

Leader Guide 1

Week 1: Welcome to Celebration Place

Teaching Time

- You'll need the questions below on separate slips of paper
- Hat or bowl

The questions:

- If you could eat any kind of food, what would it be?
- If you were stranded on a desert island, what three things would you want with you – and why?
- If you were paid a million dollars, would you take a bath in a tub of leeches? Explain your answer.
- Where would you like to go on an all-expense-paid vacation?
- If you could star in a movie that most resembles your life, what movie would it be – and why?

Small Groups

- Pen or pencil for each child
- *Celebration Place Journal* for each child

Week 2: Denial

TEACHING TIME

- Two Bibles

SMALL GROUPS

- Pen or pencil for each child
- *Celebration Place Journal* for each child

CENTERS

Center 1: Masked

- Paper plates
- Markers

Center 2: Trapped!

- A ball for each circle of kids

Center 3: Rich or Not

- Sheet of paper for each child
- Crayons or markers

CLOSING

- Masks (created previously in the “Masked” Center)
- Trash can

Week 3: Denial

SMALL GROUPS

- Pen or pencil for each child
- *Celebration Place Journal* for each child

CENTERS

Center 1: Bound Up

- One 24-inch length of string or yarn for each child
- Scissors

You'll find the solution to this activity in the Closing. To view a demonstration, go to group.com/videocasts/childrensministry.asp and select "Bound Up."

Center 2: Hold On

- A small ball
- Sheet, blanket, or beach towel

Center 3: Way to Go!

- Scissors
- Glue
- Sheet of card stock for each child
- Markers
- A clothespin for each child

Week 4: Powerless

TEACHING TIME

- Different-colored sheets of paper (white, light blue, medium blue, and dark blue). Give each child one of the sheets of paper.

SMALL GROUPS

- Pen or pencil for each child
- *Celebration Place Journal* for each child

CENTERS

Center 2: Storm Bottles

- 1 empty 2-liter soft drink bottle for each child (use warm water to remove labels)
- Water
- Margarine tub lids
- Scissors
- Small seashells (optional)
- Tape
- Permanent markers
- Green and blue food coloring
- Vegetable oil
- Measuring cup

Center 3: Boat Snacks

- Pizza sauce
- Pita bread
- Shredded mozzarella cheese
- Pepperonis

Warning: Check to be sure that none of the children have gluten or dairy allergies.

CLOSING

- Bible
- Sheets of paper
- Pens or markers

Week 5: Powerless

SMALL GROUPS

- Pen or pencil for each child
- *Celebration Place Journal* for each child

CENTERS

Center 1: Hurts So Bad

- Bible

Center 3: Serenity Robbers

- A variety of small objects

Week 6: Hope

TEACHING TIME

· Twelve 4x6 cards arranged in order from bottom to top with these words: Nope, Nope, Nope, Nope, Nope, Hope, Alcohol, Drugs, Overeating, Addictions, Anger, Jesus.

This object lesson takes practice to get it right. To see a video demonstration, go to group.com/videocasts/childrensministry.asp and select "What's the Difference?"

SMALL GROUPS

- Pen or pencil for each child
- *Celebration Place Journal* for each child

CENTERS

Center 1: Take It to the Limit

- Bible

Center 2: Thumbs Up

- Bible

Center 3: Not Finished Yet

- Bible
- Baby food jars
- Paint pens
- Water
- Mustard seeds

Week 7: Hope

SMALL GROUPS

- Pen or pencil for each child
- *Celebration Place Journal* for each child

CENTERS

Center 3: Evidence of God

- Bible
- Sheets of paper
- Pens or markers

CLOSING

- Bible
- 1 mustard seed
- Blank 3x5 card for each child with a mustard seed taped to it with clear tape. Write on the card: "Nothing is impossible with God!"

