



TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Mercy, Mercy Me
The Story of the
Unmerciful Servant
Matthew 18:21-35

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Forgive others because
God forgives you.

MONTHLY 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, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

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.

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 ("You're the Reason" from *Press Play: Get in the Mix* and "Trust You with My Heart" from *This Love*)
Bible Story
Bottom Line
Prayer
Closer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Bible Story Review: Dough Review (*k-1st grade*), Modern-Day Parable (*2nd-3rd grade*)

Application Activity: Forgive or Don't Forgive (*k-1st grade*), The Weight Race (*2nd-3rd grade*)

Memory Verse Activity: Four Square Memory Verse (*k-1st grade*), Memory Verse Moves (*2nd-3rd grade*)

Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Parent Cue Card (print or email)
Devotionals for Kids
Parent Cue App



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

25 MINUTES 10 MINUTES

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Mercy, Mercy Me
The Story of the
Unmerciful Servant
Matthew 18:21-35

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Forgive others because
God forgives you.

MONTHLY 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, NIV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

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.

BIBLE VERSES

- Matthew 18:21
- Matthew 18:22
- Matthew 18:23-26
- Matthew 18:27
- Matthew 18:28-29
- Matthew 18:30
- Matthew 18:32-35

HOST SUPPLIES

- Worship Leaders, to help demonstrate the moves for the game
- Beach balls (inflated)—one per small group
- Week 3 Timeline Image printed on cardstock from the LG Assets PDF
- Clothesline and clothespins for the timeline in your room

STORY SUPPLIES

- Bible
- Printed script

Worship Leaders enter

WORSHIP

WORSHIP LEADER:

AUDIO:

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



25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

Host enters.

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN
OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME

OPENER

HOST: “Hi, everyone! I’m so pumped to see you all here today, because we’ve got lots of fun things happening! Can anyone tell me what we’re talking about this month? *(Pause for response.)* That’s right! We’re talking about forgiveness.

SLIDE: VIRTUE

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME TRANSITION TO VIRTUE

“Forgiveness means deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn’t have to pay.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): VIRTUE TRANSITION TO THEME

“I know when someone has said something mean to you, or they’ve done something to frustrate you or hurt your feelings, it’s really easy to want to get back at them. But forgiveness means that you decide NOT to get even. You decide *(take a deep breath)* to let it go.

“The truth is, we all need forgiveness because we ALL mess up from time to time. I’ve got a fun game that we can play today that will help us practice working together as a team—even if we mess up! Here’s how it works.

“You’ll be playing this game with your small group. Go ahead and sit in a circle with your group, then look back up here when you’re ready.

Give the kids some time to circle up.

“Okay, here’s a beach ball for each group!

Give a beach ball to each Small Group Leader.

“The object of the game is to get the ball moving around the circle, and we’ve got some fun ways for you to do that! I’ve asked our Worship Leaders to demonstrate the motions you’ll use.

Worship Leaders enter.

“Now, this game will go quickly, and you’ll probably mess up at some point, so you’ll need to work together as a team to get back on track!

“The first move is called ‘side-to-side.’ For this one, when you get the ball from someone, you’ll pass it right on to the next person.



WEEK
THREE
MARCH 2023

LARGE GROUP
K-3

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

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

Demonstrate in a line with the Worship Leaders.

“The next move is called ‘over-under.’ For this one, one person will pass the ball over their head to the next person, who will pass it under and between their legs to the person behind THEM, like this.

Demonstrate, in a line, with the Worship Leaders.

“The next move is called ‘in the air.’ For this one, you’ll try to keep the ball in the air like this and bounce it to the next person.

Demonstrate, in a line, with the Worship Leaders.

“Those are the three moves! I’ll call out one move, and you’ll just keep doing that move around your circle as quickly as you can until I call out a NEW move. If you’re not sure what to do, our friends up here on stage (*reference the Worship Leaders*) will be demonstrating each move for you as we play. Sound good? Give me a thumbs-up if you’ve got it! (*Pause for response.*)

“Okay, everybody on your feet! Let’s get ready to play. Three . . . two . . . one . . . GO!”

