

You Don't Owe Me

Bottom Line: I choose peace by choosing to forgive.

Memory Verse: "So let us do all we can to live in peace. And let us work hard to build up one another." Romans 14:19, NIV

Life App: Peace—choosing to care more about each other than being right.

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what

Social: Setting the Tone for the Experience (9:00, 10:15, 11:30)

How Heavy

- 5 Liter-sized bottles of water per group

Bible: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (9:15, 10:30, 11:45)

- Bible Presentation in Large Group

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (9:40, 10:55, 12:10)

9:00 & 11:30

Repeat

- Timer

10:15

Weighted Down

- "Love Actually" cards
- Pens

Prayer (9:50, 11:05, 12:20)

- Index cards
- Pencils
- Dark markers

Dismiss (10:00, 11:15, 12:30)

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Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (Small Groups, 15 minutes)

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's Bible Truth.

How Heavy

What You Need: Liter-sized bottles of water

What You Do:

Ask kids how heavy they think the bottle of water is. Ask for five people that will commit to holding the water bottles up, in front of them, during the length of large group.

What You Say:

"Some things don't look very heavy, and that's true, but everything starts to weigh on you the longer you hold onto it. Our friends here have committed to holding out their water bottles for the entire time of Large Group. If you see your friend struggling, ask them if they're ready to let go? Water holders, your response should always be, 'No, I choose to hold onto this. You'll say that every time, until you are instructed to change it. You'll know when that is.'"

"Let's go to large group and hear about what Jesus decided to do when he had a choice between holding on and letting go."

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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

GETTING READY

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Host
- To prepare for the opener game, ask for assistance from a few small group leaders to mark one hand on each kid with one number from 1-7 as they enter the room. Try to even out how many of each number there are (i.e. on the first kid's hand put a 1, on the second kid's put a 2, etc., then after 7 repeat back to 1).

2. Bible Truth

What You Need:

- Communicator
- Bible

3. Worship

What You Need:

- Power Praise Team

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- "God is For Us"
- "Raise Your Hands"
- "Fearfully and Wonderfully Made"

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

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

CG: Theme Slide

Host enters.

Welcome

Host has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to The Hideout. 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. (NOTE: As this is October, fall sports are in full swing. October is World Series month, and football will be on every Saturday and Sunday at this point. You can talk about favorite teams and big games that are happening nationally and locally.) 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.

Host transitions to game.

Opener

HOST: "Now, you are probably wondering why you have a number on your hand. Well, I am about to show you. I know it is the weekend, but we are going to do a little math. Don't worry! It won't be too hard. In just a second, I'll call out a number. As soon as I do, your job is to get with another group of people whose hands all together combined with the number on your hand add up to the number I called out. You'll have to be quick, because I'm going to count down, and whoever doesn't have a group or has the wrong sum will have to grab a seat. For example, if I call 11 and your hand has a 7, you either have to find four people with the number 1, two people with 2, a 3 and a 1 . . . you get it."

Number hand tips:

- *8 should be the lowest number you call*
- *Start with smaller numbers at first (8-15)*
- *Groups that believe they have the right sum should all put their hands together in the middle of a circle.*
- *Have Small Group Leaders walk around adding up groups*
- *If time remains, play again for those who got out early*
- *Play until you get down to 3-4 kids*
- *Give a prize to the winning group at the end*

HOST: “Okay, I promise that is the most math we will do this whole morning! Great job, everyone. Let’s welcome [Communicator’s Name] to the stage to enlighten us with today’s message.”

Host exist as Historyteller enters.

SETTING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH

HISTORYTELLER: “Hello there Ladies and Gentlemen. Oh, I see we have some folks holding onto some stuff. Let me ask you ‘Are you ready to let go?’ *(Pause for the proper response)*

“Alright, I see that you are very determined to hold onto that. Thank you for helping us demonstrate today’s focus.”

“So, a couple of weeks ago we talked about a guy names Peter. He was one of Jesus’ best friends. They spent a lot of time together. Jesus’ actions and words were getting through to Peter and many others—they were understanding that He truly was the Son of God! But not everyone believed that, and they certainly weren’t happy about what Jesus said about Himself. Jesus tried to prepare His disciples for the future, explaining to them that He would not be with them for much longer.”

“Do you remember how Peter protested and said he would follow Jesus anywhere—that he would give his life for Jesus. But Jesus knew that Peter wasn’t going to live up to his words. What did Jesus tell Peter he would do three times before the rooster crowed?”

When the correct answer is given, play the audio clip.

SFX: “Jesus’ Words to Peter” Clip

ROUND THREE: THE MISSION

“Yeah, Peter denied that he knew Jesus. Peter told Jesus that would never happen—that he would never deny Jesus, but everything happened just as Jesus said it would. Peter denied knowing Him three times. And the third time ...