Week 8: Special Event

The Emperor's New Groove (2000, Walt Disney Pictures)

- Sandwich-style cookies, such as Oreos
- Napkins
- Beverage and cups
- Blank 3x5 cards
- Paper crown

Week 9: Peace (Sanity)

TEACHING TIME

- Bible
- 50 sheets of paper
- Masking tape

SMALL GROUPS

- Pen or pencil for each child
- *Celebration Place Journal* for each child

CENTERS

Center 1: Help Me, Jesus

- Bible

Center 2: "I Am"

- Bible

Center 3: Bridge the Gap

- Sheets of paper
- Markers

CLOSING

- You'll need the paper wads from Teaching Time
- Markers
- Basket

Week 10: Peace (Sanity)

SMALL GROUPS

- Pen or pencil for each child
- *Celebration Place Journal* for each child

CENTERS

Center 1: Orange Crush

- Cups
- Orange Crush soft drink, enough for everyone

Center 2: Trust Walk

- Blindfold for each pair of children

Center 3: Butterfly Craft

- Half of a black chenille wire for each child
- Round paper coffee filter for each child
- Markers
- Newspaper
- Paper towels
- Watercolor paints
- Paintbrushes
- Water

Week 11: Turnaround (Turn)

TEACHING TIME

- Bible
- 1 M&M's candy

SMALL GROUPS

- Pen or pencil for each child
- *Celebration Place Journal* for each child

CENTERS

Center 1: Blindfold Obstacle Course

- Blindfold for each pair of children

Center 2: Repentance Run

- Bible

Center 3: Magnificent & Marvelous

- Individual packet of M&M's candy for each child
- Card stock
- Markers
- Stapler

CLOSING

- One large jar half-filled with water
- 1 cup bleach (ALERT: keep away from children)
- ½ cup of red water
- ½ cup of blue water
- ½ cup of green water

Week 12: Turnaround (Turn)

SMALL GROUPS

- Pen or pencil for each child
- *Celebration Place Journal* for each child

CENTERS

Center 1: Stone in My Shoe

- Small stone for each child – or something of similar size
- Markers

Center 2: Match It

- Bible
- Set of Old Cards and New Cards with the following on them (leave the backs of the cards blank):
 - Old: “Save your life!” — New: “If you try to hang onto your life, you will lose it” (Mark 8:35)
 - Old: “Get, get get!” — New: “Give and you will receive” (Luke 6:38)
 - Old: “Lead, at all costs.” — New: “Wash each other’s feet” (John 13:14)
 - Old: “Lie; the truth only complicates things.” — New: “Let everything you say be good and helpful” (Ephesians 4:29)
 - Old: “Hate your enemy.” — New: “Love your enemy” (Matthew 5:44)

Center 3: Sealed With Love

- Bible
- Write “you” on a card and seal it in an envelope that kids can see through

Week 13: Action

TEACHING TIME

- Bible

SMALL GROUPS

- Pen or pencil for each child
- *Celebration Place Journal* for each child

CENTERS

Center 1: Action Tag

- You'll need an area where kids can run

Center 2: Mold It

- Bible
- Pencils
- Air-drying clay – available at craft stores

Center 3: The Present

- Bible
- A wrapped present

CLOSING

- Bible

Week 14: Prayer Stations

TEACHING TIME

- Bible
- Small roll or biscuit
- Napkin

SMALL GROUPS

- Pen or pencil for each child
- *Celebration Place Journal* for each child

CENTERS

Center 1: The Suffering of Christ

- Bowl of ice
- Paper towels

Center 2: Lend a Hand

- Plain bedsheet
- Markers

Center 3: Come to the Water

- Pitcher of water
- Basin
- Towel
- You'll also need an adult at this station to pour water over each child's outstretched hands and then dry them gently with a towel. No words need to be spoken.

Leader Guide 2

Week 15: Honesty (Moral)

TEACHING TIME

- Bible

SMALL GROUPS

- Pen or pencil for each child
- *Celebration Place Journal* for each child

CENTERS

Center 1: A Seed Grows

- Bible
- Permanent markers
- For each child, you'll need a bean and a clear plastic cup half full of potting soil

Center 2: Looking Back

- Bible

Center 3: Masked

- Bible
- Paper plates
- Scissors
- Elastic
- Stapler
- Markers
- Craft supplies such as sequins, feathers, yarn, tinsel, or pompoms

Week 16: Honesty (Moral)

SMALL GROUPS

- Pen or pencil for each child
- *Celebration Place Journal* for each child

CENTERS

Center 1: Now You See It

- Bible
- White paper
- Lemon juice from a plastic, squeeze-style lemon
- Lamp with a light bulb

