



Kids Club

Leader Guide

Sept.

Week 3

Sept, 15th

RED LETTER
CHALLENGE
KIDS

HELLO CHILDREN'S MINISTRY LEADERS:

You will be guiding kids through a 5-week curriculum, introducing them to the Red Letter Challenge that we are completing as a church.

Jesus is the greatest disciple-maker in the world. Putting His words into practice helps people of all ages find the life God designed them to live

These lesson utilize the following format:

- **WARM-UP** • **OBSERVATION** • **INTERPRETATION/APPLICATION** • **PRAYER** •

Please also keep in mind that this program is geared towards a large age span: from Kindergarten through 5th grade. Teachers will need to consider their age group as they are choosing their activities and modify content as needed. The first half of the program is the same every week. There will be a warm-up activity as well as a scripted lesson that can be used in a variety of ways.

- **Warm-up** (Learning readiness)
- **Observation** (What happened? What does it say?) This is the teaching time every week. This is where kids will be hearing and watching the main teaching of the day. Feel free to use actors, puppets, or even an older kid volunteer to do this teaching time.
- **Interpretation** (What does it mean?)
- **Application** (What does it mean to me?)

A weekly handout will be provided for parents. This handout will cover what we did that week and also any announcement about the future week and challenges for them to do during the week.

One idea you may like is to keep a "Challenge Chart" each week. You can get some red dot stickers and have the students put up a red dot sticker every time they complete a Challenge that week. See how many red stickers you can put up, and maybe try to increase it every week! This is for fun and to create a measurable and visual way for kids to see the Challenge in action!



Theme

FORGIVING like Jesus

Memory Verse

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father-Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. 1 John 2:1

Bible Verses

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father--Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. 1 John 2:1-2

Big Idea

Why is FORGIVING like Jesus important?

Goals

- ➔ Give examples of different ways of FORGIVING like Jesus.
- ➔ How did Jesus model this?
- ➔ How much should we forgive?
- ➔ Who should we forgive?



WARM-UP

What you need: Balloons (not helium)

What you do: Have the kids gather in a group. See how many times they can hit the balloon to keep it in the air. If they need an additional challenge, have them use two balloons

What you say: You guys did a great job! That balloon wanted to float down to the ground, and it took teamwork and quick hands and feet to keep it up in the air. Our natural human tendency when we are wronged is to sink down, get angry and get back at them. Forgiveness takes some work! Today we are going to learn more about forgiveness: what it takes to forgive and why we should forgive

OBSERVATION: SKIT

SUPPLIES: Special treat for each child

DIRECTOR'S NOTES: ***Ahead of time, prepare some type of special treat and keep it hidden. Prepare another leader ahead of time to "spill the secret" when you get to that part in the script.

Teacher: Welcome back! We are so excited about what we are going to talk about today, but I am SUPER excited because we have a special treat for everyone later this morning! Before we get into that, we are going to do our sharing time. *Sharing Time:* Would anyone like to come up and share with the group a challenge that they completed this last week? What you did or how you did it?

OK, now let's review our five Red Letter challenge words:

Go through the different hand motions and themes. Try to get a rally going with half the room calling words and half the room doing actions: then switch it up!

BEING: Place your hands over each other in the center of your chest.

FORGIVING: Place hands out like a cross.

SERVING: Take a servant stance: Do the TEBOW stance.

GIVING: Sweep arms out with open hands.

GOING: Walk or run in place.



OBSERVATION: SKIT (CONT.)

Teacher: You guys did so well; you really deserve something extra special. And it is perfect timing because I am SOOOOO excited about the end of this lesson. It is a surprise! I don't want anyone to spill the beans. I have been keeping this secret all week and I really don't want you to find out now because I have managed to keep it quiet for so long...

Other Leader: CUPCAKES! *(or whatever the treat is)*

Teacher: What did you say?

Other Leader: I'm sorry! I can't keep it in anymore! I'm so excited. I have to tell them that we are all getting our own cupcake(treat)!

Teacher: Hold on! Why did you just tell them the secret? This was my big surprise. And now it's ruined.

