

date: **5/28/17**

REMEMBER & CELEBRATE

Day of Atonement Remembering and Celebrating God's Righteousness

Inspire

Shares personal stories from fellow ministry leaders about how God has worked in their lives

Crunch. It's a terrible feeling—that moment you realize you've backed into another car. Pulling out of my friend's driveway in reverse, I hadn't even noticed the blue car parked on the street. My stomach dropped as I got out of my car and saw my friend's neighbor looking at his car and assessing the damage: a pumpkin-sized dent in the door. "Sir, I am so sorry," I said. "I'll pay for everything."

He looked at his car for a few moments. Then he turned to me and said, "You know what? Don't worry about it. These things happen. We've been thinking about getting a new car anyway." My jaw dropped. I protested—there was nothing wrong with his car, and he could certainly sell it for good money. But he refused, assuring me that it was okay. I drove away that day shaking my head. The dent had been my fault, but I had left the situation scot-free. My car hadn't even been damaged.

That situation comes back to me when I think about God's grace toward me, a sinner. I deserved the consequences of my sin—the punishment it should have brought. But through the atoning sacrifice of His Son, Jesus, God washed all of my sins away and calls me righteous! Praise Him for His plan to atone for the sins of the world through Jesus.

Kelly Goddard

HRock Church

Equip

Offers perspective and context to the lesson's Bible passage

Day of Atonement: A Festival Celebrating God's Righteousness

This reflective and often solemn festival consisted of fasting, prayer, and repentance. The festival celebrated God's righteousness and lasted 25 hours. Today it's known as Yom Kippur. During this time, the Israelites rededicated the temple to the Lord and repented of their sins. The high priest passed through the veil of the Holy of Holies with sacrificial blood to make atonement for the sins of the people. The New Testament significance lies in Christ, our High Priest, who shed His blood once and for all to make atonement for our sins before God.

Support

Provides reflection and assessment through encouragement, prayer, and time in God's Word

Through the sacrifice of Jesus, we're forgiven. His sacrifice gives us a restored relationship with our holy God. Spend some time meditating on the following passages:

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. Psalm 51:1–2

[He] canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. Colossians 2:14

What is God speaking to your heart through these verses? Thank Him for making the way for you to be declared righteous before Him. Close your time in reflective celebration as you trust in the righteousness of God.

Small Group SECTION

EXPLORE:: 15 min.

Small Group Leaders

Children engage in fun, creative activities designed to pique their curiosity about the day's biblical feast or festival as well as what they've learned about God in the past several weeks.

Celebration Flags

Today children will be able to design and assemble their own individual flag to be used in Large Group to praise God and celebrate His goodness.

SUPPLIES (per small group)

- Construction paper (1 sheet for every 2 children, 8 ½" x 11")
- Markers and/or crayons
- Stickers, fabric scraps, or any available collage materials
- Glue sticks
- Scissors
- Wooden dowels (6"–12") or craft sticks (1 per child)
- Tape (clear)

PREPARE AHEAD

Cut each sheet of construction paper in half, creating two 11-inch strips.

SET UP

Place one strip of construction paper and one dowel or craft stick at each child's place at the table. Set markers, crayons, and other materials in the center of the table.

RELATE



Invite children to the table to create their own flag for celebration. **Today is a day for remembering and celebrating who God is! Right now, we're going to make some flags to use later on today as we praise God. You can use any of the materials you wish to create your flag.** Encourage children to be creative and make a flag that's unique to them. When they've finished, help children attach their flag to the dowel or craft stick by folding the flag in half and taping the dowel or craft stick in the inner crease of the paper. Once the stick is secure, tape the edges of the flag together. Be sure each child writes his name on his flag before you collect the flags to bring with you to the large group experience.

REMEMBER::: 30 min.

Host/Worship Leader

Through a sequence of traditions and play, children are given the opportunity to pause and remember who God is.

We'll remember God's faithfulness as we look back at what He has shown us about Himself from The Big God Story. Each time we remember together, we'll pause. Children will participate in traditions by connecting with one another and God through music, dance, song, and art as they worship together.