Center 3: All Clean

- Dirty penny for each child
- A glass
- Vinegar
- Regular table salt
- Spoon

CLOSING

- Bible
- Pennies from Center 3: All Clean

Week 17: Sponsor

SMALL GROUPS

- Pen or pencil for each child
- *Celebration Place Journal* for each child

CENTERS

Center 1: Hide 'n' Seek

- Bible
- White crayons
- White construction paper
- Tempera paint
- Brushes
- Newspaper
- Paint shirts
- Before children arrive, draw white stick figures on a sheet of white construction paper for each child

Center 2: Building a Church

- Six graham cracker squares for each child

Center 3: Body Parts

- Bible
- Blindfolds
- Pennies or other small items

CLOSING

- You'll need the papers kids created in Center 1: Hide 'n' Seek

Week 18: Sponsor

SMALL GROUPS

- Pen or pencil for each child
- *Celebration Place Journal* for each child

CENTERS

Center 1: The Shoe Fits

- Bible

Center 2: Fill 'Er Up

- Bible
- Noisemaker such as a whistle

Center 3: Helping Others

- Bible
- Bag with small items that represent things your church shares, such as money, food, homes, or clothes

Week 19: Inventory

TEACHING TIME

- Bible
- \$100 in play money for each group of four; you can use photocopies of money from a board game. Use money in denominations of \$5 and \$10 only.
- Write these character qualities on separate sheets of paper and tape them to the wall: love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, gentleness, self-control, kindness, and faithfulness.

SMALL GROUPS

- Pen or pencil for each child
- *Celebration Place Journal* for each child

CENTERS

Center 1: Changed Relay Race

- Bible
- Two sets of the following: gloves, coat, hat, and adult-size boots

Center 2: Before and After

- Paper
- Pencils or pens

Center 3: What I Like About You

- 2x8-inch strip of card stock for each child to make a bookmark
- Pens
- Markers
- Crayons

Week 20: Inventory

TEACHING TIME

- \$100 in play money for each group of four; you can use photocopied money from a board game. Use money in denominations of \$5 and \$10 only.
- Bible
- Sheets of paper
- Marker
- Tape

SMALL GROUPS

- Pen or pencil for each child
- *Celebration Place Journal* for each child

CENTERS

Center 1: Leftover Hurt

- Bible
- Balloon for each child
- 3x5 card for each child
- Pencil for each child

Center 2: Revenge or Not?

- Bible
- The cards from Center 1: Leftover Hurt
- Pencils
- White board and a dry erase marker or large sheet of paper and a marker

Center 3: Hurts

- The cards from Center 2: Revenge or Not?
- Pencils

CLOSING

- Bible
- Red crayons or markers placed all around the room

Week 21: Special Event

Finding Nemo (2003, Pixar Animation Studios and Walt Disney Pictures)

- Goldfish crackers
- Gummy worms (at least one for each person)
- Disposable bowls for crackers

Week 22: Spiritual Inventory

TEACHING TIME

- Set five chairs at the front of your room

SMALL GROUPS

- Pen or pencil for each child
- *Celebration Place Journal* for each child

CENTERS

Center 1: Forgive and Forget

- Bible
- One “lock top” plastic bag full of graham crackers for each group of kids rotating through the center

Center 2: Changed Hearts

- Bible
- Scissors
- Red and white construction paper
- Craft supplies

Center 3: Forgive Me

- Bible

CLOSING

- Bible
- Cell phone
- Two children as actors
- Two copies of the following script (*see next page*). Have kids read it and practice a little before the closing. One actor will be a child, and the other will be “Jesus,” who’s silent.

The Script:

(Jesus moves right behind the child at all times.)

Child: “Oh! That Kyle! I can't believe I ever thought he was my friend. I hope something really bad happens to him! “ (*Turns and looks at Jesus who looks sad.*) “Don’t look at me that way!” (*Picks up the phone as Jesus shakes his head no.*)

“Hey! Quit telling me what to do.” (*Dials the phone.*)

“Hello, Ashlyn. Listen to what Kyle did.” (*Chatters unintelligibly while Jesus hangs his head in sadness.*)

(Hangs up the phone and turns around to look at Jesus.)