Other teacher: Oh man, I'm sorry, I know it was supposed to be a secret and we weren't supposed to tell the kids! (looks out at the crowd of kids) Sorry kids!

Teacher: Well, I don't know if we should even have cupcakes anymore. It's not going to be a surprise, so maybe we should forget the whole thing. Kids, should we just forget the whole thing?

(Kids shout NO!)

Teacher: I don't know. I'm pretty disappointed and upset that this isn't a surprise anymore. It's just a cupcake. I know she/he was just excited though, so I guess that leaves just one thing I can do. Does anyone know what I should do?

(allow crowd participation for response)

Teacher: Forgive him/her! Right. Just because I'm upset, doesn't mean that I still shouldn't forgive. It can be really hard though. Can you think of a time someone did something that was really hard to forgive?

Allow a few kids to give an example

Teacher: I was disappointed about the surprise being ruined. But guess what? I mess up too. I let people down all the time. Romans 3:10 says that there is no one righteous, not even one. That's why when Jesus forgave my sins on the cross: He also forgave your sins, and the sins of every boy and girl here! He forgave the sins of the whole world! He doesn't remember all the bad things I did and so since Jesus forgives me, I can forgive others too.



INTERPRETATION/APPLICATION (CONT.)

ACTIVITY 3: STONE ACTIVITY (FORGIVING OURSELVES)

What you need: Bibles (1 per kid), Smooth grey stones (enough for one per child), washable markers (or dry erase markers), a bucket or wading pool of water, a towel

What you do: Invite kids to open to 1 John 1. Have a volunteer read 1:5-10. Write something that you feel bad about or did wrong on a stone. Drop it into the bucket of water or pool and let the writing dissolve away.

What you say: We have to forgive people when they do things that hurt us, and we also sometimes make mistakes and have to be forgiven. Write or draw it on a rock a mistake or regret you have and then go over to the pool and wash it off. This will help us remember that through our baptism God offers us forgiveness of sins! Jesus Christ is God. If we want to see a picture of God, we can look at Jesus! He sent Jesus into this world to reveal to us what God is like, what is character is like, how he would act, how he would respond in certain situations that you or I might go through.

ACTIVITY 5: IT'S ALL ABOUT THAT FORGIVENESS

What you need: Parachute, various kinds of balls

What you do: Have the parachute down on the floor with balls of various shapes and forms spread around it. Have half the children gather around the parachute and pick it up. Now tell them to shake the parachute and try to get all the balls out. Balls will begin flying out and the other half of the children need to run around and try to keep the balls in the parachute. Have them switch places and try it the other way.

What you say: Today we learned how I had to practice forgiveness. When people do things to hurt us like take our treats or toys or use our things without asking, or spoil the fun in something, we can get frustrated. We can want to get them back and be angry at them. Forgiveness isn't something we do once a day, or even 10 times a week. Forgiveness is always happening! We need to be forgiven and we need to forgive as well. Just like we had to constantly keep putting the balls back into the parachute, we keep forgiving people.



INTERPRETATION/APPLICATION

ACTIVITY 6: HEALING OUR HURTS

What you need: Butcher paper, variety of Band-Aids (enough for each child to have two), writing utensils

What you do: Draw a big outline of a human on the butcher paper. Make sure there is enough room for every kid to write or you to write words on the inside. Go around the room and first brainstorm what God has said about them. Write down those positive things on the paper human.

What you do (Cont.): Then go around and write in some things that people have said to them that were hurtful or mean or they've heard someone else say. Write those hurtful words down on your human. Have everyone take their Band-Aid and take turns coming up and covering the mean words up with a Band-Aid until all the mean words are covered.

What you say: Words can hurt us and leave permanent marks. Forgiveness can cover up those mean words and help us only see the good things that God sees and calls us.

PRAYER

Dear Jesus,

Forgiveness seems easy until we try to do it ourselves, then we realize it is very hard. When someone treats us unfairly or hurts us, we want to get them back. But Jesus you died for us, even though that's not fair. You made it possible for us to be in your Kingdom, and we aren't even always thankful for that! Help us to remember what you did for us when we have to forgive. Give us the strength when it is just too hard and we can't do it. We love you Jesus and thank you for forgiving us.

Amen

