

MARCH  
**W-2**  
2 0 1 7

GRADES  
**2-3**

PRELUDE

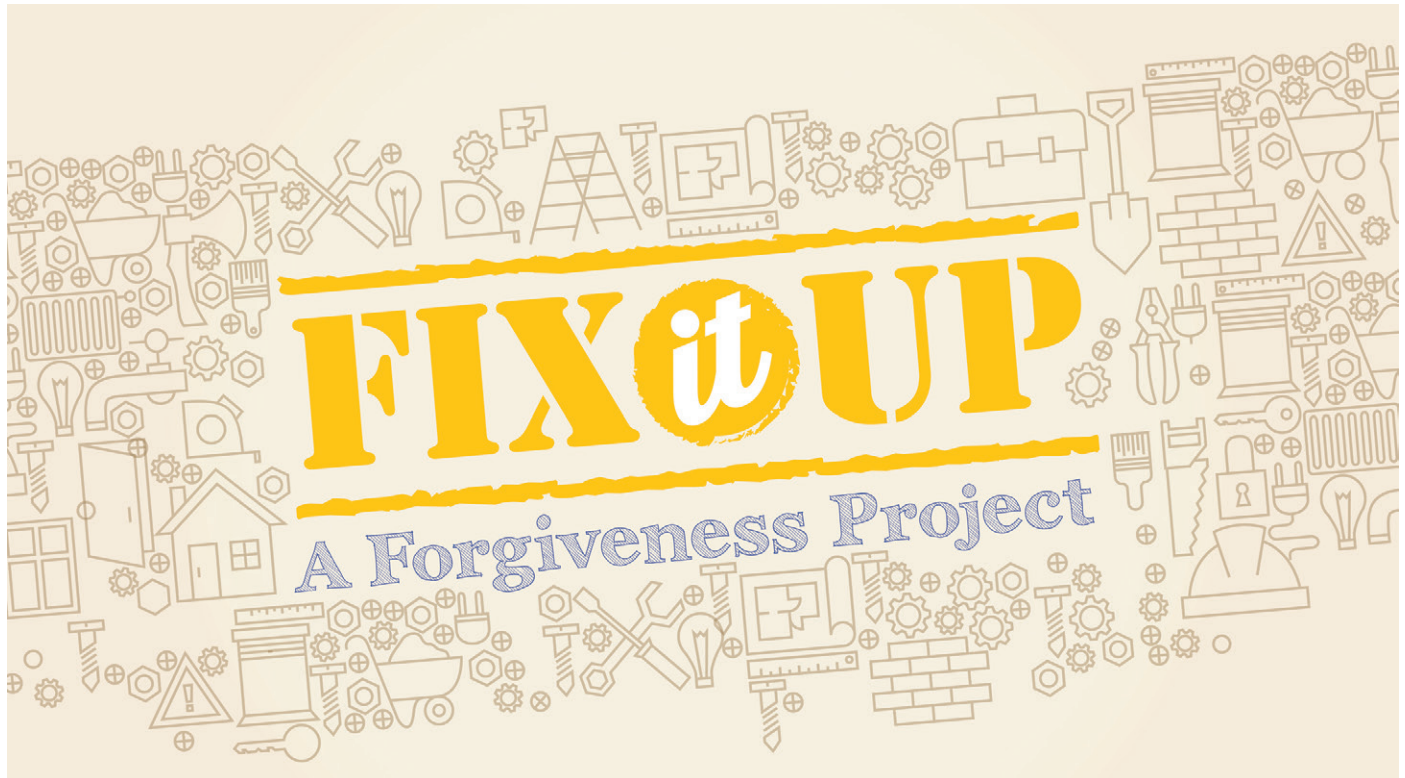
**SOCIAL**  
15 MINUTES

STORY

WORSHIP

**GROUPS**  
25 MINUTES

HOME



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**Statement of Faith**

**ABOUT GOD**

God is the one and only true God, yet He exists in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. God is the Creator, so everything belongs to Him and is under His control. God is holy, so He is righteous, majestic, and loving. God is all knowing and purposeful, so He's at work to bring about His will. No person, thing, or idea compares to God.