“What’s the deal, anyway? It’s not a sin for me to tell someone else. It's not like I’m a gossip or anything.” *(Jesus places both hands on his heart as though his heart is breaking.)*
“Look, I’ve had it with you. Everywhere I go, everything I do—you just won’t leave me alone.” *(Backs Jesus up to an imaginary cross and nails his left hand to the cross.)*
“I didn’t want to do this, but you leave me no choice.” *(Nails Jesus’ right hand to the cross.)*
“I want my freedom. I don’t want you telling me what to do.” *(Nails Jesus’ feet to the cross.)*
“There. That oughta fix you. Now stay out of my life!” *(Walks away and Jesus hangs his head.)*
Read aloud Isaiah 53:3-5. Pray, thanking God for forgiveness through Jesus’ death on the cross.

The Script:

(Jesus moves right behind the child at all times.)

Child: “Oh! That Kyle! I can't believe I ever thought he was my friend. I hope something really bad happens to him!” *(Turns and looks at Jesus who looks sad.)* “Don’t look at me that way!” *(Picks up the phone as Jesus shakes his head no.)*

“Hey! Quit telling me what to do.” *(Dials the phone.)*

“Hello, Ashlyn. Listen to what Kyle did.” *(Chatters unintelligibly while Jesus hangs his head in sadness.)*

(Hangs up the phone and turns around to look at Jesus.)

“What’s the deal, anyway? It’s not a sin for me to tell someone else. It's not like I’m a gossip or anything.” *(Jesus places both hands on his heart as though his heart is breaking.)*

“Look, I’ve had it with you. Everywhere I go, everything I do—you just won’t leave me alone.” *(Backs Jesus up to an imaginary cross and nails his left hand to the cross.)*

“I didn’t want to do this, but you leave me no choice.” *(Nails Jesus’ right hand to the cross.)*

“I want my freedom. I don’t want you telling me what to do.” *(Nails Jesus’ feet to the cross.)*

“There. That oughta fix you. Now stay out of my life!” *(Walks away and Jesus hangs his head.)*

Read aloud Isaiah 53:3-5. Pray, thanking God for forgiveness through Jesus’ death on the cross.

Week 23: Spiritual Inventory

SMALL GROUPS

- Pen or pencil for each child
- *Celebration Place Journal* for each child

CENTERS

Center 1: Stuck on You

- Bible
- Sticky notes for each child
- Pencil for each child

Center 2: Never Shaken

- Bibles
- Paper
- Pencils

Center 3: Forced Choices

- Sheet of paper for each child
- Pencil for each child

CLOSING

- 1-gallon jar
- 10-12 fist-sized rocks
- 1-gallon zip-lock bag of sand
- Pan or washtub

Practice this ahead of time to determine the exact amount of sand to use. To view a video demonstration, go to group.com/videocasts/childrensministry.asp and select "Sand and Rocks."

Week 24: Spiritual Inventory

SMALL GROUPS

- Pen or pencil for each child
- *Celebration Place Journal* for each child

CENTERS

Center 1: Mind – Garbage In/Garbage Out

- Bible
- Clear bag of garbage – the grosser the better

Center 2: Body – Wonderfully Made

- Bible
- Masking tape

Center 3: Family

- Bible
- For each child, you'll need a:
 - Rinsed kiwi fruit
 - Half a banana
 - A grape
 - Two raisins
 - Plastic knife
 - Paper plate

Week 25: Prayer Stations

TEACHING TIME

- Craft foam cross that kids can press nails into later – you can shape this cross from a large sheet of craft foam
- Small basket of 2-inch nails set beside the cross

