



MARCH
W-1
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GRADES
4-5

PRELUDE

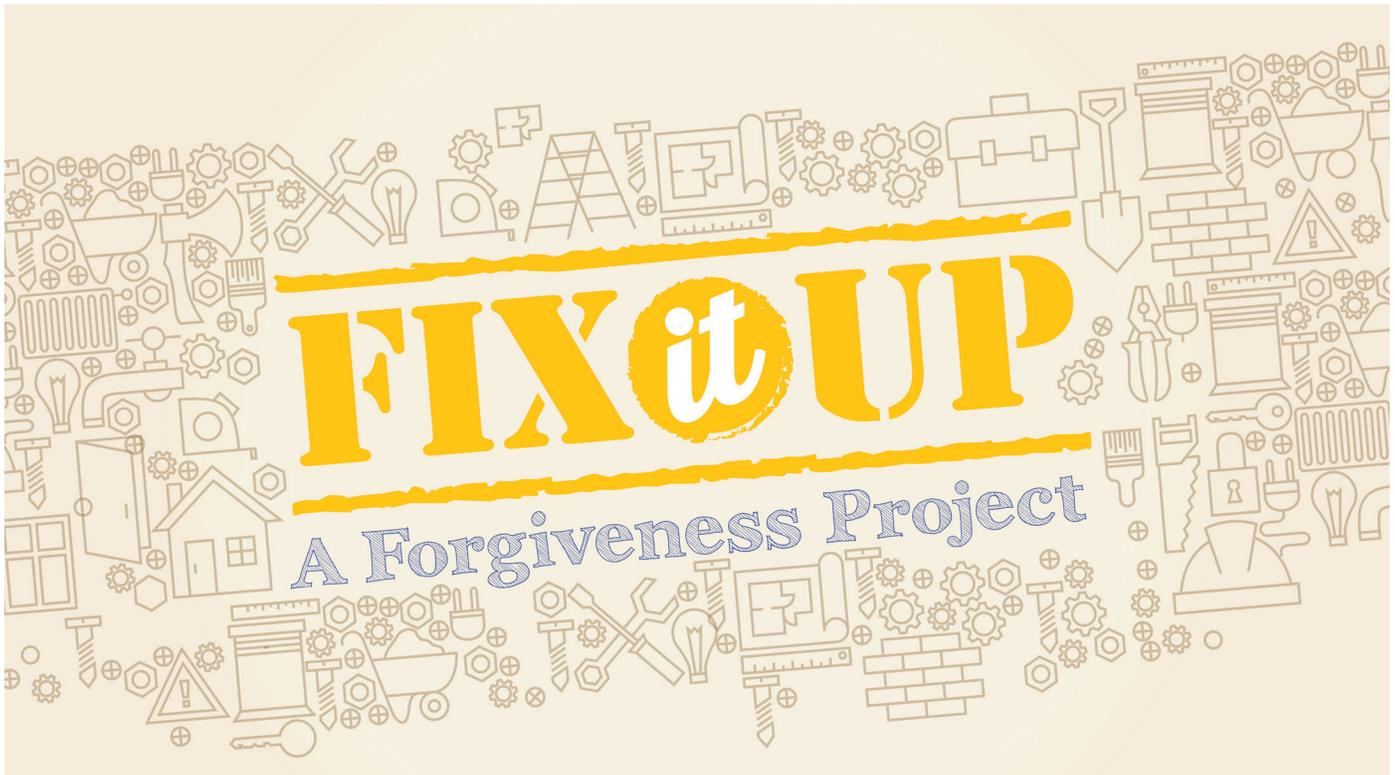
SOCIAL
15 MINUTES

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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BIBLE STORY

Dude, Where's My Sheep?
The Lost Sheep
Luke 15:1-7

BOTTOM LINE

God forgives you.

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
Sheep Rescue

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 It Be Known" from *Movin' Me*
"This Is Amazing Grace" from *Movin' Me*

25
MINUTES

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect
Sheep Versus Coin
Catch the Light
Where's the Sheep?
Prayer

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience
GodTime
Parent Cue



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GETTING READY

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION

(Choose one or both of these activities.)