**ABOUT THE SCRIPTURES**

God reveals Himself to us through the Bible, and it is 100% accurate, reliable, and authoritative.

**ABOUT PEOPLE**

People are made in God's image and for His pleasure. But everybody falls short of God's intention, or ideal, for people. In other words, everyone has sinned. As a result, we are all separated from Him, even though He wants an intimate relationship with each of us.

**ABOUT SALVATION**

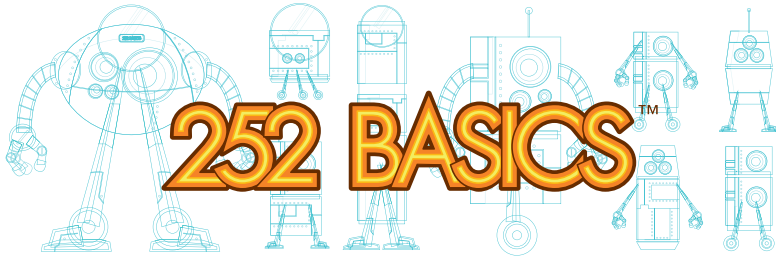
That's why Jesus—God's Son—came and lived on this earth, died, and rose again. God offers His free gift of salvation to all who believe in Jesus and accept Him as Savior—the only way to be forgiven and reconciled to God. Anyone who accepts this gift is adopted as a son or daughter into God's family and will live with Him forever in heaven.

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MARCH  
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PRELUDE SOCIAL 15 MINUTES STORY WORSHIP GROUPS 25 MINUTES HOME

## BIBLE STORY

**Dude, Where's My Son?**  
Lost Son  
Luke 15:11-24

## BOTTOM LINE

Everyone needs to be forgiven,  
even me.

## 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**

## LIFE APP

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

## BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

**PRELUDE:** Setting the tone for the experience  
For Leaders Only  
Create the Environment

**15**  
MINUTES

**SOCIAL:** Providing time for fun interaction  
Ideas for Early Arrivers  
Everyone!

**25**  
MINUTES

**STORY:** Communicating God's truth in engaging ways  
Opener  
Worship  
Bible Story  
Prayer  
Closer

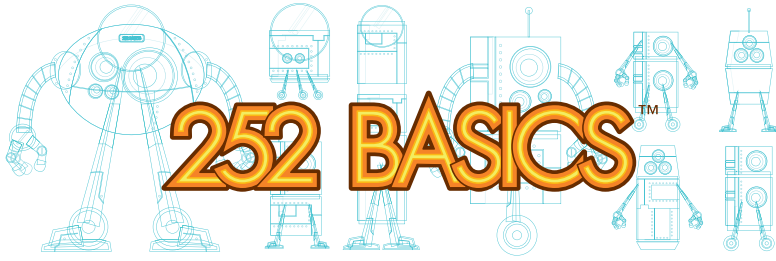
**10**  
MINUTES

**WORSHIP:** Inviting people to respond to God  
"Happy Day" from *Live It Out*  
"Let Revolution Start" from *Living Inside Out*

**25**  
MINUTES

**GROUPS:** Creating a safe place to connect  
The Lost Son Relay Run  
Forgiveness Pictionary  
Erase Away Verse  
Prayer

**HOME:** Prompting action beyond the experience  
GodTime  
Parent Cue



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## BIBLE STORY

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## GETTING READY

### SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION

(Choose one or both of these activities.)

#### Early Arriver

- An offering container

#### Everyone!

- No supplies needed

### GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

(Choose as many of these activities as you like.)

\* If you don't have time to do all these activities, be sure to do activity #1.

