



TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

I'll Be There for You
Jesus Forgives Peter
John 21:1-19

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

How do you react when
a friend hurts you?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Friends forgive one another.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

**A friend loves at all times.
They are there to help
when trouble comes.**
Proverbs 17:17, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Friendship—Using your words and
actions to show others you care

BASIC TRUTH

**I should treat others the way
I want to be treated.**

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today. In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Early Arriver
Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP

35
MIN

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways **WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God**

Welcome/Opener
Worship ("Love One Another" from *Every Beat*, "Friend Like You" from *This Love*, and "This Is Amazing Grace" from *Movin' Me*)
Bible Story (Communicator Script)
Key Question
Prayer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Application Activity: Take a Snapshot
Bible Story Review: Bible Story Review and Discussion Questions
Memory Verse Activity: Verses to Take with You
Prayer Activity: Make it Personal with Prayer

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Parent Cue Card (print or email)
GodTime devotional for kids
Studio252.tv
Parent Cue App



WEEK
FOUR
SEPTEMBER 2020

LARGE GROUP
PRETEEN

PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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BASIC TRUTH

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LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE KIDS' HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY, WORSHIP, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS KIDS ENTER.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

Host enters . . .

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN (30- OR 60-SECOND VERSION)

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME

WELCOME

Host has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to [Name of Environment]. Host is relatable and inviting. Host can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like a big sports game, movie opening, a viral video on YouTube, etc. Host tells them how excited he or she is that they're there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what's happening.

OPENER

HOST: "What's going on, everyone! Welcome to the Block Party where we make a big deal about faith, friendship, and FUN! And that fun starts out with "Block Party Ping Pong Cornhole." I need two volunteers to get started!

SLIDE: BLOCK PARTY PING PONG CORNHOLE

Host chooses two volunteers. One thrower and one holder.

"Alright, I'm pretty sure you've heard of cornhole, or maybe you're more familiar with a good old-fashioned bean bag toss. Well, we're not going to use bean bags, but our game definitely takes some inspiration from those. Here we have our game board. You'll notice there are different spots where you can throw a ball and get some points. One player will hold up this game board. You might notice there are two eye holes—that is where your face goes. You will stand here. (Show the "holder" the tape line.) The thrower will stand here. (Show the "thrower" the other tape line.) When I say GO, you'll start throwing ping pong balls at the board. You (to the game board holder) are allowed to move how you want as long as you stay behind the line. You have 15 ping pong balls, so make them count!"



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PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

Host gets everyone in place and puts 15 ping pong balls on the ground at the tape line.

HOST: "Ready . . . set . . . GO!!!!"

AUDIO: UPBEAT GAME MUSIC

Count total points. As time allows, have several volunteers play and award a winner

HOST: "(After the game) That was a lot of fun. Great job everyone! Now let's stand

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN (30- OR 60-SECOND VERSION)

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME

OPENER

HOST: THAT GAME WAS AWESOME!!!! Block parties are amazing! But they are really so much more fun with friends! The more the merrier.

SLIDE: LIFE APP

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME TRANSITION TO LIFE APP

"Friendship is using your words and actions to show others you care.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): LIFE APP TRANSITION TO THEME

"All of us want to HAVE good friends. All of us want to BE good friends, too. And I've got great news—God can help us be the kind of friends we need to be!

"But what happens when friends make mistakes.... has anyone ever had that happen to you? Were they quick to apologize?

Maybe a more important questions is... **HAVE YOU EVER** made a mistake and hurt one of your friends? Maybe it was playing too rough, or maybe it was your words that hurt your friend. Either way, you probably have experienced when friendship gets messy. That's why **TODAY** is so important. But before we jump into that, let's take some time and worship!!

WORSHIP

Only Way

*****Take time to link the song to the bottom line for the day.**

Wide Open



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COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT (STORY)

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: "Hey everyone! I can't believe it is already the end of September. The good news though? We have a great morning planned for you!"

"I'm actually going to ask [Host's name] to come back out. (Calling out) Hey [Host's name]!"

Host comes out on stage. Table and table cloth are preset on stage. Jars and ping pong balls should be under the table out of site.

This next bit plays on the relational dynamic between the Communicator and the Host, so if you feel there is a better person to use other than the Host, feel free to edit.

HOST: "What's up?"

COMMUNICATOR: "Well, the truth is, you and I are friends, right?"