CENTERS

Center 1: Relationships

- Bible
- An 8-inch piece of purple crepe paper for each child

Center 2: Inner Life

- Bible
- Cotton pad for each child

Center 3: Stress

- Bible
- Concrete block or brick

Center 4: Forgiveness

- Bible
- One small square of red paper for each child

Center 5: Sweet Peace

- Bible
- Life Savers candy for each child

REFLECTION

- The cross from Teaching Time
- Kids will need the symbols they've made

SMALL GROUPS

- Pen or pencil for each child
- *Celebration Place Journal* for each child

Week 26: Confess

SMALL GROUPS

- Pen or pencil for each child
- *Celebration Place Journal* for each child

CENTERS

Center 1: All for One

- Bible
- Three pennies for each child
- Three pennies for yourself

Center 2: Face the Truth

- Bible

Center 3: Objects Appear Closer

- Bibles
- Paper
- Pencils
- Large mirror

CLOSING

- Penny for each child
- Red markers

Week 27: Admit

SMALL GROUPS

- Pen or pencil for each child
- *Celebration Place Journal* for each child

CENTERS

Center 1: Cleaned-Up Act

- Bible
- Two glasses of water – stir a handful of dirt into one glass

Center 3: Uncommon Commonalities

- Bible

Week 28: Admit

SMALL GROUPS

- Pen or pencil for each child
- *Celebration Place Journal* for each child

CENTERS

Center 1: Colorful Chains

- Bible
- Plastic knives
- Small bowl
- Paper plate for each child
- Water
- Paper towels
- Fruit by the Foot fruit snack – cut the fruit snack into five long strips (you'll need five strips for each child)

Center 3: Ick!

- Bible
- Photo of an infected sore – search online for the image

Week 29: Ready

TEACHING TIME

- Bible
- Large writing surface such as a whiteboard or paper
- Something to write with

SMALL GROUPS

- Pen or pencil for each child
- *Celebration Place Journal* for each child

CENTERS

Center 2: Water Relay

- Bible
- Two spoons
- Water

Center 3: Ultimate Surrender

- Bible

CLOSING

- Carnation or other flower for each child

Week 30: Ready

TEACHING TIME

- You'll need three "actors" – it's best if you can use your adult or teen helpers. Instruct them to answer questions in character as follows: Actor 1: You're the real deal. You're the loving, gracious, kind God. Actor 2: You're not God. You're angry and full of vengeance. Actor 3: You're not God. You're weak and helpless and fearful.

SMALL GROUPS

- Pen or pencil for each child
- *Celebration Place Journal* for each child

Centers

Center 1: Courage Ribbons

- Glitter glue
- Blank award ribbons – available from arts and crafts stores such as Hobby Lobby

Center 2: Knock, Knock

- Bible

Center 3: Yielded

- Bible
- Whiteboard or large paper to draw different traffic signs on
- Something to draw with

Week 31: Victory

SMALL GROUPS

- Pen or pencil for each child
- *Celebration Place Journal* for each child

CENTERS

Center 1:

- Balloon for each child

Center 2: JollyBall

- Volleyball net or a string to serve as the net
- Beach ball

Center 3: Victory Clings

- 6-inch squares of paper
- Glue
- Water
- Paintbrushes
- Empty egg carton – mix several drops of water with glue in each egg carton opening. Then mix different colors of glitter into each mixture.
- Waxed paper
- Glitter
- Tape
- Makers

Week 32: Victory

SMALL GROUPS

- Pen or pencil for each child
- *Celebration Place Journal* for each child

CENTERS

Center 1: Winner Chat

- Toilet paper roll

Center 2: This Is War!

- Bible
- Ball

Center 3: Balloon Crunch

- Inflated and tied-off balloon for each child
- Attach to each balloon a tag that has two body parts listed on it, such as head/elbow; knee/hand; ear/ear; and so on

CLOSING

- Dry erase marker and whiteboard or marker and a large sheet of paper

Week 33: Amends

SMALL GROUPS

- Pen or pencil for each child
- *Celebration Place Journal* for each child

CENTERS

Center 1: We Can Fix It

- Something that's broken, such as a broken vase, birdhouse, watch, or anything

Center 2: Toppled Tower

- Bible
- Markers
- Small box or wooden block with a sticky note on it for each child

Week 34: Special Event

Homeward Bound: The Incredible Journey (1993 Walt Disney Pictures)

- Bite-size candy (Hershey's Hugs and Kisses, mini Snickers, and mini 3 Musketeers bars)
- Dog food bowl
- Handkerchief loaded with non-perfumed fragrance (such as vanilla or vinegar)
- Bible

Week 35: Forgiveness

SMALL GROUPS

- Pen or pencil for each child
- *Celebration Place Journal* for each child

CENTERS

Center 1: Hurts So Bad

- Bible
- Bandages
- Markers
- 3x5 cards

Center 2: Forgiveness Means

- Paper
- Markers

Center 3: Wordless Necklace

For each child, you'll need two of the following:

