



MARCH  
**W-3**  
2 0 1 7

GRADES  
**4-5**

PRELUDE

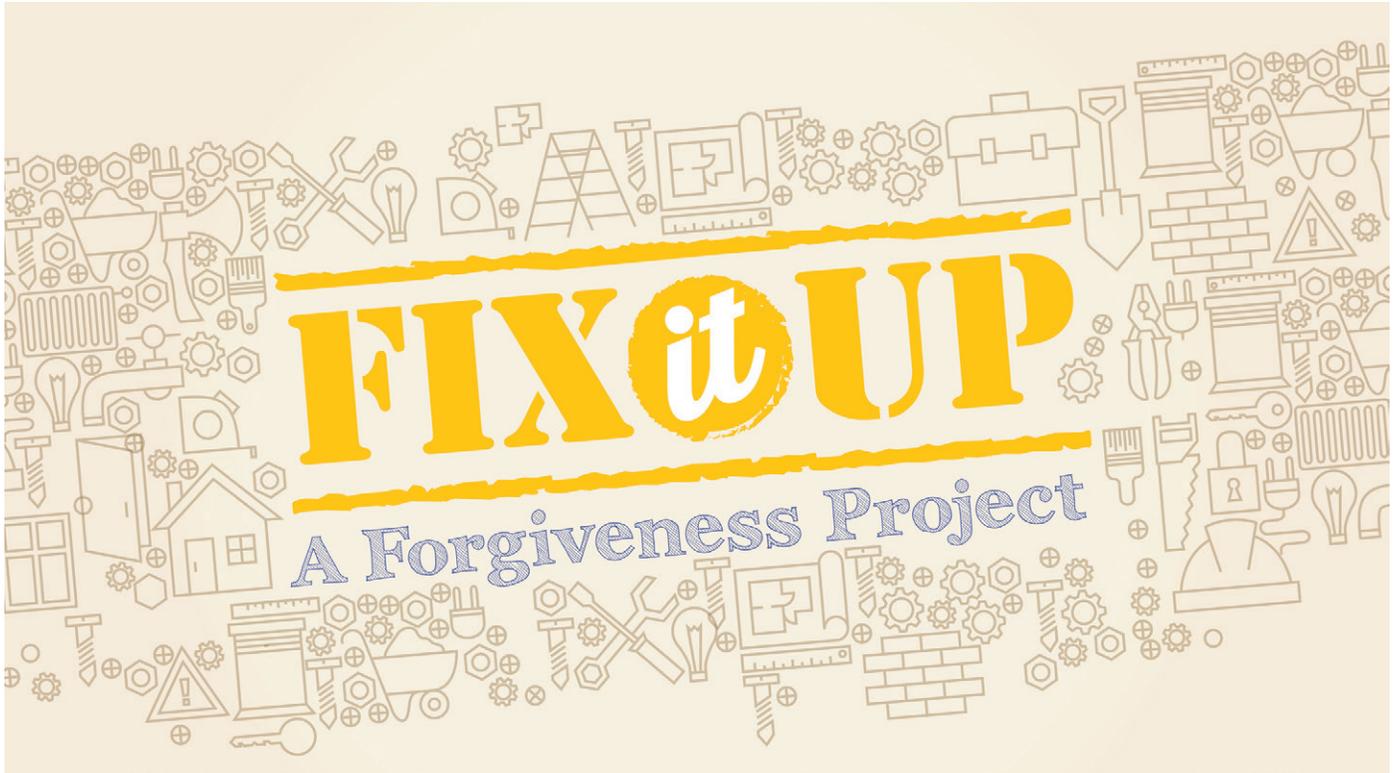
**SOCIAL**  
15 MINUTES

STORY

WORSHIP

**GROUPS**  
25 MINUTES

HOME



**Chief Executive Officer**

Reggie Joiner

**Creative Team**

Kristen Ivy  
Mike Clear  
Molly Bell  
Elloa Davis  
Elizabeth Hansen  
Brandon O'Dell  
Greg Payne  
Phil Pierce  
Dan Scott  
Jon Williams

**Contributing Writers**

Holly Crawshaw  
Sherita Harkness  
Kristy Hecht  
Cara Martens  
Emily Meredith  
Rachael Sibcy

**Editors**

Molly Bell  
Elloa Davis  
Dana Wilkerson

**Illustrations & Graphic Design**

Brian Bascle  
Mike Davis  
Joe Goode

**Technical & Web Support**

Hadley Brandt

**Orange Specialists**

Amy Grisham  
Abbey Carr  
Amy Fenton  
Leslie Galem  
Misty Phillips  
Stephanie Porter  
Courtney Templeton

**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.

**User Agreement**

Orange gladly grants permission to churches, schools, and other licensees to tailor 252 Basics® materials to fit their unique leadership requirements, locale and format preferences, and physical environment needs. However, if you wish to edit the content substantively, including Bible stories, learning activities, scripts, and any other content in which biblical principles and concepts are presented, you are obligated to do so within the doctrinal guidelines we've expressed in our Statement of Faith. These resources are intended to be downloaded and printed for use by the subscribing entity only and may not be electronically transferred to or duplicated by other non-subscribing entities. Any unauthorized reproduction of this material or incorporation into a new work is a direct violation of US copyright laws. ©2017 The reThink Group. All rights reserved. 252 Basics® and the 252 Basics® logo are trademarks of Orange and the reThink Group.

