

Small Group Lesson

REMEMBER & CELEBRATE!

SERVICE SCHEDULE

Anticipate

Tru Clues

20-25 minutes

Small Group Discussion

10 minutes

Remember & Celebrate

Large Group

35 minutes

Connect

Small Group

10 minutes

Bless

Small Group

5 minutes

Inspire

During a recent international children's ministry conference, practitioners, leaders, volunteers, and writers remembered and celebrated what God had been doing in their ministries. It was a time of fellowship and praise—a time to remind us how good God has been—to fill us up for the work ahead.

Many of the stories told during the conference declared God as the deliverer. One woman spoke of how God used a child's worship response piece to deliver her and her husband from bitter separation and divorce. A man spoke of how God used a woman's simple act of saying "I love you" to herself in the mirror to deliver her from years of self-hatred.

These stories proclaimed the truth that God, the deliverer, is active in the lives of His people today. They reminded us that God is powerful. He hears our cries, and He uses even the most unlikely people and situations to deliver us from our deepest wounds.

Praise God who has the power to deliver in ways tailor-made for those who need it. And praise God for giving us, the faith community, the opportunity to hear these stories so that, together, we can celebrate Him.

Support

It's safe to say most of us aren't living as slaves in a foreign nation, manacled in jail, or crying out to be freed from bondage to a dictator. Yet, how true is it that we're still enslaved, shackled and bound to so many things, including fear, self-doubt, vanity, exhaustion, and pride. Most of the time our enslavement is spiritual, not physical, but it's just as real. And, just as God sought to save His people from physical slavery, He seeks to save us from spiritual bondage.

This week, challenge yourself by asking God to reveal any spiritual bondage you're suffering under—and to deliver you from it. Spiritual bondage can come in the form of fears that God doesn't love you as deeply as you've always heard, you're not His chosen child, you're not forgiven for things you did during high school or said to your friend or for how often you think about unclean things. Ask Him to heal you from the spiritual bondage of sin or darkness you can't seem to kick—whether in thought or action. Allow God to give you the strength to step out of your comfort zone. Ask Him to come into places in your life that have become spiritual millstones around your neck and to free you from them. When you do this, be prepared to be surprised at the ways God will choose to work in your life.

Lesson Overview: Remember & Celebrate

Experience	Time	Summary	Supplies/Prepare (Master Supply)
Anticipate Welcome & Engage	10-15 min.	Children will engage in various activities as they remember and celebrate God with their faith community. Tru Clues!: a fun and interactive game where children will engage in a scavenger hunt and prepare for more remembrance and celebration with their faith community.	Tru Clues! (per classroom/age group) 1 notepad per child (use [5] 3" x 5" or 4" x 4" pieces of paper and bind pages together; i.e., staple, tape, lace, or single-hole punch and fasten with a brad) Tru Clues Notepad Cover crayons (1 per child) Tru Clues pictures copied and cut out, enough for 1 cutout of each picture per child, clues include pictures of the following: globe, broken toy, paintbrush, backpack and dressy coat. clue envelope art stickers (5 per child) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teacher Discussion Clue Card
Remember & Celebrate Large Group	30-40 min.	We will remember and celebrate God as we take a look back at what we have experienced and what He has taught us.	Remember & Celebrate Spot's Rules Worship songs The Big God Story Today in the Big God Story we will use our "What's Its" to review the stories of the past several weeks. Worship through response
Connect Small Group	10 min.	Choose a favorite Connect game from the last six weeks. Play a couple of rounds before allowing children to choose another game.	Chat and Chew Game Choices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See game instruction sheet provided
Bless Small Group	5 min.	Bless children that they may experience God fully and be a blessing to others.	Blessing

EXPLORE

An exciting time during the Remember & Celebrate weekends for children to interact with their Small Group Leaders and/or parents. This time allows them to begin engaging in activities revealed during the large group time and is intentionally designed to spark curiosity and cultivate a sense of awe and wonder about God. Encourage parents to stay and participate with their children in these hands-on experiences.

Tru Clues!

When we know the truth, we can know God!

Tru Clues is a fun and interactive game where children will engage in a scavenger hunt. They will look for clues and answer basic questions to help them prepare for more remembrance and celebration with their faith community.

- (1) notepad per child (use [5] 3" x 5" or 4" x 4" pieces of paper and bind pages together: i.e., staple, tape, lace, or single-hole punch and fasten with a brad)
- Tru Clues Notepad Cover
- Tru Clues pictures copied and cut out; enough for one cutout of each picture per child; clues include pictures of the following: globe, broken toy, paintbrush, backpack and dressy coat.
- Clue envelope art
- Copy of each Tru Clue (on 8-½ x 11): globe, broken toy, paintbrush, backpack and dressy coat attached on envelope for kids to match clues
- Stickers
- Crayons
- Teacher Discussion Clue Card

PREPARE AHEAD

Prepare one notepad per child. Use the Tru Clues Notepad Cover and one copy of each picture clue (or combine pictures if you prefer) to create a book for each child. Prepare a Tru Clues envelope with 8-½ x 11 picture attached for each clue; attach a place to hold stickers.

SET UP

Before the service, place Tru Clues envelopes (filled with stickers) around the room in various spots. Have Tru Clues notepads prepared and ready to hand out as children enter the room.

ENGAGE

As children enter the room, give them a Tru Clues notepad. Briefly show the kids the pictures in the notepad and then instruct them to go find the matching clue. When they find a clue picture envelope that matches a picture in their Tru Clues notepad, they can take a sticker out of the envelope and adhere it to their notepad. Example: Show a child a picture of the globe in their notepad; now help them look for that matching picture somewhere in their classroom. Once they find the matching picture of the globe on an envelope, have them put a sticker on that page in their notepad and continue on with remaining clues.

Once they are done finding all their clues, they can color the cover and put their name on the notepad. Keep the notepads together per small group, as you will review these together in small group before going to large group discover.

Clean up

A CD with clean up music will be played. At this time, please encourage and assist the kids with clean up and move to your small group.

Small group Tru Clues Discussion:

Gather all of the children together in your small group and sit in a circle to investigate the clues. Use the following questions as you discuss the clues they found during the scavenger hunt.

ASK

As you pull out each clue, have the children refer to their notepads. Then ask the corresponding questions.

- **Globe:** (Creation) **What is this? Who made the earth? Who lives here? Where did we find the earth in The Big God Story? What did this help us remember about God? *God is Creator***
- **Broken Toy:** (Adam & Eve Disobey) **What happened to this toy? Was there something that was broken in The Big God Story? What does the toy help us remember about God? *God is Holy***
- **Paintbrush:** (Noah & the Flood) **How did we use a paintbrush in The Big God Story? What was the promise God made to Noah and all living creatures? God promised He would never flood the entire earth, ever again. What did God give to remind us of His promise? What do we know about God and His promises? *God is a Promise Keeper***
- **Backpack:** (Abraham & the Covenant) **How is a backpack a clue to The Big God Story? Do you have a backpack? How do you use your backpack? We can use our backpacks to carry our things. Who needed to pack up their things and move in The Big God Story? *God Loves Faith***
- **Dressy Coat:** (Joseph & his family) **What is this? Where was this in The Big God Story? Joseph's father gave him a very special coat. What happened to Joseph? God is bigger than anyone or anything! *God is Bigger***

Ask the children: **Where have we seen all of these things before?** Allow the children to answer. **They were all What'sIts from the Wardrobe of Wonder. They can remind us to celebrate all the good things God has done! They helped us to learn and know what is true about God. When we know God, we can be a part of His big story!**

Move to Large Group

Be sure to model for the kid's large group behavior. Please participate in all aspects of today's large group time.

Snack/Chat & Chew

SUPPLIES (per small group)

- Hand Sanitizer, Graham Crackers

Here are some questions that may help to facilitate your time in Chat & Chew, or feel free to come up with your own questions. To help create a comfortable space for children to contribute, share your answer first. This will help guide the children through group sharing.

1. **What are some of God's creations that we get to see every day?**
2. **What is one of God's promises that you like to think about?**
3. **When are some times when you know that God is with you?**
4. **How would you like to praise God today?**

Create a comfortable atmosphere by playing an instrumental song while the children participate in Chat & Chew response. As you notice the conversations and sharing coming to a close, gather the children's attention and say the Blessing over them

Bless

Over the last five weeks, the children have been participating in times of blessing both at home and in the children's church services. Through these times, children have been blessed as they've had Scripture read and prayed over them. They've also had words of encouragement and affirmation spoken to them. Today, leaders, parents, and children will have the opportunity to take what they've been given to be a blessing to others.

This week, each child will have the opportunity to bless the other children in their small group. Gather the children in a circle and give them instructions for blessing the person on their left. **God has given us so many good things. Many of those things we've remembered and celebrated together today. Before we leave, we're going to take a moment to give a blessing to the person on our left. Which side is your left?** Children will respond. **Good job. When we bless someone we tell her something that's true about God and the special person God has made her to be. Today, when it's our turn to bless our neighbor, we'll turn to her and say, "God loves you very much, and He is always with you." Let's say that together.** Repeat this a couple of times with the children. Do a quick check of their left and right again, making sure they understand which of their neighbors they'll be blessing. You can have them touch the shoulder of the child on their left if they'd like.

Begin the time of blessing by leading by example. **I'll go first.** Turn to the child on your left and say, (Child's name), **God loves you very much, and He is always with you!** Encourage the child you just blessed to turn and bless the person on his left. Once every child has been blessed, close your time in the following prayer of corporate blessing adapted from Isaiah 30:21.

Blessing: Children, whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it." God is always there for you, and you can trust Him.

Connect

Sharing in games together with the children during this time is purposeful. It will encourage them to see life in God as something to be celebrated in community. Today children will engage in community as they play their favorite Connect games from a few of the past weeks. Play a couple of rounds of each game as time allows.

Note: **Small group leader: You may select any of the games your group would like to play. Game Choices and Instructions are located in your bin.**