HOST: "Oh yeah!"

COMMUNICATOR: "And we've been friends for some time now. We've been here together at [Name of Environment] for a while, and we've built a good relationship."

HOST: "Why do I feel like you're about to ask me for something? Do you need to borrow my car again?"

COMMUNICATOR: "No it's not like that at all. Actually . . ."

Pulls out several empty glass jars and sets them down.

COMMUNICATOR: "It's kind of the opposite."

HOST: "I'm not sure I like where this is going."

COMMUNICATOR: "So in our relationship, we've had our ups . . . and our downs. Like, remember that time you got angry with me and called me that name?"

HOST: "Yeah, let's not repeat that."

Communicator drops ping pong ball into glass jar.

COMMUNICATOR: "And then you said it . . . again."

Communicator drops ping pong ball into glass jar.



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HOST: "Well, you kind of deserved it . . ."

Communicator stares down Host, and then picks up another ping pong ball and drops it into the jar.

COMMUNICATOR: "Then there was that time you borrowed my video game without asking . . ."

Communicator drops ping pong ball into glass jar.

COMMUNICATOR: "And then you broke it . . ."

Communicator drops ping pong ball into glass jar.

COMMUNICATOR: "And you still tried to return it to me without telling me it was broken..."

Communicator drops ping pong ball into glass jar.

COMMUNICATOR: "And when I asked you about it, you blamed your sweet 'ole grandma!"

Communicator drops ping pong ball into glass jar.

HOST: "She sure does love her some fast car driving games . . ."

COMMUNICATOR: "And then there was that other thing (*ping pong ball*), and that other time (*ping pong ball*), and DEFINITELY that one thing" (*ping pong ball . . . ping pong ball . . . ping pong ball*)

HOST: "Okay, this is fun and all, buuuuuut . . . what are we doing, really?"

COMMUNICATOR: "Alright, yeah that's probably a good place to stop. So this jar represents a 'record of wrongs.' And it probably didn't feel so great to have me stand here and add to it while going back over all of these past issues. But the truth is . . ."

Take out another empty jar.

COMMUNICATOR: "You could do the same for me, too."

HOST: "Oh yeah! This is going to be fun! Let me go get my notebook!"

COMMUNICATOR: "But we're actually NOT going to take the time to do that. (*Beat*) Wait . . . you have a NOTEBOOK?! We'll talk about that later. Why don't you head back stage?"

Host exits.

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: "But think about this. Even when you have these, (*Hold up jar with ping pong balls.*) are the people represented by the ping pong balls still your friends? And when we see these friends, what do we see? Do we see our friends or do we see the things they've done that have hurt us? Like, do I only (*Look through jar.*) see



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my friend through these mistakes they've made? Friendships can be tricky. People aren't perfect. People will upset each other from time to time. When that happens, what do we do? How do we handle it? These are tricky questions, and to be honest, there aren't easy answers to them. After all, how we answer these questions depends on so many things, but regardless of the specific situation, there's still a great place where we can look for answers to those questions. I think you know what I'm about to say. The Bible. The wisdom found in the Bible can help us in any situation, especially when it comes to our relationship with others."

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: "Alright, well, today we head to the New Testament of our Bibles, to a section we call, the Gospels. Now, as many of you know, the writers of the Gospels tell about the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Our story today takes place after Jesus rose from the dead, but we first need to set up the story a little with a few other stories from before Jesus died on the cross."

"When Jesus was on earth, He didn't travel alone. Twelve men spent basically every waking moment with Him. Does anyone know what these twelve guys were called? *(Pause for response.)*

"Right, disciples. A disciple was basically a student who gave up his life to follow his teacher. But it was deeper than that. There are a number of times when Jesus refers to these guys as His friends. I mean, think about it—they basically were together all of the time. And of those twelve men, there were three guys who Jesus was closest to—John, James, and Peter. Today, we focus on Peter."

"Does anybody know what Peter was doing before he became a disciple of Jesus? *(Pause for responses.)* Sure thing, he was a fisherman. That's how he made his living. That was his life. But that day when Jesus called him saying, 'Follow me!' Peter gave it all up."

Communicator takes out glass jar and ping pong balls.

"Peter had some pretty great moments with Jesus. And he also had some pretty low moments. He didn't always get it right. *(Drop a couple ping pong balls in the jar.)* Sometimes he would SPEAK without thinking first. *(Drop a few more ping pong balls in the jar.)* Sometimes he would ACT faster than his mind would work. *(Drop a few more ping pong balls in the jar.)* But at the end of the day, he stood by Jesus."