AUDIO: FUN INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Call out one of the three moves to get the kids started. Encourage them to pass the ball around their circle as quickly as they can. If the ball hits the ground, encourage them to pick it up and keep going (“That’s okay! Let’s get back on track!”).

From time to time, call out different moves, speeds, and variations (“Over-under, twice as fast!” “In the air, slow motion!” “Side-to-side, and say ‘Cowabunga’ as you pass the ball!”). As the kids play, Worship Leaders should pass the ball back and forth on stage to demonstrate.

Have fun with the game and variations. Play for two or three minutes total. Collect the beach balls when the game is over. Worship Leaders can help with this.

“Way to go, everyone! I saw some groups doing a great job of working together. I think every group dropped the ball a few times—especially when things got really fast and crazy. But you didn’t let that stop you. You kept the game going, and we had a ton of fun! Now let’s keep the fun going as we sing and worship God together.”

Host exits. Worship Leaders stay on stage.

WORSHIP

WORSHIP LEADER:

AUDIO:



25 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Storyteller enters as Worship Leaders exit.

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: Hi, everybody! We’ve been traveling through God’s Big Story as we’ve looked at lots of different stories throughout the Bible. *(Hold up Bible.)*

If you’re using a Bible timeline on your wall, you can reference it here.

“God promised to send a Savior, and at the right time, Jesus was born in Bethlehem. When Jesus grew up, He said and did amazing things. He performed miracles and healed people who were sick. Jesus often told short stories, called parables, which used everyday situations to help people understand big things about God.

“Today, we get the chance to look at one of Jesus’ parables that helps us understand why it’s so important to forgive. I thought we could talk about it in a fun way. By playing our game show, ‘What Happened Next?’

SLIDE: “WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?”

AUDIO: GAME SHOW MUSIC

“Yes, friends, this is your chance to try to guess ‘What Happened Next’ in the story. I’ll pause from time to time and ask you a question, and you can let me know what you think the answer might be. Are you ready? *(Pause.)* Great! Let’s do this!”

HOW MANY TIMES?

STORYTELLER: “Peter was one of Jesus’ followers. One day, Peter came to Jesus with a big question. Peter asked Jesus . . .

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?”

“Seven times? That seems like a lot, doesn’t it? Well, What Happened Next? How many times do you think Jesus said we should forgive? Raise your hand when you hear the answer you think is right.

Read the possible answers from the printed script.

“Was it:

- A) Zero times
- B) times, or
- C) Three strikes and you’re OUT?

“Looks like a lot of you thought it was 77 times. Let’s take a look and see. How many times should we forgive?”



25 MINUTES

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

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

“I think Jesus was pretty serious about forgiveness, don’t you? Basically, Jesus was saying that we should forgive as many times as it takes!

“Jesus then told a story to make His point clear. Let me read the first part to you. Here we go.

Open the Bible to Matthew 18:23-26 (NirV) and read.

“The kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to collect all the money his servants owed him. As the king began to do it, a man who owed him 10,000 bags of gold was brought to him. The man was not able to pay. So his master gave an order. The man, his wife, his children, and all he owned had to be sold to pay back what he owed.

“Then the servant fell on his knees in front of him. ‘Give me time,’ he begged. ‘I’ll pay everything back.’

“So . . . What Happened Next? When the servant begged for more time to pay back the money he owed, what did the king do?

Read the possible answers from the printed script.

“Did he:

- A) Throw the man in prison,
- B) Make the man wash dishes to pay what he owed, or
- C) Forgive him?

“You’re so smart! Jesus said . . .

Open the Bible to Matthew 18:27 (NirV) and read.

“His master felt sorry for him. He forgave him what he owed and let him go.

“That’s pretty amazing, isn’t it? I mean, the servant owed the king 10,000 bags of gold! But the king forgave the man. And so the man didn’t have to pay back any of the money he owed the king.”

PAYING IT FORWARD (NOT)

STORYTELLER: “Listen to the next part of the story Jesus told.

Open the Bible to Matthew 18:28-29 (NirV) and read.

“But then that servant went out and found one of the other servants who owed him 100 silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he said.

“The other servant fell on his knees. ‘Give me time,’ he begged him. ‘I’ll pay it back.’



25 MINUTES

“How do you think the first servant responded to that? When this other servant begged for more time to pay back the 100 coins he owed . . . What Happened Next?”