Scripture marked "NirV" is taken from the NEW INTERNATIONAL READER'S VERSION®. Copyright © 1996, 1998, 2014 Biblica. All rights reserved throughout the world. Used by permission of Biblica.

Scripture marked "NIV" is taken from THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.



MARCH  
**W-3**  
2 0 1 7

GRADES  
**4-5**

PRELUDE

**SOCIAL**  
15 MINUTES

STORY

WORSHIP

**GROUPS**  
25 MINUTES

HOME

### BIBLE STORY

**Dude, Where's Your Brother?**  
Older Brother  
Luke 15:21-32

### BOTTOM LINE

**When you don't forgive, you miss out.**

### 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 need to make the wise choice.**

**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  
Odd One Out

**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  
"Brighter" from *Walk This Way*  
"Let It Be Known" from *Movin' Me*  
"Your Love Never Fails" from *Movin' Me*

**25**  
MINUTES

**GROUPS:** Creating a safe place to connect  
Forgiveness Slap  
That's Not Fair  
Colossians Squares  
Prayer

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



MARCH  
**W-3**  
2 0 1 7

GRADES  
**4-5**

PRELUDE

**SOCIAL**  
15 MINUTES

STORY

WORSHIP

**GROUPS**  
25 MINUTES

HOME

## BIBLE STORY

### Dude, Where's Your Brother?

Older Brother  
Luke 15:21-32

## BOTTOM LINE

When you don't forgive, you miss out.

## 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 need to make the wise choice.**

## GETTING READY

### SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION

*(Choose one or both of these activities.)*

#### Early Arriver

- An offering container

#### Odd One Out

- 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 #2.*

#### 1. Forgiveness Slap (application activity / review the Bible story)

- Print the "Review Cards" Activity Page on cardstock and cut apart; 1 set for each small group
- Print the "Forgiveness Cards" Activity Page on cardstock and cut apart; 4 cards for each small group
- Print the "Blank Cards" Activity Page on cardstock and cut apart; at least 24 cards for each small group

*Note: Print all cards for this activity on the same color of cardstock. Cards will be combined to make a "deck."*

#### \* 2. That's Not Fair (application activity)

- Masking tape
- *Optional: Provide prizes or party favors such as: stickers, bouncy balls, candy, pencils, etc. Use a party hat as a container for the prizes.*

#### 3. Colossians Squares (memory verse activity)

- Print the "Dot Matrix" Activity Page; 1 matrix for every 2 kids
- Colored pencils or markers
- Bibles



MARCH  
W-3  
2 0 1 7

GRADES  
4-5

PRELUDE

**SOCIAL**  
15 MINUTES

STORY

WORSHIP

**GROUPS**  
25 MINUTES

HOME

### Prayer

- Bibles
- Cotton balls; 2 for each kid
- Wrapped gift; 1 for each small group

*Note: There doesn't actually have to be anything in the box; the gift is just going to be used as an object lesson.*

### 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>.



MARCH  
W-3  
2 0 1 7

GRADES  
4-5

PRELUDE

**SOCIAL**  
15 MINUTES

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

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 kids understand that He loves them so much that He doesn't want them to miss out on anything and that forgiveness may be difficult at times, but God longs for us to participate in everything He has planned for us.*

### 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.
  - What is something worth celebrating?
  - What are ways we celebrate? Or what are things we do to celebrate?

