



October 26, 2025

I Am Forgiven Elementary Leader Guide

the place for kids to take
their first steps with Jesus.

WIN

God is ready to restore and make us new when we believe in Him and ask for forgiveness. We can have hope in the future because of forgiveness and a new life with God forever.

BIBLE- Joel - the Prophet to Judah- Joel 1-3

TOOLS

Scan QR



At a Glance



The Code



Gospel Page



Leader Devos

SOCIAL TIME

The first 10 minutes as kids arrive is a very important time in your small group. Because of this, we provide you with intentional activities to engage their interests and help lead into a great discussion. All of this is so that “boredom” is not an excuse. Everything is only available one time.

Every week you have:

- Roku Games to play together that are changed out monthly.
- 2 month specific games or group activities.
- Plus 2 Social Activities. ** Use one now and save the other for an incentive to participate in all the activities.

Games and Music (10 minutes)

What You Need: Instruction Page, Game Sets, Roku Game Instruction Page, Blank paper (2 per child), Markers (several), Masking or painter's tape (1 per group), Inflated balloons (1 per group), “Allergy Alert” printable (1 per group), Pool noodles (3 per group; optional)

What You Do:

- Play worship songs and other songs available on Roku during the Social Game or while kids are playing.
- Using the supplies and game instruction page, choose one game to play with the kids today.
- As you are playing, use this as a time to call each kid by name and learn their names well.

Say: That was a fun game to get us ready to watch our Bible video. Let's sit and listen to our story today.”

Bible Story Video (10 minutes)

Bible Story Recap- Say This

God's people were doing what they wanted to do, and they deserved judgment and punishment for their sins. Sin is when we choose to do what we think is best rather than follow what God says is best. God's people deserved judgment and punishment for their sin, but God also offered them forgiveness. After Joel gave his special message from God to His people, they turned away from their sins and asked God to forgive them. When God forgives us instead of punishing us, this is called mercy. When God gives us love we do not deserve, this is called grace.

Gospel Connection: (refer to the 4 Circles poster in your small group spaces)

(Circle one) When God created people, they did not need forgiveness because they were not sinful. There was no judgment for people because everything was perfect. People did what God wanted and lived at peace with Him.

(Circle two) Sadly, that peace was gone once sin entered the world. Sin is when we do what we think is best instead of following God's best. Like the first people, Adam and Eve, the people Joel gave his message to sinned; they did not do what God wanted them to do. Because God is a good, right, and fair, He could not ignore the people's sins.

(Circle three) God knew people would sin, but He had a plan—Jesus came, lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and came back to life. When we trust in Him, we are forgiven forever and can have hope for life with God now and forever!

(Circle four) Because those in Christ are forgiven, we have a new life in God now and forever.

Talk to a leader if you want to know more about following Jesus!

All the times we choose to do what we think is best instead of following what God says is best, we are sinning. But there is good news! When we trust and follow Jesus, God forgives our sin and gives us a new hope that lasts forever. Everyone, say, **"God gives me a new hope!" (God gives me a new hope!)** This new hope is God's free gift to us when we trust and follow Jesus. It is the best gift we will ever receive because it means we have life forever with Him! Let's thank God for the new hope He gives us.

God, thank You for giving us a new hope when we trust and follow Jesus. Thank You that this new hope means having life forever with You. Help us remember the new hope You give will never go away, no matter how hard things in our lives may seem. Amen.

Some Good News

Kids create news headlines, with one headline being about Joel's message from God.

Big Goal: Remember that God gave Joel a message with news of a new hope.

Leader Prep: Set out supplies.

1. Create four boxes on your paper by drawing one vertical (up-and-down) line in the middle of your page and one horizontal (side-to-side) line in the middle of your page.
2. Write headlines for stories on an online news page in your boxes.
3. Use *Everyone Who Calls on the Name of the Lord Will Be Saved!* as one of the headlines.
4. Make the other headlines about any of your favorite topics.
5. Draw pictures under your headlines.
6. **Younger Adaptation-** Build your newspaper together as a group on a sheet of butcher paper and tape it to the wall.