- 16-inch red licorice rope
- Purple, green and yellow Gummi Savers candy
- LifeSavers Mint candy
- Resealable plastic bags

WEEK 36: Forgiveness

SMALL GROUPS

- Pen or pencil for each child
- *Celebration Place Journal* for each child

CENTERS

Center 1: Act 1: Betrayal

- Bibles
- Kids will each go to only one center today. For each center, you'll need a prop bag of six everyday items kids can use in retelling the events of Christ's death and resurrection. It doesn't matter what you put in each bag—just so everything fits into the bag. For example, one bag could have a beach towel, flashlight, cinnamon stick, bag of chips, a book, and a small shovel. It doesn't have to fit the story exactly. That's what gets kids creative in their re-enactments.

Center 2: Act 2: Trial and Crucifixion

- Bibles
- Kids will each go to only one center today. For each center, you'll need a prop bag of six everyday items kids can use in retelling the events of Christ's death and resurrection. It doesn't matter what you put in each bag—just so everything fits into the bag. For example, one bag could have a beach towel, flashlight, cinnamon stick, bag of chips, a book, and a small shovel. It doesn't have to fit the story exactly. That's what gets kids creative in their re-enactments.

Center 3: Act 3: Resurrection

- Bibles
- Kids will each go to only one center today. For each center, you'll need a prop bag of six everyday items kids can use in retelling the events of Christ's death and resurrection. It doesn't matter what you put in each bag—just so everything fits into the bag. For example, one bag could have a beach towel, flashlight, cinnamon stick, bag of chips, a book, and a small shovel. It doesn't have to fit the story exactly. That's what gets kids creative in their re-enactments.

TEACHING TIME

- For your stage, you'll need a large 6- to 8-foot cross made from lumber and mounted on a base so it stands upright.

CLOSING

- Small piece of red paper for each child
- Nail for each child
- Hammers

Week 37: Grace

TEACHING TIME

- Inflated weather balloon or a white trash bag that's inflated and tied off

SMALL GROUPS

- Pen or pencil for each child
- *Celebration Place Journal* for each child

CENTERS

Center 1: Jelly Bean Joy

- copy of the Jelly Bean Joy poem for each child
- jelly beans in the following colors; one for each child
 - Orange
 - Red
 - White
 - Green
 - Yellow
- Toothpick for each child

Jelly Bean Joy

*Orange is for the sins we've done,
Red is for the blood of God's only son,
White is for the grace he gives,
Green is for new life in him,
Yellow is for your place in heaven,
Invite Jesus into your life and be truly forgiven.*

Center 2: Filled Up

- Bible
- Unopened snack-size bag of potato chips for every two children, and a large bag of same kind of chips

Center 3: Grace to You

- 100 Grand candy bar for each child (miniature or full-sized versions)
- Tape
- Card stock
- Markers

Week 38: Grace

SMALL GROUPS

- Pen or pencil for each child
- *Celebration Place Journal* for each child

CENTERS

Center 1: Share the Sweet Message

- Bible
- Plate full of cookies with a few less cookies than kids present

Center 3: Snowball Fight

- Bible
- Newspapers
- Masking tape
- Timer
- Disposable wipes

Week 39: Prayer Stations

TEACHING TIME

- Large canvas – the bigger the better – or use a large sheet of very heavy paper
- Red, black, and yellow acrylic paint
- Paintbrush
- Cup of water

To view a video demonstration, go to group.com/videocasts/childrensministry.asp and select “Red Vase.”