### 2. ODD ONE OUT

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Tell kids a list of four items and they identify which item is the "odd one out".
- Use the list below or create your own lists. Kids can also create a list for the group.
  - Fire engine, stop sign, book, lemon
  - Airplane, bus, bike, car
  - Thanksgiving, Christmas, July, Valentine's Day
  - Water, glue, Coke, coffee
  - Fish, monkey, hippo, giraffe

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

"I don't like it when I am the odd one out—the outsider. I would much rather go to a birthday party than miss the party and hear about the games my friends played at the party. I would much rather go to a movie than miss the movie and just hear from my brother and sister what the movie was about. I would much rather play in the soccer game than sit on the bench and miss the game. **[Transition] Let's head to Large Group to hear what we can do to help us so we aren't the odd one out and miss out.**"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



MARCH  
W-3  
2 0 1 7

GRADES  
4-5

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS  
25 MINUTES

HOME

## 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. FORGIVENESS SLAP (*application activity / review the Bible story*)

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Review Cards," "Forgiveness Cards," and "Blank Cards" Activity Pages

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Shuffle the "Review Cards" and let kids each pick one card. (If you have more cards than kids, pair them up. Give each pair a card and if there are cards leftover, pick a few pairs to get two cards.)
- As a group, review the story using the cards.
- Challenge kids to put the cards in the correct order of the story. If there are disputes about the order, encourage kids to explain why they chose the order they did.
- After reviewing the story, shuffle the "Review Cards" with the "Forgiveness Cards" and the "Blank Cards."
- Kids will play a version of the card game "Slapjack" but instead of slapping the jacks, the kids slap any card with the word "forgiveness" on it.
- To play, kids sit in a circle. Deal the cards to the kids face down until all the cards are dealt.
- Kids place their cards in a stack, face down, without looking at them.
- One at a time, kids take a card from their stack and place it face up in the center of the playing area. The next kid then places their top card face up on top of the previous kid's card.
- Play continues until someone lays down a card with the word "forgiveness" on it. As soon as the word "forgiveness" appears, everyone slaps their hand down on top of the card pile.
- The first kid to slap the pile of cards wins the round and adds the pile of cards to the bottom of their stack.
- Play begins again with the kid to the left of the successful slapper. If a kid gets excited and slaps any card other than a "forgiveness" card, he must give each kid a card from his stack. If a kid runs out of cards, he is not automatically out of the game; instead he must carefully watch while the game continues. If he is the first one to slap when a "forgiveness" card appears, he takes the card pile and rejoins the game. The player with the most cards at the end wins.

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

"That was a fun game! And I bet the party the father gave his son to celebrate his return home was fun too. Too bad the older son chose not to forgive and missed out on the celebration. Forgiveness is a choice. You can choose to forgive or not, but **[Bottom Line] when you don't forgive, you miss out.** You may miss out on being joyful, on being at peace with family and friends, and most importantly, **[Bottom Line] when you don't forgive, you miss out** on treating others the way you want to be treated and showing others God's love."

### \* 2. THAT'S NOT FAIR! (*application activity*)

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Masking tape, prizes (*optional*)

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Make a line with masking tape on the floor and have the kids stand on it.
- Read a scenario from the list below.



MARCH  
W-3  
2 0 1 7

GRADES  
4-5

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS  
25 MINUTES

HOME

- If kids think the situation is fair, they jump in front of the line. If they think it is unfair, they jump behind the line.
- As you go through the scenarios, ask kids why they thought the situation was fair or unfair.
- After each scenario is discussed, ask: "Is forgiveness is about fairness?" One of the goals of this activity is to emphasize that while situations may be unfair, forgiveness is not about being fair; forgiveness is deciding someone who has wronged you doesn't have to pay.
- For each scenario, give kids an opportunity to share an example of what they might miss out by not forgiving.
- *Optional: For each example a kid gives, give him a prize.*

Scenarios:

- A friend is talking to you during class. You aren't talking back and you are trying to do your work. The teacher hears your friend and both of you get in trouble for disrupting the class. Fair or unfair? You are right; it is so unfair you got in trouble. Is forgiveness about fairness? (*Wait for kids to answer.*) Your friend says he is sorry for getting you into trouble. What can you miss out on if you decide not to forgive him?
- You are assigned a group project at school. You and your partner played video games instead of working on the project and you both got a bad grade on it. Fair or unfair? Yes, it is fair; you didn't put in the work so you didn't get a good grade.
  - But let's say you worked really hard on the project and you did most of the work but you and your partner both get an A even though you did most of the work. Fair or unfair? Sure, it isn't fair you do the work and your partner gets an A. Is forgiveness about fairness? (*Wait for kids to answer.*) You are so angry with your teacher for not noticing that you did most of the work and you're angry that you were paired with someone who didn't help. What can you miss out on if you don't forgive your teacher? What about your partner? Should you forgive him? Why or why not?
- Tommy's parents let him go to PG-13 movies, but your parents say you have to wait until you're actually 13. Fair or unfair? Is forgiveness about fairness? What can you miss out on by pouting and not forgiving your parents for having different rules than your friend's parents?
- You called dibs on the last piece of chocolate cake and your sister ate it before you got home from soccer practice. Fair or unfair? Is forgiveness about fairness? What can you miss out on by not forgiving your sister and refusing to talk to her?
- Your dad is late AGAIN picking you up after tutoring. He promised he would be on time today and he wasn't! Fair or unfair? Is forgiveness about fairness? What can you miss out on by not forgiving your dad?
- Your friend promised she would save you a seat at the lunch table and when you got to lunch there was nowhere for you to sit. Your friend forgot to save you a seat! Fair or unfair? Is forgiveness about fairness? What can you miss out on by not forgiving your friend?
- There is a kid at your school who always says mean things to you and your friends. Fair or unfair? Is forgiveness about fairness? You and your friends tell the teacher how he treats you and he gets in trouble but what can you miss out on by not forgiving him?