Read the possible answers from the printed script.

“What did the first servant do for the other man? Did he:

- A) Give him a jellyfish,
- B) Forgive what he owed, or
- C) Throw him in prison?

“Let’s read the answer.

Open the Bible to Matthew 18:30 (NirV) and read.

“The first servant refused. Instead, he went and had the man thrown into prison. The man would be held there until he could pay back what he owed.

“Can you believe that? The king had forgiven the first servant of a HUGE amount of money—10,000 bags of gold! But the servant refused to forgive when someone else owed him only 100 silver coins. Instead, the servant threw the other man in prison!”

PAYBACK

STORYTELLER: “Some other servants told the king what had happened. The king found out that his servant had refused to forgive someone else. What Happened Next?”

Read the possible answers from the printed script.

“Did the king:

- A) Throw the servant in prison,
- B) Throw a birthday party, or
- C) Go on vacation?

“The king called in the first servant, and here’s what he told him.

Open the Bible to Matthew 18:32-35 (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?’ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers. He would be punished until he paid back everything he owed.

“Jesus then continued:

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

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND



WEEK
THREE
MARCH 2023



25 MINUTES

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "Wow! Jesus made it very clear that we should be quick to forgive others, because we've been forgiven ourselves.

"The king in the story is like God. God forgives US. So we should forgive other people.

"God has forgiven each of us more than we will ever know, so we can pass on that same forgiveness when people mess up or hurt our feelings.

"Remember . . .

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

"Forgive others because God forgives you.

"One thing's for sure, we need God's help to do that. Let's pray and talk to God about that now."

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

PRAY

STORYTELLER: "God, thank You so much for your love and forgiveness. There's nothing we could ever do to make You love us more or less than You already do. And there's nothing we could ever do that You wouldn't forgive! Help us remember that and love and forgive others the way You love and forgive us. We love you, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."



WEEK
THREE
MARCH 2023

LARGE GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE SOCIAL **STORY** WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

25 MINUTES

CLOSER

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

HOST: "I think it's so cool that we know EXACTLY how Jesus feels about forgiveness, because of the story He told that day.

SLIDE: GOD'S BIG STORY TIMELINE

SLIDE: WEEK 3 TIMELINE IMAGE

If you're making a timeline of printed images on your wall, take this moment to place today's timeline image on the clothesline.

"In Jesus' story, the servant had been forgiven by the king, but the servant wasn't willing to share that same forgiveness with someone else who owed HIM. But we can make a different choice. God has forgiven us, so we should be willing to forgive the people God has put in our lives.

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

"Forgive others because God forgives you.

"If we're honest, we've all made mistakes and done wrong things that hurt others and break our relationship with God. But because Jesus died for our sins on the cross, God forgives us. And when God forgives us, we get to move forward with a fresh, clean start. We can then choose to forgive other people, which is a great way that we can **[Basic Truth] treat others the way we want to be treated.**

"There's something important that you should know about forgiveness, too. Forgiving someone doesn't mean that you're saying the hurtful thing that happened is okay. And forgiveness doesn't mean that you have to let a person KEEP hurting you. You can tell the person that what they've done isn't okay. You can get an adult involved if you're not sure what to do to fix what's wrong.

"Remember, when we forgive, we get to let go of our OWN anger and hurt. Forgiving someone else can actually help you find freedom in your own heart, because you're not worried about getting even or making the other person pay.

"Our memory verse, Colossians 3:13, gives us a good reminder of why we should forgive. Paul wrote these words in his letter to the people in the Colossian church. He said . . .

SLIDE: MEMORY VERSE

"Put up with one another. Forgive one another if you are holding something against someone. Forgive, just as the Lord forgave you." (NirV)

"That's what it's all about! We can forgive because God forgives us. You can talk about that some more in Small Group!"

