness to others because of the amazing forgiveness God has given us. When your little brother sneaks into your room, when your friend says something that hurts your feelings, and even when your teacher gives lots of homework, you can forgive because you know what Jesus has done for you.

“I bet you can think of some other times when you need to forgive, too. Let’s keep the conversation going as we head back to Small Group!”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

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

CG: Theme Slide