"Until the day he didn't."

"It was the night of Jesus' arrest and trial. While the religious leaders were deciding what to do with Jesus, Peter stood at a distance in the courtyard watching, warming himself by the fire. He was approached by some people who asked him, 'Aren't you one of His disciples?' Well, surely Peter was, right? So, of course, he would say yes. But his answer instead was, 'No, I'm not.'"

Writes DENY on the ping pong ball, shows it to everyone, and drops it in the jar with the others.

"But the people pressed him more. 'Surely, you're a disciple of Jesus,' but Peter began to get angry and said, 'I don't know the man!' *(Matthew 26:72, NIRV)*"

Writes DENY on the ping pong ball, shows it to everyone, and drops it in the jar with the others.



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"And it happened one more time. Three times in all."

Writes DENY on the ping pong ball, shows it to everyone, and drops it in the jar with the others.

"When Peter realized what he had done, he broke down and cried. Not long after this, Jesus was crucified on the cross. And everything appeared to be over."

"But thankfully that's NOT how the story ends, because three days later, Jesus conquered death and rose to life just like He promised He would. And after rising from the dead, He began to appear to His disciples to prove that He truly was alive. And one of those disciples that He appeared to? Peter."

"Let's check out what happened."

"(Read directly from John 21:1-2, NIV) 'After this, Jesus appeared to his disciples again. It was by the Sea of Galilee. Here is what happened. Simon Peter and Thomas, who was also called Didymus, were there together. Nathanael from Cana in Galilee and the sons of Zebedee were with them. So were two other disciples.'"

"So, many of the disciples were together again, and look at what they were doing."

"(Read directly from John 21:3, NIV) "'I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them. They said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat. That night they didn't catch anything.'"

"Why do you think they were all back fishing, especially Peter? (Pause for response.)"

"Right, this was a glimpse of what their life was like before Jesus. It is not that there is anything wrong with fishing, but these guys looked like they had gone back to their old lives. And Peter seemed to be leading the charge. But they were about to have a visitor . . ."

"(Read directly from John 21:4-5, NIV) 'Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore. But the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. He called out to them, "Friends, don't you have any fish?'"

"Ha! I love this. Jesus showed up, but they didn't know it was Jesus. And what is the one thing you don't want someone to ask you when you aren't catching fish? (Pause for responses) 'Don't you have any fish?' I bet they were pretty fired up. But it got worse. Because the 'stranger' started to give them suggestions!"

"(Calling out) 'Throw your net on the right side of the boat.' (John 21:6, NIV) That's where the fish are!"

"You can almost imagine what the disciples must have been thinking. (Sarcastically as the disciples) 'Oh that's been our problem all night long. The fish only swim on the RIGHT side of the boat. How foolish of us! Thank you, expert shore fisherman!"

"But for some reason, they actually listened, and when they threw their nets on the right side, there were so many fish they couldn't even pull the nets in!"



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"At this, John realized who the backseat fisherman was. *(Read directly from John 21:7-9, NIV)* 'Then the disciple Jesus loved said to Simon Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Peter heard that, he put his coat on. He had taken it off earlier. Then he jumped into the water. The other disciples followed in the boat. They were towing the net full of fish. The shore was only about 100 yards away. When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals. There were fish on it. There was also some bread.'"

"Okay, there is a lot of good stuff here. First, Peter just jumped in and swam for shore, leaving the rest of the disciples to take care of the boat and the huge haul of fish! But did you notice what they found when they landed on the shore? A fire . . . but what else? *(Pause for response.)*

"A fire with bread and FISH on it. Jesus had already caught fish and prepared breakfast. That's pretty cool."

"And so the disciples came and had breakfast with Jesus on the beach by the Sea of Galilee. A powerful moment I'm sure. But for Peter, there was still some unfinished business."

"With the smell of the fire in the air, it was time for Jesus and Peter to talk about what happened the time Peter was around the fire during Jesus' trial."

"(Read directly from John 21:15, NIV) 'When Jesus and the disciples had finished eating, Jesus spoke to Simon Peter. He asked, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these . . . ?" "Yes, Lord," he answered. "You know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs.'"