Early Arriver

- An offering container

Sheep Rescue

- Print the "Sheep" Activity Page; 1 for each kid
- Petroleum jelly
- Cotton balls

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. Sheep Versus Coin (application activity / review the Bible story)

- Print the "Sheep Versus Coin Visual" Activity Page, 1 for each small group
- Bibles
- Index cards; 1 per kid
- Pencils
- Markers in three colors
- Poster board

2. Catch the Light (application activity)

- Dessert-size foam plates; 1 for each kid and SGL
Note: You can also use recycled plastic lids, such as: sour cream lids, cottage cheese lids, yogurt lids, chip dip lids, etc.
- Food coloring
- String
- Liquid glue
- Toothpicks
- Beads with the following letters/numbers on them: 4, G, I, V, E, N.
Note: You can order single-letter beads at www.swww.com.
Optional: Instead of beads, provide paper and scissors and kids can write 4GIVEN on a small slip of paper (1/4"x1").
- *Optional: To promote drying of the glue, provide a blow dryer or a fan.*



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- *Optional: Provide a sun catcher for an example of the finished project. How to make a sun catcher:*
 - o Put a thin layer of glue on a foam plate.
 - o Add a dot of food coloring to the lid.
 - o Draw a toothpick through the dots to mix the colors slightly.
 - o Make a loop by folding the string in half.
 - o Slip the beads onto the string to spell "4GIVEN." Tie a knot on either side of the beads so they don't slip off the string.
 - o Stick the ends of the string along the edge of the glue so the loop end hangs over the edge of the plate.
 - o Let dry for at least two days or maybe longer depending on the thickness of the glue layer.
 - o Peel the sun catcher off the plate.

3. Where's the Sheep? (memory verse activity)

- Print the "Sheep Verse Cards" Activity Page and cut apart; 1 set for every 2 kids
- Small paper bags labeled "Bag of Sheep"; 1 for every 2 kids
- Put each set of "Sheep Verse Cards" into a "Bag of Sheep"
- 1 bag labeled "Lost Sheep"; 1 for each small group
- Bibles

Prayer

- No supplies needed

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>.



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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 for a month full of deep conversations and hearts that are hungry to know more about forgiveness.

1. EARLY ARRIVER IDEA

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container

WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite kids to put their offerings in the offering container as they arrive.
- Engage kids in conversation. Use the optional questions below to facilitate discussion.
 - When was a time you were looking for something and you couldn't find it? Maybe it was your homework, your shoes, or maybe your dog. What did you do?
 - What is the longest amount of time you have looked for something that was lost?
 - Would the amount of time you spend looking for something depend on how valuable it was to you?
 - Would you look longer for a lost dollar or a lost \$100 bill? Why?

2. SHEEP RESCUE

WHAT YOU NEED: "Sheep" Activity Pages, petroleum jelly, cotton balls

WHAT YOU DO:

- Instruct kids to sit in a circle.
- Give each kid a "Sheep" Activity Page and place a pile of cotton balls in the center of the circle.
- Explain, in a tongue-in-cheek manner, that the sheep are missing their woolly bodies and need our help.
- Tell kids they will race to fill the outline of the body of their "sheep" with cotton balls.
- Start to count them off and then "psych" them out. "On your mark, get set, . . . just kidding!"
- Explain that there's a catch. Kids cannot use their hands to pick up the cotton balls.
- Instead, they must put a small dab of petroleum jelly on their noses, pick up a cotton ball by sticking their nose on it, and shake it off onto their sheep.
- The first kid to fill the body of his sheep with cotton balls wins.
- If time allows, race again.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Sheep are an important part in our story today. **[Transition]** Let's head to Large Group to hear how God shows us who He is through a story about sheep."

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. SHEEP VERSUS COIN (*application activity / review the Bible story*)

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles, index cards, pencils, markers, poster board, "Sheep Versus Coin" Activity Page

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give kids an index card. Ask them to label one side of the card "sheep" and the other side "coin."
- Read the parable of the lost sheep (Luke 15:3-7) and the parable of the lost coin (Luke 15:8-10) to the group.
- As you read, ask kids to write two or three facts about each parable on the corresponding side of their index card.
- On a poster board, draw two large intersecting circles. Each circle should be a different color. Label one circle "Lost Sheep Parable" and label the other circle label "Lost Coin Parable," as shown on the "Sheep Versus Coin" Activity Page.
- Let kids take turns writing their facts on the diagram.
 - If the fact only pertains to a particular parable, they write the fact in the corresponding circle in the corresponding color of the circle.
 - If the fact is similar to both stories they will write the fact in the overlapping portion of the diagram in the third color.
- Discuss the similarities between the two parables.
 - Why do you think God included two back-to-back stories that were so similar?
 - Do you repeat things you think are important?
 - How do both stories end?
 - What do the stories tell us about God?
 - What do the stories tell us about our relationship with God?

WHAT YOU SAY:

"What I love about these stories is God wants us to know there is nothing that can separate us from Him. Just like the shepherd looked for the lost sheep and the woman searched carefully for her lost coin, God pursues us and forgives us even when we are not pursuing Him and appear to be lost. I know I disobey God and you do too. Maybe our words are unkind and we don't treat others the way we want to be treated. Maybe we make an unwise choice and ignore our parents' rules or the rules at school. Here is the thing: **[Basic Truth] You can trust God no matter what,** and when God says He forgives you, **[Bottom Line] God forgives you!"**

2. CATCH THE LIGHT (*application activity*)

WHAT YOU NEED: Foam plates, food coloring, string, glue, toothpicks, beads or paper; finished sun catcher (*optional*)

WHAT YOU DO:

- Demonstrate how to make a sun catcher.
 - Put a thin layer of glue on a plate.
 - Add a dot or two of food coloring to the glue.
- Explain to the kids that we all make unwise choices.