SMALL GROUPS

- Pen or pencil for each child
- *Celebration Place Journal* for each child

CENTERS

Center 1: Stained Glass Prayer

- Fine-tipped permanent markers
- Multi-colored decorative window film cut into shapes (available at hardware stores)
- Big jar
- Candle lit inside the jar

Center 2: Blown Away

- Box fan
- Multiple pieces of small paper

Center 3: Broken

- Wooden craft sticks in a pile

Leader Guide 4

Week 40: Crossroads

SMALL GROUPS

- Pen or pencil for each child
- *Celebration Place Journal* for each child

CENTERS

Center 1: Journey Postcards

- Blank 4x6 index cards
- Fine-tipped markers

Center 2: Rest Stop

- Bibles
- Paper
- Pens

Center 3: Standing Firm

- Bible
- Sheet of paper for each child

CLOSING

- You'll need kids' postcards from Center 1: Journey Postcards

Week 41: Crossroads

SMALL GROUPS

- Pen or pencil for each child
- *Celebration Place Journal* for each child

CENTERS

Center 1: Time to Count

- Paper
- Scissors
- Pens

Center 2: The Good and Bad

- Bible
- Foods that taste the following ways: sweet, sour, bitter, salty, bland, and spicy. You'll need enough food for kids to have a taste of each food.
Warning: Be very aware of possible food allergies.
- Paper
- Pens

Center 3: Move It

- Bible

Week 42: Special Event

Mulan (1998, Walt Disney Pictures)

- Rice cakes (at least two for each child)
- Paper
- Pencils
- Small table
- Basket

Week 43: Daily Inventory

SMALL GROUPS

- Pen or pencil
- *Celebration Place Journal*

CENTERS

Center 1: Fruity Bookmark

- Bible
- Markers
- Cut a 2x8-inch strip of card stock for each child to make a bookmark

Center 2: Keep Away

- Soft ball

Center 3: Love Three Ways

- Bible

CLOSING

- Bible
- Paper slips
- Pens

Week 44: Relapse

SMALL GROUPS

- Pen or pencil
- *Celebration Place Journal*

CENTERS

Center 1: Escape Tag

- Bible
- For every 10 children, use masking tape to create a large wheel on the floor with six 5-foot spokes. Make the spokes and outer circumference at least 12 inches wide.

Center 2: Finger Snap

- Bible

To view a video demonstration, go to group.com/videocasts/childrensministry.asp and select "Finger Snap."

Center 3: Run Away!

- Bible

Week 45: Relapse

SMALL GROUPS

- Pen or pencil
- *Celebration Place Journal*

CENTERS

Center 1: You're Invited

- Bible
- Paper
- Markers

Center 2: Everything Means...

For each group that rotates into this center, you'll need a:

- Bible
- Large sheet of poster board – write "Everything means..." at the top of the poster board
- Markers

Center 3: Let Me Count the Ways

- Bible

Week 46: Gratitude

TEACHING TIME

- Bible
- For each group of four, make a red dot about the size of a dime on a white sheet of paper. Place this paper on top of another white sheet of paper under a bright light.

SMALL GROUPS

- Pen or pencil
- *Celebration Place Journal*

CENTERS

Center 1: Hot Potato Thanks

- Bible
- Pencil
- Slips of paper
- Four items to toss such as foam balls or stuffed animals
- Praise music and something to play it on

Center 2: Family Wheel

- Sheet of card stock for each child
- Brad for each child
- Markers
- Scissors

Center 3: Ungrateful Greta

- You'll need **three** actors – two girls and one boy – have them share a photocopy of the script as they act out the skit.
- Two chairs set off to the side of your “stage” area
- The Skit – ***See Below***

CLOSING

- You'll need the paper slips from Center 1: Hot Potato Thanks

The Skit

Greta: *(Wakes up, scowls, and pulls herself out of bed.)* Those stupid birds woke me with their singing. *(Huffs around as she gets ready and makes her bed. Her father enters the stage.)*

Father: Good morning, Greta. It's a beautiful day!

Greta: What's so good about today?

Father: This is the day that the Lord has made! The sun is shining. The birds are singing. Your mom is making pancakes.

Greta: The sun is too bright. It woke me up this morning and those stupid birds kept me from going back to sleep and...(A horn honks.)

Greta: Oh no! The bus! Now I don't have time for breakfast. *(She stomps off to an area with two chairs—the "bus." Cindy is sitting in one of the chairs.)*

Cindy: Hi, Greta! How's it going? Are you coming to the Sunday school party on Saturday? There'll be games, prizes, food. I can't wait!

Greta: *(Her eyes narrow.)* I hate church parties! I'd rather stay home and watch TV. *(Greta looks all around her for her lunch box.)* Oh no! I forgot my lunch!