SFX: Rooster Crowing

“Yup, Now, things are starting to get a little serious here.”

“Because, you see, things got worse after that ... much worse. Jesus was accused of things He didn’t even do. He was beaten, whipped, stabbed and crucified on a rough wooden cross. To do that, they had to drive huge nails into his hands and feet to keep him upright on the cross as they lifted it into the air and set it in the ground. It’s one thing to stand with your arms out when you’re feeling fine, but torture when you have to do it when you are already weak and exhausted. Everything just seems so much heavier and when you relax, the skin keeps ripping as your body sags lower and lower.

CG: The Cross Slide

“He hung there, high on a hill in the dust and heat, as people called him names, spit at him, made fun of him and called him crazy, until ... well, He died. He did nothing, absolutely nothing to deserve even a small part of what happened to him. That would make most of us very angry. I’ve seen family members decide never to talk to each other because of forgotten birthdays. This is murder!”

My friends with the water, 'Are you ready to let go?' (*Wait for response*)

"Alright. Well, do you know what Jesus said, right before He died? (*Pause for answers. Open up the Bible to Luke 23:34*) Luke tells us in chapter 23 verse 34 of his book in the bible. Jesus said "Father," that's what Jesus called God, "Father, forgive them."

Wow! Forgive them. He didn't say, hurt them, or forget them, or I hate you all, or you're not my friend. No, he said forgive them. He chose to care about others by forgiving them."

"We're glad He did, too. If Jesus had chosen not to forgive us, we would still be unforgiven and full of sin. We would not have the choice of going to Heaven. No, we would all be going to hell after death. But we have a choice now. Because Jesus chose peace with us when he chose to forgive us, we were given a choice that we didn't earn or even deserve. We were given the choice between life, eternal with the Father in Heaven, or death, eternally separated from Him."

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Impress] "I choose to care about others by choosing to forgive. I choose peace because Jesus chose peace. I choose forgiveness because that is what honors God and I love Him. Let's pray.

Pray

Pray an appropriate prayer that emphasizes forgiveness as a way of honoring the peace and forgiveness that Jesus offers us.

"If you have an offering, bring that on up and put it in the bucket."

"Would you be so kind as to stand up and help me welcome the Power Praise team?"

Power Praise team enters as Historyteller exits.

Worship

POWER PRAISE: "Make sure you're up on your feet. We are singing to the God who created this world! Let's praise Him together. Sing along with me.

SFX: "God is For Us"

"Woo-hoo! Keep that excitement going with this next song!"

SFX: "Raise Your Hands"

"Great job. During this next song I want you to think about how God made you on purpose and for a specific purpose. When we get so mixed up with jealousy, anger, or unforgiveness, we can lose sight of that purpose and start to feel alone and far away from God. Use this song to talk with God and ask him to help you stay focused on Him and to thank Him for making you exactly how He needs you to be."

SFX: "Fearfully and Wonderfully Made"

"Amazing. It is always amazing to see you all worship God the way that you do and to open up to Him

and talk with Him. Have a great week and we will see you again real soon.”

Power Praise exits as Host enters.

Closer

HOST: “My friends with the water, we’re going to change up our response a little bit now. Your new response will be ‘I choose to let go so that I can be free to walk in peace and forgiveness because I am forgiven.’ It’s going to be on the screen for you.”

CG: Response Slide

“My friends, are you ready to let go?” *(Kids read the response)*

Lead the class to clap for and celebrate this choice.

“Welcome to peace and forgiveness. I am so proud of you. We are all so proud of you, not for holding on as long as you did, but for letting go.”

CG: Memory Verse Slide

“So let us do all we can to live in peace. And let us work hard to build up one another.” Romans 14:19, NIV.”

“This is a simple verse to say—I bet you all have it almost memorized! But even if it’s easy to remember, it’s not always simple to put into practice. We are supposed to choose peace even when our emotions might be all wacky. But we can because we’ve seen it done, maybe by some people we know but definitely by Jesus, while He lived on this earth, just like you and me.”

“If peace is choosing to care about others more than being right then that means that no matter what we *feel*, we are supposed to stop thinking about ourselves and do whatever it takes to keep or make peace between us and others. Sometimes that means that we have to choose to forgive, even if we are right about something. We get to choose to care about others by choosing to forgive. I promise you, when you start forgiving people, even when they don’t apologize, it makes you feel better inside and it lets you stay closer to God because you aren’t distracted. Being angry with people can distract you and that just gets in the way of our relationship with God. Say the bottom line with me.”

CG: Bottom Line Slide

HOST and KIDS: *[Bottom Line]* “I Choose peace by choosing to forgive.”