#### \* 1. The Lost Son Relay Run (application activity / review the Bible story)

- Plastic bin or other similar container (large enough to hold the items listed below); 1 for each small group
- Play money
- Backpack or duffle bag
- Plastic/play food
- Empty wallet
- Stuffed animal pig
- Plastic or real corn cob

#### 2. Forgiveness Pictionary (application activity)

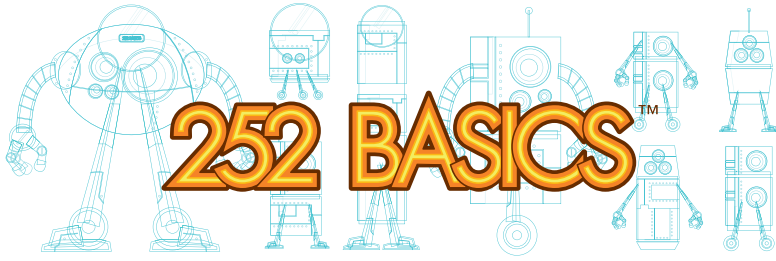
- White board
- Dry erase marker
- Eraser or paper towel
- Piece of paper

#### 3. Erase Away Verse (memory verse activity)

- White board
- Dry erase marker
- Eraser or paper towel

#### Prayer

- No supplies needed



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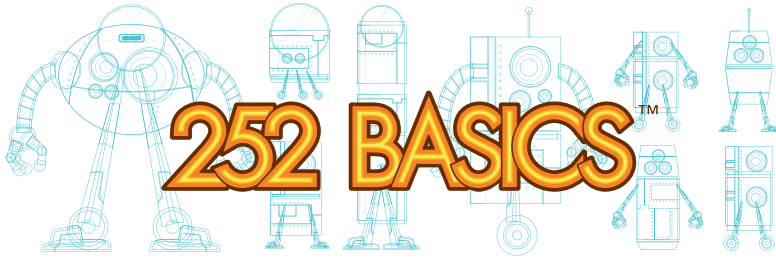
WORSHIP

**GROUPS**  
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**Additional Resources:**

- Make copies on cardstock or email this week's GodTime and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resources: **Studio252.tv**, **CUE Box**, and the **Parent Cue app**. To find out more about these great resources, go to <http://www.Studio252.tv/leaders>.



PRELUDE

**SOCIAL**  
15 MINUTES

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HOME

## SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION

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

*Before kids arrive, pray for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Ask God to help each of you see where you could ask for forgiveness and that you would have the courage to do so.*

### 1. EARLY ARRIVER IDEA

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Offering container

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Encourage your kids to place their offering in the offering container as they arrive.
- Play the game, "I'm going on a trip." Go around the circle and ask each kid to complete the sentence, "I'm going on a trip and I'm going to take a \_\_\_\_\_."
- The kids must give their answers in A, B, C order. So the first kid's answer must start with "A", the second kid's answer with a "B," and so on.

### 2. EVERYONE!

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

**WHAT YOU DO:**

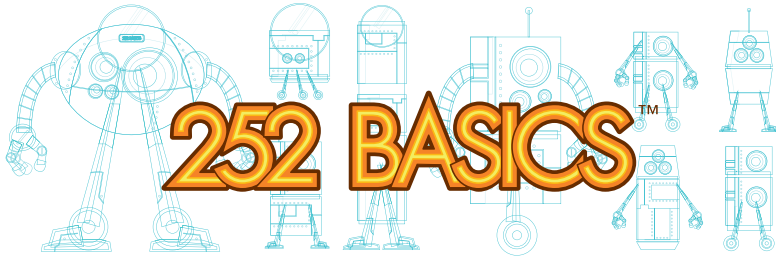
- Gather the kids in a circle and stand in the center. Tell the group that you are going to play a game called "Everyone!" The person in the center must make an "Everyone" statement, like "Everyone with sneakers on." Then everyone who is wearing sneakers must get up and find a new spot—including you!
- The kid left without a seat becomes the person in the middle.
- Kids will probably need help coming up with "Everyone" statements. Be prepared to give them some category hints to help if they get stumped:
  - Sports ("Everyone who plays soccer" or "Everyone who owns a basketball")
  - Hobbies ("Everyone who plays the piano" or "Everyone who loves to dance")
  - Food ("Everyone who loves chocolate ice cream" or "Everyone who hates spaghetti")
  - Places ("Everyone who has been to Disney World" or "Everyone who has been to the zoo")
  - Family ("Everyone with a brother" or "Everyone with a great-grandmother")
  - Animal ("Everyone with a dog for a pet" or "Everyone who loves dolphins")