Supplies: Blank paper (1 per child), Pencils (1 per child), Colored pencils or markers (several), "Some Good News Example" printable (1 per group; optional), Butcher paper sheet (1 6 foot piece of paper per group)

What To Do: Today, we talked about how God gives us a new hope when we trust and follow Jesus. Everyone, say, **"God gives me a new hope!"** (*God gives me a new hope!*) This is pretty great news! Joel passed on his message from God about the new hope God gives. Passing along messages and giving out news looks a little different than it did in Joel's time. We are going to create our own online news pages that include this great news.

Start by drawing a vertical (up-and-down) line down the middle of your page, then draw a horizontal (side-to-side) line through the middle of your page. Now, you should have four boxes. Hold up four fingers when you have your boxes drawn. (*Allow time.*)

One of the messages God gave Joel to share with the people of Judah is "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." This means everyone who trusts and follows Jesus will have life forever with Him. What are some other messages Joel shared with the people? (*Turn to God with all your heart; Don't be afraid; God's Spirit will be with you; God will forgive your sins; and so forth.*)

Write *Everyone Who Calls on the Name of the Lord Will Be Saved!* at the top of one of your boxes. Choose one of Joel's messages and turn them into headlines for the other boxes. Next, draw pictures that go along with each headline. For example, "turn to God with all your heart" could be someone doing something wrong in one half of the box and then choosing to do right in the other half with the *God* written in the middle of a heart; or simply draw pictures of what you think the people looked like when hearing Joel's message.

Keep It Going: Allow kids to write a few sentences under each headline to help explain Joel's message.

Leader Tip: Let kids share their headlines if time permits. Be prepared to offer suggestions on ways kids can illustrate Joel's message in a modern way.

Loud And Clear: You came up with some great headlines to share! God gave Joel an important message to share with God's people. His message of the hope God gives is still true today. Like Joel shared his message with God's people, we can share this same message with those around us too. Since the message came from God, we can know that it is totally true—always and forever. This is the best news anyone can ever get!

TALK ABOUT IT

Discussion Questions:

- When is it easy to forgive someone? When is it more difficult? *(Allow kids to answer.)*
- The Bible tells us God totally forgives us when we trust and follow Jesus. This offer is for everyone. He wants to give all of us a new hope. Let's open our Bibles to **Joel 2:26-27 and 32** and read about it together. *(Invite kids to open their Bibles. Read the verses aloud, or invite a kid who volunteers to read the verses aloud. Be sure to have Bibles available for kids who need one. Help kids find the verses so everyone can follow along together.)* The amazing promises from God in these verses are for all who call on the name of the Lord. This is true for all of us who trust and follow Jesus. How is the hope God gives us different than the hope the world gives us? *(Allow kids to answer. Point out we can fully trust in God's hope because we know He is always faithful to His promises. Also, His hope will never end.)*
- Joel talked to God's people, but they were not following God. Instead, they were doing what they thought was best. Even though they were sinners, like us, God offered them hope. How do our lives change when we trust and follow Jesus and get the new hope God offers us? *(Allow kids to answer. Our lives change because our sins are all forgiven. Our lives also change because God helps us follow Him.)*
- Having hope is easy when good things are happening but hard when life is difficult. What can help us remember our new hope when life is difficult? *(Allow kids to answer. We can pray or read our Bibles to remember the hope God gives us.)*
- The Bible tells us God forgives all our sins and gives us a new hope when we trust and follow Jesus. What is something encouraging you will remember from today?

WRAP UP

Is there anything you have questions about? *(Allow kids to answer, and share your own answer.)* Let's pray and talk to God. *(Lead the group in prayer. Consider using the following prayer prompt.)*

God, thank You for the hope You give. Thank You that it will never go away or disappoint us. We can always count on You and hope in You because You are always faithful. Help us remember the hope You give us when life gets hard. Thank You for always being with us and for giving us life forever with You when we trust and follow Jesus. Amen.

Joel gave a message that was filled with some sad news but also filled with some happy news. The amazing news Joel gave then is true for us now. God will forgive us for all our sins and make us totally new when we trust in Jesus!

GOING HOME

Pass out the coloring pages for kids to take home. Greet families as they arrive and tell them something about their child you saw today. Say goodbye and call everyone by name.