"This was a powerful moment. Peter came face to face with Jesus, the same Jesus who, well . . . *(Pick up the DENY ping pong ball.)* he had denied even knowing in Jesus' most desperate moment. That is not what a friend does. And now Jesus asked, 'Do you love me?' That must have been a hard question to hear. But Jesus wasn't done."

"(Read directly from John 21:16, NIV) 'Again Jesus asked, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord. You know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep.'"

"I imagine Peter thought, 'Why do you keep asking me this?' But Jesus had one more question."

"(Read directly from John 21:17, NIV) 'Jesus spoke to him a third time. He asked, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?'"

Peter felt bad because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He answered, "Lord, you know all things. You know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."

"Peter was hurt by hearing the question again, but let me ask you something—how many times did Jesus ask Peter if he loved Him? *(Pause for response of three times.)*

"And why do you think that number is important? *(Pause for responses.)*

"Yes! Because that was how many times Peter denied even knowing Jesus. What was Jesus doing here? Well, for one thing, He was forgiving and restoring Peter for these."

Communicator digs out the three DENY ping pong balls and gets rids of them.



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"And not only was He forgiving his past, but He was also preparing him for the future. You see, Peter was going to play an incredibly important role in starting the church. He would be a pastor or shepherd . . . and what are shepherds in charge of? *(Pause for response.)* Sheep! And just like Jesus said three times, Peter was going to play an important role in feeding God's sheep, His people. But to be prepared for his future, he first had to be forgiven his past."

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: "You know, it is easy to keep track of all of the things others do wrong to us."

Hold up Host's jars of ping pong balls.

"The truth is things happen to us all the time that hurt us and upset us. Some of those things can be silly, like when someone says they don't like the color of our shoes. Okay, that might hurt because we really like our shoes, but do we want to hold something like that against someone forever and refuse to forgive them? Probably not."

"But some things can be really serious, like what we saw with Jesus and Peter. And it can take some time to work through some of the pain that was caused. But if they're a good friend, it is worth forgiving them and working through it."

"Now, let's be honest for moment. There may come a time when you have a friend who hurts you SO badly that it's best to distance yourself from them, maybe not be their friend anymore. And that's okay. You need to be safe. But you can still forgive them, because that will help YOU live with peace and freedom, even if you don't ever hang out with that person again."

"Do you know one of the coolest things about forgiving others? When we are willing to do this . . ."

Takes Host's jar and dumps it out.

"It is a reminder of what God has done for us. Because the truth is . . ."

Communicator takes out oversized clear jar.

"This is us . . ."

Communicator dumps ping pong balls in to fill oversized clear jar.

"And so is this. We have sinned and done so many things that God has asked us not to. But through Jesus, this is what God does . . ."

Communicator dumps clear jar out to empty it.

"God has forgiven us. He has erased our debt. And when we forgive others, we are acting just like God does. So when we are tempted to hold on to our hurt or to make others pay for what they have done, consider the story of Jesus and Peter and how you can be more like Jesus in forgiving your friends of *(Pick up ping pong balls)* the wrongs they have done. This is truly the best way to live, because this is what God is like!"



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LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: "Today as you go to groups, think about this question:"

SLIDE: KEY QUESTION

"How do you react when a friend hurts you? Do you immediately try and get back at them? Do you freeze them out and ignore them? Or do you try to work through it with them, and see if it's a friendship worth working on. If you're not sure how you'd answer that question, don't worry. You'll get to chat about it more in Small Group.

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "When Jesus forgave Peter, He let Peter know that they would always be friends. Peter didn't have to feel badly about what he had done anymore. In fact, He wanted Peter to be a leader of the early church!

"When we see what Jesus did for Peter, we can understand something important about friendship.

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

"Friends forgive one another.

"All of us have been hurt before. If we're honest, all of us have probably hurt someone else's feelings, too. That can happen in any friendship. But when it does, it doesn't have to come between us. We can choose to forgive . . . and let it go. Our friendships are WAY more important than what we've done wrong!

"Let's pray and ask God to help us forgive."

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

PRAY

STORYTELLER: "Dear God, thank You so much for showing us what forgiveness looks like. It's amazing how Jesus chose to forgive Peter, even though Peter felt like he had really messed up. Please, help us learn to forgive each other the way You do. Thank You for making a way that WE can be forgiven because of what Jesus has done for us. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

Communicator leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard. After prayer, Communicator dismisses kids to Small Group.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS STUDENTS EXIT.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP