

**October 9-10, 2021**

## **REMEMBER & CELEBRATE**

### **Remember Verse**

**Joshua 22:5**

**“But be very careful to keep the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the Lord gave you: to love the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, to keep his commands, to hold fast to him and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.”**

### **LEADER PREP**

*Each week you'll find encouraging articles that help you prepare your heart to present the lesson.*

**INSPIRE** *Stories from ministry leaders to help prepare your heart*

During a children's ministry conference, attending practitioners, leaders, volunteers, and writers from all parts of North America 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 about how God used a child's worship response piece to deliver her and her husband from a bitter divorce. Another 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 proclaim the truth that God, the Deliverer, is active in the lives of His people today. They remind 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 in the faith community the opportunity to hear these stories so that together we can celebrate Him.

*Tori Funkhouser*

TruStory Team

**SUPPORT** *Suggests reflection through encouragement, prayer, and time in God's Word*

Slavery takes many forms. Some live as slaves in foreign nations, while others cry out to be freed from the bondage of a dictator. But we're all enslaved in some way, shackled and bound by things we can't see: fear, doubt, vanity, and pride.

Most of the time our enslavement is spiritual, not physical. But it's just as real. And just as God saved His people from physical slavery, He can save us from spiritual bondage.

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

## SMALL GROUP

### EXPLORE

*Children engage in fun, creative activities designed to pique their curiosity about the day's portion of The Big God Story.*

#### Bricks

For 400 years, while the Israelites lived as slaves in Egypt, they spent their days working really hard to make bricks. They probably did this every single day! They cried out to God to deliver them, and He did—by sending 10 plagues, the last of which was a very sad plague. For the last plague, God killed all of the firstborn Egyptian boys, but not the Israelite boys; He passed over the Israelite houses because they put the blood of a lamb over their doorposts. After this, the Israelites left as quickly as they could and followed God into the wilderness.

#### Option 1: Building Brick Walls (for younger kids)

##### SUPPLIES

- Brick-shaped items (suggestions: toy blocks, empty cereal boxes, shoe boxes, etc.)

##### RELATE

Lead kids through an EXPLORE in which they discover what it might have felt like to build a wall like the Israelites built in Egypt. Have them build a wall with the blocks or boxes, immediately knock it down,

and repeat. It will be fun for the kids to knock down their wall, and it will also show them how tiring it must have been to build the same thing over and over again!

## Option 2: Making Imaginary Bricks (for older kids)

### SUPPLIES

- Stopwatch or timer
- Balls (1 per child, soft)

### RELATE

Help kids experience how tiring it might have been for the Israelites to make bricks over and over and over, practically every day of their lives, by seeing how many times the kids can throw a soft ball onto the ground. Have them throw the ball to the ground, pick it up again, and throw it to the ground again—as many times as they can in one minute. Did that make you tired? Can you imagine doing that every day of your life?

## LARGE GROUP

## Traditions

Every week please make sure to have each child visit the Tradition Station. There they will receive mementos (beads/marbles) for one or more things every week. They will receive a memento for being there that week, if they know their Remember Verse, if they brought their Bible and if they brought a friend. They will then drop their memento into the “bucket” and a leader will bring the “bucket” to large group to add all of their mementos into their service time’s proper place. (Remember to bring the bucket back to your classroom when done with large group.)

### *Small Group Leader Tip:*

*Be sure to sit with your small group and participate in large group with them. Get involved with Worship and ZONK! The kids love it...show them you do too. Encourage them to remember all God has done for them the past weeks.*

### Joshua 22:5

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**CONNECT QUESTION:** What is your favorite part of the Fall season?

Head to your campus' large group area. Be sure to participate in worship, prayer and large group activities with the kids.

## SMALL GROUP

## RESPOND

## Celebrate:

The following questions are designed to spark conversations in which the kids can express how God has been working in their lives throughout the past 5-6 weeks. The questions will help them tell their story and reflect on God’s goodness! Please do not rush through them.

### Questions for Younger Kids

- What's something you've recently prayed to God for?
- How have you seen God answer your prayers?
- Have you recently been afraid of something and asked God to help you?
- What's something really special or exciting that God has done in your life?

### Questions for Older Kids

- How have you seen God working in your life lately?
- Have you received an answer to a specific prayer?
- Is there a situation in your life that you've asked God to work in?
- What is something special or exciting that God has done in your life?

### Engage: Remember verse coloring sheet and prayer

Supplies:

- Remember Verse coloring sheet

Let's take time to work on memorizing this week's Remember Verse!

#### Joshua 22:5

**"But be very careful to keep the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the Lord gave you: to love the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, to keep his commands, to hold fast to him and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul."**

Say the verse together a few times to see if you can memorize it. For older kids, ask them how they work on memorizing things – you can get some tips from the group!

Take time to color the coloring sheet, and ask the kids what this verse means to them and how they could apply it to their lives.

Pray for your group!

## BLESS

*Children receive a blessing from their leaders and sometimes one another. A blessing may be prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words to encourage and guide.*

### SUPPLIES

- Bible

### RELATE

Open a Bible and read Psalm 3:8:

**From the LORD comes deliverance. May your blessing be on your people.**

Bless each child individually with the following words:

**(Child's name), may you always remember the many ways God is at work in your life. May you take time to celebrate the ways He protects you and provides for you.**