HOST: “Yes! You guys will hear more about what that looks like in your small groups. Have fun, and we’ll see you next time!”

Dismiss children to their Prayer Groups.

CG: Prayer Group Slide

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Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (10 minutes)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible Truth applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

9:00 & 11:30

Repeat

What You Need: Timer

What You Do:

- Tell kids to sit in a circle.
- Tell one kid to say the first word of the memory verse. The next kid repeats the first word and adds the next one. The next kids repeats the first two words and adds the next one, and so on.
- Continue around the circle with each kid adding one word until the entire verse is said.
- You can time it to see how fast kids can accomplish the task.

What You Say:

"It got tiring repeating the verse over and over, and sometimes forgiving someone over and over can be tiring. But sometimes you have to forgive the same thing over and over again until you actually forgive. Every time it pops back in your mind, you have to forgive again, until, eventually, it just stops popping up. (*We should forgive as many times as it takes.*) Forgiving, yes, even over and over will bring peace to our relationships and peace to our hearts and minds. God makes peace with you by forgiving you over and over and **[Bottom Line] I choose peace by choosing to forgive others** over and over again." **[Make It Personal] (Share with the kids something you do to help you to remember that since God forgave you, you should forgive others. What reminds you to forgive even when it is really hard and you don't feel like it?)**

Additional Discussion Question

- What can you do to help yourself forgive when you don't feel like it?

10:15**Love Actually Survey****What You Need:** “Love Actually Survey” cards Activity Page, pens**What You Do:**

- Start a discussion on what love and peace have to do with forgiveness. What do they have in common?
- Pass out the cards and pens.
- Encourage students to be honest and grade themselves on how well they love others.
- They will mark the grade they’d give themselves on the one characteristic on their square, and then walk around asking others to rate themselves and make a tally mark in the appropriate spot.
- Give them five minutes to keep the energy high. You can extend it if needed. Also tell them when they are halfway through the time allotted and when there’s only a minute left.
- Compare and share the results.

What You Say:

“What characteristic of love are we best at as a group? Are we patient? Are we kind? Do we put others first? (*Pause for discussion.*) What kind of love are we weakest at and struggling with? Do we brag too much or are we easily angered? (*Pause for discussion.*)

“If we read further in 1 Corinthians 13, in verse 11, we can see why growing in love matters—especially now as you are in double digits approaching your teenage years. It says: *When I was a child, I talked like a child. I thought like a child. I had the understanding of a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me (NirV).* If we want others to take us seriously and to not see us as children, we can pick one of these things to really work on this week. Let’s put all the cards here in the middle of our group. Pick one that you feel God might want you to work on this week and you can take it home with you as a reminder.”

Pray and Dismiss (10 minutes)**What You Need:** Index cards, pencils, dark markers**What You Do:**

- Pass out an index card and a pencil to each kid in your group.
- Encourage the kids to think of someone they need to forgive and write that person’s name on their card. Remind them that no one else will see what they write.
- Ask the kids to hold the cards to their chest so the name is covered as you pray.
- When you finish praying, encourage the kids to write their own name over the name on their card. They should make sure to write their name in large letters so that it completely covers the original name.

What You Say:

“By forgiving someone, you are not saying that what the other person did is okay; but rather, that you have decided not to hold it against him/her. It may seem unfair to just let someone off without making them ‘pay’ for what they did. That is why it takes a special kind of love, like the love of God, to forgive.”

- Forgiveness is not a feeling; it is a decision—a choice you have to make.

- God can help you forgive others. Ask Him to fill your heart with His love.
- Go to the person you need to forgive and tell him/her what made you feel sad or hurt; then let the person know that you have forgiven him/her.
- Forgiving someone may not take the hurt away immediately. It also won't take away the memory of what happened. You may still feel sad or hurt for a while.

"Forgiveness does not mean that you should let the other person keep on hurting you. If someone keeps on being unkind and nasty, speak to your mom or dad, or let your teacher know about the problem. Hurting others is never okay!"

"Let's pray. God, we love You. Thanks for reminding us today that we can forgive because You have forgiven us. We don't want to be so weighed down by the feelings of unforgiveness. We choose to walk in the freedom that comes from accepting the peace and forgiveness that you offer us through the sacrifice of your son, Jesus. Help us to remember that we ALL need forgiveness and that you give it, always. In Jesus' name, amen."

"I had you cover up the other person's name with your own name to remind you that everyone needs forgiveness, even you. You are no different than the person on your card. Now take a dark marker and draw a cross, covering up both names. This is to remind you that God's forgiveness covers anyone who chooses to follow Him. *(Allow time for kids to draw a cross.)* So remember this week: **[Bottom Line] I choose peace by choosing to forgive.**"

Pass out Parent CUE cards as adults arrive for pick-up.