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS THE KIDS EXIT.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP



GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

STORY: COMMUNICATING GOD'S TRUTH IN ENGAGING WAYS (25 MINUTES)

WORSHIP: INVITING PEOPLE TO RESPOND TO GOD (10 MINUTES)

1. OPENER/CLOSER

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Worship Leaders, to help demonstrate the moves for the game
- Beach balls (inflated)—one per small group
- Week 3 Timeline Image printed on cardstock from the LG Assets PDF
- Clothesline and clothespins for the timeline in your room

MUSIC AND SOUND EFFECTS:

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

LARGE GROUP VISUALS:

- Theme Slide
- Virtue Slide
- Theme Background Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- Memory Verse Slide
- God's Big Story Timeline Slide
- Week 3 Timeline Image Slide
- Week 3 Timeline Image (printable)

OPTIONAL VIDEOS (AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE THROUGH THE 252 MEDIA PACKAGE):

- Theme Loop
- Countdown
- Theme
- Theme Transition to Virtue
- Virtue Transition to Theme

WHAT YOU DO:

- Download and print this week's tech sheet for everyone helping with Large Group.

- Download the slides or optional videos and have them ready to use. If you do not have screen capabilities, you have Orange's permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.
- Download music from a resource such as iTunes® and have it ready to play.
- A 252 Media Package is available for purchase to go along with each curriculum tier. These graphic motion loops are included in the package. For more information, visit Store.ThinkOrange.com.
- Ask the Worship Leaders ahead of time to help you demonstrate the moves for the game.

2. WORSHIP

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Worship Leader(s)

MUSIC AND SOUND EFFECTS:

- "You're the Reason" from *Press Play: Get in the Mix*
- "Trust You with My Heart" from *This Love*

OPTIONAL VIDEOS (AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE):

- "You're the Reason" Live Lyrics or Dance Moves Music Video (available through Store.ThinkOrange.com)
- "Trust You with My Heart" Live Lyrics or Dance Moves Music Video (available through Store.ThinkOrange.com)

WHAT YOU DO:

- Download all songs and have them ready to use.
- Dance Moves Music Videos and Live Lyrics Videos are available for many Orange Kids Music songs. For more information, visit Store.ThinkOrange.com.
- A 252 Media Package is available for purchase to go along with each curriculum tier. The *Live Loud* faith skills video and the Dance Moves Music Video for the monthly worship song are included in the package. For more information, visit Store.ThinkOrange.com.

3. BIBLE STORY

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bible
- Printed script



WEEK
THREE
MARCH 2023

LARGE GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

MUSIC AND SOUND EFFECTS:

- Game show music (provided)

LARGE GROUP VISUALS:

- Theme Background Slide
- Bottom Line Slide
- "What Happened Next?" Slide

WHAT YOU DO:

- Download the slides and have them ready to use. If you do not have screen capabilities, you have Orange's permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.

VIDEO ENHANCEMENTS FOR YOUR ENVIRONMENT

AVAILABLE FOR ADDITIONAL PURCHASE AT STORE.THINKORANGE.COM.

FEATURE PRESENTATION: Everything you need to pull off a dynamic video storytelling experience, including video Bible presentations to complement 252 Kids and 252 Preteen curriculum.

Our Large Group scripts are interchangeable with these videos so you can plug and play the way you need to each week.

For 252 Kids (kindergarten through 3rd grade):

- In *StoryLab*, two inquisitive young Hosts invite kids to engage with the month's Virtue, setting up a simple and direct telling of the Bible story by a professional Storyteller.

For 252 Preteen (4th and 5th grade):

- In *The So & So Show*, two Hosts and a Communicator walk you through a contemporary and comedic presentation of the Bible story. This YouTube-style show sets up the story and also connects it to the weekly Key Question for preteens.

GET REEL: Videos and graphics to enhance your 252 Kids and 252 Preteen curriculum environments. Four

videos each month will help kids learn basic faith skills. Use them in your FX, Large Group, or as a promotional piece to show in your adult services:

- Discovery*—Listen to God's words (HEAR)
- Dear God*—Dialogue with God (PRAY)
- One Thing*—Articulate your faith (TALK)
- Live Loud*—Worship with your life (LIVE)

ADDITIONAL ENVIRONMENT ENHANCEMENTS

INCLUDING:

- Graphic motion loops
- Themed audio transitions
- Virtue and monthly widget promo videos (M.C. Haggis)
- Countdown videos (30 seconds, 60 seconds, and 5 minutes)
- Music videos for original songs that highlight each Virtue
- Retro Reel video to play on your fifth Sunday