



October 5, 2025

I Am Forgiven Elementary Leader Guide



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



WIN

God sent Jesus to forgive our sins and make us totally new with brand-new identities in Him! We get a new start when we believe in Jesus.

BIBLE- *Jesus Called a Tax Collector- Matthew 9:9-13; Mark 2:13-17; Luke 5:27-32*

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 (2-3 per child), Pencils (1 per child), Stopwatch or timer (1 per group)

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

Jesus completely changed Matthew's life when He told Matthew to follow Him. Matthew was a tax collector. During Bible times, tax collectors were not honest people. They took too much money from people and kept the money for themselves. Jesus called Matthew to follow Him, and Matthew left everything behind when he did. *Sin* is when we choose to do what we think is best rather than follow what God says is best. For example, God says honesty is best, but we may be tempted to think it is best to tell a lie to keep ourselves out of trouble. When Matthew chose to follow Jesus, God forgave Matthew's sins and completely gave him a new start. It did not matter what Matthew had done in the past. God forgives all our sins and gives us a new start when we trust in Jesus too. Everyone, say, "God gives me a new start!" (*God gives me a new start!*)

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

(*Circle one*) In the beginning, we all had a fresh start. The entire world and everything in it was perfect, including people! There was no death, sadness, crying, or tears. Everything was perfect when God created the world.

(*Circle two*) Sin started when Adam and Eve chose their way instead of God's way, and that broke the world. Because of sin, we are separated from God, but we all need His forgiveness and a new start with Him.

(*Circle three*) The good news is that God sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment for our sin and make a way for us to be forgiven. Jesus died, came back to life, and now offers forever life with Him to anyone who trusts in Him.

(*Circle three*) Jesus is the only one who can rescue us! He died for us, came back to life, and gives us life with God forever.

(*Circle four*) If we trust Jesus, He gives us a forever home with Him. Say, "I am forgiven!" and "I am totally new"

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

God forgives us for our sins when we trust in Jesus. All the times we sin and choose to do what we think is best rather than follow what God says is best are wiped away. God makes us totally new. What does He make us? (*Totally new!*) He gives us new life in Him, and we will also have life forever with Him! It is never too late to trust in Jesus and have all your sins forgiven. No sin is too bad for God to forgive; He wipes them *all* away. Let's take some time to thank God for what He does in our lives.

God, thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to offer us forgiveness. It is because of Him that we can be forgiven of our sins, made totally new, and given a new start when we trust in Jesus. Help us turn to You and trust in You today. We love You. Amen.

My Own Blueprint

Kids make blueprints of new houses to remind kids God gives us a new start.

Big Goal: Remember that God gives us a new start.

Leader Prep: Print the “Blueprint Example” printable, cut butcher paper into individual pieces around 2 feet long. Set out supplies.

1. Draw a blueprint, or an outline, of a new house you would like to live in.
2. Include the number of rooms you would like.
3. Label the rooms.
4. Include details like your front and back yards.
5. Roll up your blueprint, and close it with a paper clip when you are done.

Supplies: “Blueprint Example” printable (1 per child), Butcher paper (1 per child), Markers or crayons (several), Pencils (1 per child), Paper clips (1 per child), “My Own Blueprint Example” printable (1 per group; optional)

What To Do: Today, we talked about how God gives us a new start when we trust in Him. What does God give us? (*A New Start!*) We can see lots of new things around us, like new houses. A new house does not just appear though. First, a *blueprint* must be drawn with plans for the house—how many rooms it will have, how big the rooms will be, and how many floors the house will have. These are just a few of the plans you might find drawn on the blueprint. I have given you an example to see what a blueprint looks like.

We are going to draw our own blueprints today to remind us God makes us totally new when we trust in Jesus. Design and draw out the plans for a house you would love to live in. Be sure to include what you would have in the front and back yards! Let’s make our own blueprints!

Keep It Going: Allow kids to share their finished blueprints with the group. Make your own blueprint for a new house, and share it with the group.

Leader Tip: Be sensitive to kids from different backgrounds and home lives. Encourage all kids in their drawings. Use this as a time to get to know the kids better.

Loud And Clear: You have some exciting ideas for new houses! Just like blueprints are plans for totally new houses, God makes us totally new when we trust in Jesus. He forgives all our sins and gives us a new start. Matthew needed a new start. God gave a new start to Matthew the minute he decided to follow Jesus. God does the same for us too!

Discussion Questions:

- What does it feel like to start something new, like starting a new school year, playing a new sport, or opening a new book? *(Allow kids to answer, and share your own answer.)*
- The Bible tells us that, just like Jesus gave Matthew a new start, we are forgiven and given a new start when we trust in Jesus. Let's open our Bibles to **Mark 2:14 and 17** 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.)* What does Jesus mean when He says that He came to call sinners? *(Allow kids to answer, and remind them we are all sinners. Jesus wants everyone to come to Him.)*
- The world became broken when sin entered it. Jesus died on the cross and came back to life so everyone who trusts in Him can be forgiven of their sins. Why do we need a new start? What does it mean for God to give us a new start? *(Allow kids to answer. Point out that getting a new start means we have new life in Jesus, and this new life lasts forever.)*
- Sometimes we can feel trapped in the brokenness of this world—in our worries, in making the wrong choices, or in our sadness. How can trusting in Jesus make our lives different and give us a new start? *(Allow kids to answer. Point out that we still live in a broken world with worry, sadness, and sin, but Jesus helps us follow Him with our lives and gives us peace and comfort.)*
- The Bible tells us we are forgiven and given a new start when we trust in Jesus, like Matthew the tax collector got a new start. God makes us totally new, like He made Matthew's life new when he followed Jesus. What is something encouraging you will remember from today?

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 Your plan to give us a new start. Thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to die on the cross to take away our sins so we can be forgiven. Thank You for forgiving us when we trust in You. Help us remember there is nothing we can do that is too bad for You to forgive. Thank You for loving us and giving a new start in Jesus. Amen.

When Matthew chose to follow Jesus, God forgave Matthew's sins and gave him a new start. Jesus paid the price for all our sins and wants us all to trust in Him and be forgiven too.

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.