Cindy: I'll share my peanut butter and jelly sandwich with you.

Greta: Yuk! I hate peanut butter and jelly! There's no way in the world I'd eat that! *(Greta looks out the bus window.)* If this is the day that the Lord made, I think he could've done a better job.

Week 47: Gratitude

SMALL GROUPS

- Pen or pencil
- *Celebration Place Journal*

CENTERS

Center 1: Makes Sense

- Bible
- Potpourri or perfume
- Background music and something to play it on
- Nature scene pictures or posters
- Doughnuts or muffins
- Juice
- Cups
- Napkins

Center 2: Thanks on the Run

- Foam ball
- Handheld recording device

Center 3: Symbol of Thanks

- Bible
- Aluminum foil
- Pipe cleaners
- Construction paper
- Fabric scraps
- Craft glue
- Yarn
- Scissors

Week 48: Give

TEACHING TIME

- Bible
- Basin of water
- Towel

SMALL GROUPS

- Pen or pencil
- *Celebration Place Journal*

CENTERS

Center 1: Pass the Message

- Bible

Center 2: Cooperative Musical Chairs

- Chairs
- Music CD and something to play it on

Center 3: Celebrate!

- Sugar cones
- Frosting
- Plastic knives
- Decorative sprinkles
- Small candies

CLOSING

- For every 10 kids, you'll need a basin of clean water and a clean towel. Enlist a helper for each extra group.

Week 49: Give

TEACHING TIME

- Bible

SMALL GROUPS

- Pen or pencil
- *Celebration Place Journal*

CENTERS

Center 1: Say What?

- Bible

Center 2: Let Your Light Shine

- Bible
- Votive candle
- Matches
- Tin can

Center 3: Total Acceptance

- Small cup with 10 M&M's candies for each child
- Big bowl of M&M's candies

Week 50: Yes

TEACHING TIME

- Bible
- Foam cup
- Pencil
- Pitcher of water
- Shallow pan
- Marker and large sheets of paper or dry erase markers and a whiteboard

SMALL GROUPS

- Pen or pencil
- *Celebration Place Journal*

CENTERS

Center 1: I Said Yes

- Paper and pens or pencils for each child

Center 2: Artist's Image

- Paper
- Crayons
- Markers
- Art supplies

Week 51: Yes

TEACHING TIME

- Bible
- Two boxes
- Small gifts for the children, such as candy or bookmarks. Place half the gifts in each box. Then wrap one gift nicely and the other one sloppily.

SMALL GROUPS

- Pen or pencil
- *Celebration Place Journal*

CENTERS

Center 1: Rock Solid

- Bible
- Fist-sized rock
- Mixing bowl
- Paper towels
- Bowl with 2 cups of cornstarch dissolved in 1 cup of water – this should form a “goo” mixture. If it doesn’t, add more cornstarch.

Center 2: Trash Your Sins

- Bible
- Newspapers
- Markers
- Large garbage bag
- Pack of baby wipes

Center 3: Doing the Impossible

- Bible
- Large, lightweight ball – the ball must be too large to fit into the wastebasket
- Small wastebasket

Week 52: Celebration

TEACHING TIME

- 3x5 card with a spot drawn on it for each child

SMALL GROUPS

- M&M's candies and a copy of the Candy Color Codes for each small group leader

Color Codes

Tell one thing about yourself for each candy you have, using these color codes. For example, if you have a red candy, tell one thing about your family, and so on.

- **Green**—one way you've grown at Celebration Place
- **Brown**—one thing God has taught you this year
- **Red**—one good thing about your family
- **Blue**—one fun fact about you
- **Yellow**—a bright thing that's happened in your family this year
- **Orange**—one thing you like about Celebration Place

GAMES

Game 1: Dot to Dot

- Various colored dot stickers – available at office supply stores

Game 2: Giant Twister

- A large colored paper circle for each group of four kids
- Red, yellow, green, and blue paper plates placed randomly all over the floor
- Spinner from an actual game of *Twister*

Game 3: Bingo

- Bingo game
- M&M's candies
- Round prizes such as Frisbees, bouncy balls, hair ties, poppers, and more

SMALL GROUPS

- Pen or pencil
- *Celebration Place Journal*