

CITY LG – July 18th- 19th, 2026

Bible Story: The Servant Who Had No Mercy • *Matthew 18:21-35*

Bottom Line: God's kingdom grows when you forgive.

Monthly Memory Verse: *God's kingdom is not about eating or drinking. It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy. All this comes through the Holy Spirit.* • Romans 14:17 NIV

WORSHIP

Goodbye Yesterday

Power Up

SLIDE: Theme

Hey, everyone! Welcome back to Kingdom Quest! I'm so glad you're here today. This whole summer, we've been learning about God's kingdom, and the full name of our series this month is 'Kingdom Quest—Living the Greatest Adventure.'

It's officially game time! Today's game is called ... 'Find It Fast!'

SLIDE: Find It Fast! Title

Here's how it works: I'm going to call out something for you to find. It might be something you're wearing, something on the floor, or something in the room. When you find it, bring it right up here to me as fast as you can. Whoever brings me the correct item first wins!

Ready? Let's start easy. I need you to bring me a shoe, fast!

(Pause while kids grab a shoe and bring it to you. Celebrate the first kid to bring you a shoe.)

Great job! Okay, you can put your shoe back on! Let's try another. Find it fast ... a Bible!

(Pause while kids grab a Bible and bring it to you. Celebrate the first kid to bring you a Bible.)

Great job! You guys are doing amazing! Let's make it trickier. Find it fast ... something red!

(Pause while kids grab a red item and bring it to you. Celebrate the first kid to bring you a red item.)

Awesome! Let's keep going!

(Play a few more rounds. Have kids find things like a jacket, a hair clip, cash, a pen, etc.)

Wow! You all were lightning fast! I love how well you listened and how quickly you moved. Great job!

Now it's time to review our Memory Verse for the month! It tells us something really special: God's kingdom is full of good things because God, the King, is so good!

Our Memory Verse is found in Romans 14:17.

SLIDE: Memory Verse

God's kingdom is not about eating or drinking. It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy. All this comes through the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:17 NIV).

All summer long, we've been talking about the kingdom God is the King of! It's God's kingdom. Our theme this month is: 'Kingdom Quest—Living the Greatest Adventure.'

But what is God's kingdom? Well, like we said, God's kingdom is where He is King! It's where He reigns, and where His ways—His love, His faithfulness, His truthfulness, and His goodness—are the way things operate. God's kingdom is a good, good place that we want everyone to be a part of! We want more people to see how awesome God, the King, is and join His kingdom!

Jesus spent a lot of time teaching His friends, the disciples, about God's kingdom. Jesus wanted them to understand that God's kingdom was different from any kingdom on earth. It wasn't about castles or crowns. It was about living God's way. When we live God's way, we show our world what God is like!

One day, Jesus and His friends were together, listening and learning. Jesus was helping them understand how people in God's kingdom should treat one another. Let's check it out...

VIDEO: Bible Story

When we forgive others like Jesus has forgiven us, we are pointing to God's kingdom. We are being forgiving like God! And God will do great kingdom things when we forgive like He does.

That's what our Bottom Line today is all about. Let's take a look at it together.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

God's kingdom grows when you forgive.

Jesus was telling this story to teach us about God's kingdom. We are the servant who has been forgiven of the huge debt we could never repay.

We sinned and broke our closeness with God, and we couldn't ever, ever, ever fix that. But Jesus came and paid for our sin. He made a way for us to be forgiven! God has forgiven us of something so big!

So when people hurt us, and they will, God wants us to forgive them, like He has forgiven us.

He doesn't want us to carry yucky feelings around! But that's what happens inside us when we hold onto bad feelings.

When someone hurts our feelings, it's totally okay to feel sad or hurt at first. But if we hold onto that hurt, it can grow into being really mad and even being mean. And then we end up carrying around all those yucky feelings, just like the slimy papers we saw.

But God doesn't want us to carry that yuck! And because God forgives us, we can forgive others too.

Forgiving someone doesn't mean what they did was okay. If someone makes you uncomfortable, tell a grown-up you trust! But forgiveness means you are choosing not to keep the hurt or the mad feelings inside your heart anymore. You're giving those feelings to God so He can help your heart feel clean and light again.

And every time you forgive—whether it's a friend, a classmate, a brother, or a sister—you're being like Jesus. That means people get to see God's love through you, and your heart feels so much better too.

Let's take a quiet moment to talk to the King who has forgiven us of so much.

You can bow your heads and close your eyes.

God, thank You so much for forgiving us of our massive debt, just like the king in the story. Sometimes people hurt our feelings, and sometimes we end up holding onto hurt or mad feelings that feel yucky. But we don't want to carry those around anymore. Today, we give those hurt and mad feelings to You. Please help our hearts feel clean and light again. Help us forgive others the way You forgive us. We want Your kingdom to grow. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

OFFERING

In Parkview Kids, we want to have fun but also be the hands and feet of Jesus by helping others who are in need. This year we are collecting our offering money to help kids all the way on the other side of the world in a country in Africa called Malawi. Did you know that in this area many communities don't have access to clean water?

Slides: 1-4

We are helping a ministry called E3 which helps put in freshwater wells. Having a well with clean water right in their village means women and children don't have to travel far away to other villages to get clean water, and they don't have to walk with heavy containers of water.

Help us raise money to provide wells in the communities in Malawi. We want you to go home and ask what YOU can do to raise money for these families in Africa!