*Adaptation: If you have more than one group in the room, play this game with the entire room. Or if you have too many groups to do that, put each half of the room together and make two big circles.*

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"That was fun! In our game today, everyone who had something in common with the kid in the center had to get up and move! But if you didn't have that in common with the person in the middle, you had to stay seated. **[Transition] In our Bible story today, we'll hear about something that truly is for EVERYONE!**"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



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## GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

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

### \* 1. THE LOST SON RELAY RUN (*application activity / review the Bible story*)

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Container with: play money, backpack or duffel bag, plastic food, empty wallet, stuffed pig, plastic or real corn cob

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Place the container of items on the floor and instruct kids to stand in a circle around the box.
- Guide kids to start walking in a circle around the box. Periodically call a kid's name out and let her pick an item.
- Continue until all the items have been retrieved.
- Once you have all the items, work together as a group to put the items in order and retell the story.
  - o Play money: The son asks his dad for his share of the inheritance.
  - o Backpack/duffel bag: The son packs up and leaves for a far-off place.
  - o Plastic food: For awhile, life is good. He has plenty of food and fun.
  - o Empty wallet: Then all the money runs out and he finds himself alone in a far-off place.
  - o Stuffed pig: Soon he takes a job working for a farmer feeding pigs. Yuck!
  - o Corn cob: He is SO hungry that he considers eating the feed that he's giving to the pigs. Double yuck!
- Ask the kids to tell you what happens next in the story. Did the young man stay in that terrible situation? What did he decide to do? What happened when he returned home? How did his father react to his return?

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

"In our Bible story today, the young man made some pretty bad choices. But check this out; in Luke 15:20 the Bible says: *"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"* (Luke 15:20 NIV). The father forgave his son! Jesus told this story because he wanted us to know that God is like that father; He always forgives. And trust me, I need forgiveness too.

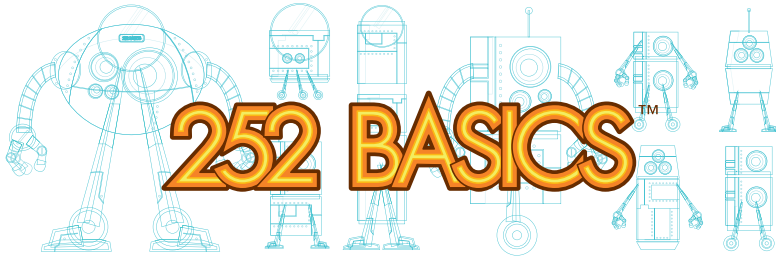
**[Make It Personal] (Tell your group about a time you messed up and needed forgiveness. Remember to keep the example age appropriate.)** "You know, **[Bottom Line]** everyone needs to be forgiven, even me. I'm so thankful I was forgiven when I messed up in that story I told. And the truth is, you mess up too. But the good news is you can always count on God because He is just like the Father in our Bible story today. God will always forgive you when you ask. Remember **[Bottom Line]** everyone needs to be forgiven, even me."