MARCH  
W-3  
2 0 1 7

GRADES  
4-5

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS  
25 MINUTES

HOME

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

"In some of those situations, it would be really hard to show forgiveness. If someone was mean to me, it would hurt my feelings and I would be really mad too. It would be difficult to show forgiveness to someone who didn't treat me the way they wanted to be treated. But I know, though God doesn't promise things will always be fair, God does promise to forgive me. Forgiveness isn't about being fair. It's about remembering that God has forgiven YOU and remembering **[Bottom Line] when you don't forgive, you miss out.** And because of your love for God and through God's power, you can forgive others. It's not easy, but it's always worth it."

### 3. COLOSSIANS SQUARES *(memory verse activity)*

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Dot Matrix" Activity Pages, colored pencils or markers, Bibles

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Pair kids up and give each pair a matrix and two different colored pencils or markers.
- *Note: It's important for kids to be using two different colors of marker or pencil, so they can easily know who put down which line and which word.*
- Kids should take turns connecting adjacent dots with either a horizontal or vertical line. The goal is to be the one to form a square by being the one to add the final line to close the square.
- The kid who makes a square by completing the fourth side should write one word of the memory verse in the square. Then he gets another turn to make one more line.
- Whoever forms enough squares to complete the entire memory verse wins. If no one completes the entire verse, the player with the most words of the verse in squares wins.
- Go to: <http://bit.ly/2hxZGZE> for a visual of how the game is played.

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

"Our verse tells us: *Forgive one another if you are holding something against someone (Colossians 3:13 NIV).* Basically, by forgiving one another, we don't waste time plotting revenge or trying to figure out how to get even. Forgiving one another means deciding someone who has wronged you doesn't have to pay. There are always consequences for our actions, but forgiving others, like God forgives you, is a way to show you trust God no matter what. And **[Bottom Line] when you don't forgive, you miss out.** You miss out on a chance to show others God's love."

#### Optional Additional Discussion Questions

- What if a friend says something unkind to you and they never say they're sorry? Do you still forgive them? Can you only forgive someone if they ask you to?
- Has someone ever forgiven you for something? Has someone ever forgiven you when you didn't even apologize or ask for forgiveness? How did that make you feel? Did it make you realize you had done something wrong or make you feel like they were trying to tell you what you did wrong?
- **[Make It Personal] (Share with the kids about a time when someone treated you unfairly or when you were mad at someone for how they treated you. Did you forgive them right away? Did it take you time to forgive them? How did you feel when you decided to forgive them? Did you miss out on something because you wanted to make them pay?)**



MARCH  
W-3  
2 0 1 7

GRADES  
4-5

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS  
25 MINUTES

HOME

## PRAY AND DISMISS

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Wrapped gift, cotton balls, Bibles

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Sit in a circle and place the wrapped gift in the center of the circle.
- Read the memory verse together.
- Give each kid two cotton balls.
- Give kids time to think of two things they may be holding against someone. Maybe someone treated them unkindly or unfairly. Maybe someone broke their bike or their favorite toy. Maybe they are angry with someone for not doing what they said they would do.
- Explain that the cotton balls represent the things they are holding against someone.
- Instruct kids to squeeze the cotton balls as tightly as they can.
- While squeezing the cotton ball with both hands, challenge the kids to unwrap the gift with their hands.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

"If you stay focused on holding on to the cotton balls, you miss out on opening the gift. I think that is how it is with forgiveness too. When someone has wronged you and you decide they must pay, **[Bottom Line] when you don't forgive, you miss out.** Maybe, like the older brother in our story today, you miss out on a good time with friends or you miss out on being at peace with your friends or family. More importantly, **[Bottom Line] when you don't forgive, you miss out** on a chance to show others God's love and the power of God's forgiveness for you."

*(Have kids open their hands so the cotton balls are resting on their palms. Pray with the kids, thanking God for His forgiveness and His love. Ask God for His power to forgive others, knowing He can and will give us His power to let go of what we may be holding on to and the power to forgive others.)*

As adults arrive to pick up, explain to parents that today the group talked about how when you don't forgive, you miss out. Encourage kids to share with parents some things a kid might miss out on if he/she chose not to show forgiveness.