

2nd/3rd Grade

WEEK 3 - STARTER



Activity Name: 7 Show Down

What You Need:

- ☐ None required; optional: dice

What You Do:

- Encourage kids to select a partner.
- Partners will stand, facing each other, with their hands behind their backs.
- Say: “On your marks, get set, SHOW!”
 - On “SHOW!” each kid is to hold up one to five fingers on one hand.
 - The other hand is to remain behind their back.
- Pairs will add up the two hands (one from each player). If the total for both is seven, that pair is out and must sit down.
 - For example: If one kid holds up three fingers and their partner holds up four fingers for a total of seven, the pair is out.
- Repeat with the remaining pairs, calling out, “Ready, set, SHOW!” for each round, as time and interest allow.

Variation: Kids roll dice instead of using their fingers.

What You Say:

What number were you trying to avoid? (*Pause for responses.*) Yes! The number seven. Pay close attention to our Bible Story today to find out why seven is the wrong answer. Let’s go hear our story.

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



Bible Story: The Servant Who Had No Mercy • *Matthew 18:21-35*

Bottom Line: God's kingdom grows when you forgive.

Monthly Memory Verse: *God's kingdom is not about eating or drinking. It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy. All this comes through the Holy Spirit.* • Romans 14:17 NIV

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Why did Jesus tell a story about money and debt?
- What do you think Jesus meant when He said to forgive "77 times"?
- Why did Jesus compare sin to a debt we cannot pay?
- Why is it easy to be forgiven but hard to forgive others?
- What does this story teach us about God?
- **[Conversation Starter]** Is there someone you need to forgive?

Activity Name: Chalk Stained Glass Castle Window

What You Need: ☐ Bible ☐ Castle window activity page ☐ Colored chalk ☐ wipes/paper towels

What You Do:

- Repeat the Memory Verse out loud together several times.
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
- Invite the kids to set their Bibles aside.
- Give each kid a “Castle Window” Activity Page.
- Encourage kids to color with chalk.
- As they work, repeat the Memory Verse together: *“God’s kingdom is not about eating or drinking. It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy. All this comes through the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:17 NIV).”*
- Once kids have finished coloring their paper, invite them to share their stained-glass windows with the group.
- Give each kid a hand wipe or paper towels to remove any chalk on their hands.

What You Say:

These stained-glass windows are beautiful! The light can shine right through them. When we forgive others, it’s like we’re letting God’s light shine through us for all to see. God forgives, and it’s a mark of His kingdom—it is what is right, and it brings peace and joy, just like our Memory Verse says. When we forgive like God forgave us, we are pointing to God and His kingdom. **[Bottom Line] God’s kingdom grows when you forgive.**

Close in prayer/Invite kids to pray as well.