## 2. FORGIVENESS Pictionary (*application activity*)

**WHAT YOU NEED:** White board, dry erase marker, eraser or paper towel, a piece of paper

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Grab the piece of paper and a pen/pencil. Ask the kids to quickly name some things they might get in trouble and need forgiveness for and write them down.
- Choose one kid to draw something on the whiteboard he or she might get in trouble and need forgiveness for. She can draw an object, a situation, a place, etc.



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- Set a timer for 60 seconds, and when time is up, let the kids guess the scenario. The person who most closely guesses the object or situation gets to draw next. (If a kid has already had a turn, he can pick someone else who hasn't had a turn yet.)
- If a kid gets stumped and can't think of a scenario, select one from the list the group made and whisper it to him.

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

"The point of this activity is to help you see that ALL of us mess up. We all do things that we need forgiveness for because we're not perfect. **[Bottom Line] Everyone needs to be forgiven, even me.** We need forgiveness every day. And I'm SO glad that God knows what we need and that he offers forgiveness when we ask for it!"

### 3. ERASE AWAY VERSE (*memory verse activity*)

**WHAT YOU NEED:** White board, dry erase marker, an eraser or paper towel

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Look up and review Colossians 3:13.
- Write the words of the verse in large block letters on the dry erase board and read it aloud with the kids.
- Flip the board toward you where the kids can't see it and quickly erase two words from the verse.
- Turn the board toward the kids and see if they can recite the verse again, including the words that are "lost."
- Repeat the process, removing two words at a time and saying the verse together until you have only five words left.

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

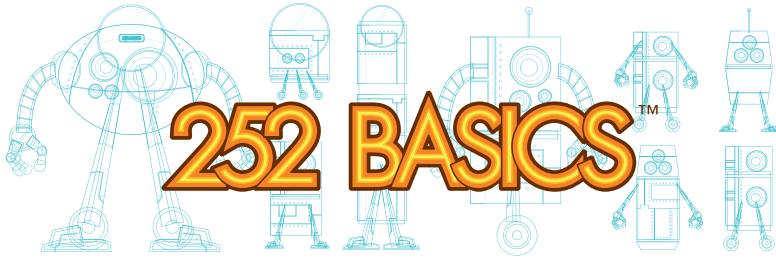
"You did a great job remembering all the words that were 'lost' each round. I hope this week when someone hurts your feelings or does something that makes you mad, you will remember the promise found in this verse. Everyone needs to be forgiven, including the person who hurts you. But you aren't perfect either. You will mess up this week too. Because **[Bottom Line] everyone needs to be forgiven, even me.** Remember, we need to put up with one another and forgive one another, just as the Lord forgives us."

### PRAY AND DISMISS

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather the kids in a circle on the floor.
- Ask them to think about something from this past week that they need to be forgiven for.
- Give them a few minutes to pray silently on their own, asking God to forgive them.
- Then close in prayer.



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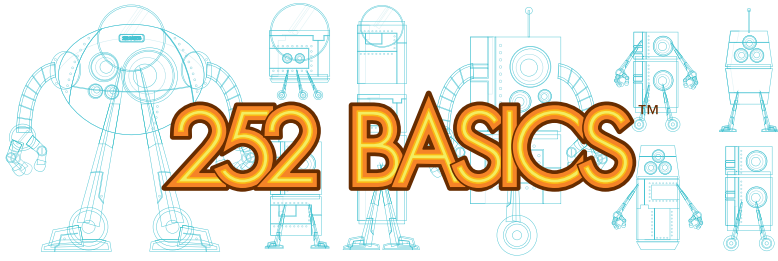
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25 MINUTES

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#### WHAT YOU SAY:

"Heavenly Father, You are an awesome, loving God. We believe that when we mess up, You offer forgiveness. And we know we need it because **[Bottom Line] everyone needs to be forgiven, even me.** Thank You for hearing our prayers and for loving us enough to forgive us when we ask You to. We love You. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, challenge kids to try to say part or all of Colossians 3:13 from memory.



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