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- Ask for some examples of unwise choices with consequences. Use the following to get them started, if needed:
 - I said something hurtful to a friend and they were mad at me and I couldn't take back what I said.
 - I didn't clean my room when my parents asked me to and I got in trouble for not listening.
 - I didn't study for a test and I got a bad grade.
- As you give examples and the consequences, draw a toothpick through the dots of color, mixing the colors slightly.
- Comment on how your glue looks a bit messy now. Explain that when you don't obey God—when you don't make a wise choice—sometimes your life gets complicated and it gets messy just like the glue.
- Remind kids that God forgives you.
- Make a loop in the string by folding it in half.
- Slip the beads on the string to spell "4GIVEN." Tie a knot on either side of the beads so they don't slip off the string.
- Stick the ends of the string along the edge of the glue so the loop end hangs over the edge of the plate.
- Kids will make their own sun catchers to remind them God forgives them.
- If you have a finished product, show it to the kids.
- Encourage kids to use only a couple of colors because as it dries the colors will mix even more.
- Kids will take their sun catchers home to dry. Explain once the glue has dried, in a couple of days (depending on the thickness of the glue), kids can peel their sun catcher off the plate and hang it in a window.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"When your sun catcher dries, I want you to peel it off the plate and put it in a window so light can shine through it. Your sun catcher can serve as a reminder that no matter how messy life may get, **[Bottom Line] God forgives you.** You will still have to deal with the consequences of the choices you make, but you can deal with them knowing your God loves you and forgives you. And on a really sunny day, when the sun shines through your sun catcher, remember God shines His light and His forgiveness on you and you can trust Him no matter what. **[Bottom Line] God forgives you** and being forgiven can change the way you live."

[Make It Personal] (Share how knowing that God forgives you affects the way you live or the choices you make. How does it affect your life to know you can go to God with everything, even the messy stuff, and know God forgives you? Share an age-appropriate example of a "messy" time and though there were consequences, share how knowing God forgave you help you during that time.)

3. WHERE'S THE SHEEP? (memory verse activity)

WHAT YOU NEED: "Bag of Sheep" for every 2 kids, "Lost Sheep" bag, Bibles

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give kids a Bible and look up the memory verse. Read the verse together a couple of times.

Finding verses with 4th-5th graders: Our verse is from Colossians. Ask kids to tell you whether that's in the Old Testament or the New Testament. (New) So we know it's toward the back of the Bible. When they find Colossians, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Tell them to find chapter 3. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Tell them to them find verse 13 in chapter 3.



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- Ask if a volunteer would put the verse in her own words and explain it to the group.
- Pair kids up.
- Before handing each pair their "Bag of Sheep," remove one "Sheep Verse Card" (at random) from each bag and place the card in the "Lost Sheep" Bag.
- Explain that each bag is missing one sheep and teams need to figure which sheep is missing and go find it among the "Lost Sheep."
- Dump out the bag containing the "Lost Sheep."
- Depending on the size of your environment, you can dump it out around the room so kids have to travel to find their sheep. (If you go this route and you have multiple groups in the room, make sure everyone does this activity together at the same time. It'll make finding the sheep a lot more challenging and a lot more fun!)
- The first team to find their correct "lost sheep" and put the memory verse in the correct order wins.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Just like all of you had to find the missing word and the shepherd had to find the lost sheep, God will always find you. God loves you so much that there's nothing you can do that is so terrible or so wrong that God can't forgive you. So, for the times you don't make a wise choice, you treat someone unkindly, you just plain mess up, talk to God, ask Him to forgive you, and know He will do just that. **[Bottom Line] God forgives you!**"

Optional Additional Discussion Questions

- In the story, Jesus says there will be rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents. Define sinner. What does it mean to sin? What does it mean to repent or to turn away from sin?
- How do you feel when you lose something? What about when you find something you lost, how do you feel? Why do you think there is rejoicing in heaven when someone turns to God and asks Him for forgiveness?
- How can God's forgiveness change the way you interact with others? How can it change the way you feel about yourself?

PRAY AND DISMISS

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

- Pray with the kids, using the following as a guide.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"God, You are always there for us. You will always find us. God, we know we are not perfect and we will mess up. We know we can trust You no matter what. When life gets messy, remind us to talk to You, to ask you to forgive us, and to trust Your promises. Amen!"

As adults arrive to pick up, explain to parents that your kids made sun catchers today and they may take a couple of days to dry. Remind kids, once their sun catcher dries, to hang it in a window. Encourage kids to tell their parents why we made sun catchers. What are they supposed to remember when they see their sun catcher in the window?