Chloe's Rules

SUPPLIES

- [Chloe's Rules Remember & Celebrate video](#)

RELATE

Play the *Chloe's Rules Remember & Celebrate* video (or use the puppet and script), then *cue the preschool program theme song*. As the song begins to play, the Worship Leader and Host will come to the stage, greeting kids throughout the song as they make their way up front. As the theme song ends, the Host will transition into introducing herself and the Worship Leader to the children. There should be friendly banter between them regarding their excitement about being there today. **We have so much to share and celebrate together!** *Cue worship songs.*

Worship Leader: **Today we're going to stop everything we normally do to remember who God is and celebrate Him.**

Host: **That's right. God's people remembered and celebrated Him together by hosting a feast or a festival to honor a special part of who God is. Each time we gather for our special Remember & Celebrate weekends, we do the very same thing.**

Worship Leader: **One of the festivals God's people celebrated was called the Day of Atonement.**

Host: **Wow. Atonement is a really big word,** (name of the Worship Leader).

Worship Leader: **It is a big word. Friends, can you say it with me? A-TONE-ment.** Children will repeat; affirm their participation. **Good job. This festival celebrated that God is righteous. That means that God is always right. He always does what is right. He is always good and worthy of our worship. God is righteous. This festival was a way for the people to remember all the ways God had forgiven them of their sins. They also celebrated God's righteousness.**

Host: **You know what? We can celebrate God's righteousness too! He has given us Jesus. Because of Him we**

are forgiven of our sins and get to be with God forever and ever! That's something to celebrate!

Worship Leader: **That is a great reason to remember and celebrate! Let's not wait any longer. Let's get our festival started!** Open in prayer.

Remember and Play

Host/Storyteller

Game Cube

Today as you lead this time of remembering God through The Big God Story, you'll be using a Game Cube to facilitate the festivities.

SUPPLIES

- Game Cube images (see Resources)
- Wacky Wardrobe Game sheet (see Resources)
- Intro clips: Let's Chat, Mail Time, Sound Effects, Music, Wacky Wardrobe, Wardrobe of Wonder (see Resources)
- Remember Verse images from Lessons 6–9 and 10–13 (see Resources)
- What's It images: Palm Branch, Empty Wardrobe, Ear, Fishing Pole, Pillow, Loaf of Bread, Dirt (see Resources)
- Sound effects: Donkey Walking, Storm (see Resources)
- Cardboard box (12" x 12")
- Scissors
- Envelope
- Celebratory worship songs (2–3, consider using kids' favorite songs; perhaps a "kids' choice" music option)
- Worship song (suggestion: "God's Up to Something Good," Hart Ramsey & The NCC Family Choir; see www.amazon.com)
- Optional: glue and clear contact paper

PREPARE AHEAD

Print or copy the Game Cube images, cut apart, and attach to the sides of the box. Optional: Use clear contact paper to cover the box once the pictures have been attached to help preserve the life of the images. Print or copy the Wacky Wardrobe Game sheet, fold, and place in an envelope. Label the envelope "Wacky Wardrobe Game."

SET UP

Place the Wacky Wardrobe Game envelope in the Wardrobe of Wonder. Set the Game Cube on the stage/teaching area.

RELATE

Friends, look what I found waiting for us! It's a game cube! We're going to remember what we've learned about God as we play this fun game. Each time we roll this cube, it will tell us what to do next. Let's take a look at our choices. Review the sides of the cube, allowing the tech volunteer to cue the short intro clip. **Let's play!** Choose your first volunteer to roll the Game Cube.

"Let's Chat" Side

- Roll #1: **Turn to the person next to you and tell her your favorite dessert.**
- Roll #2: **Turn to the person next to you and tell him how many times you've ridden on an airplane. Where did you go?**

“Mail Time” Side

- Roll #1: *(Tech: Cue Remember Verse Lessons 6–9 image.)* **Let’s all stand to our feet and say our Remember Verse together in a very deep voice. Ready, set, go! Good job! Okay, you can all sit down again.**
- Roll #2: *(Tech: Cue Remember Verse Lessons 10–13 image.)* **Everyone on your feet! We get to say another Remember Verse together. This time let’s say it as fast as we can. Ready, set, go! Good job. Everyone can have a seat.**

“Sound Effect” Side

- Roll #1: **What part of The Big God Story had this sound?** *(Tech: Cue Donkey Walking sound effect.)*
- Roll #2: **What happened in this part of The Big God Story?** *(Tech: Cue Donkey Walking sound effect. Jesus asked His disciples to obtain a young donkey that was tied up so He could ride it into Jerusalem.)*
- Roll #3: **What part of The Big God Story had this sound?** *(Tech: Cue Storm sound effect.)*
- Roll #4: **What does this part of The Big God Story tell you about God?** *(Tech: Cue Storm sound effect. Jesus Is God.)*

“Music” Side

Lead children in a worship song of their choice.

“Wacky Wardrobe” Side

- **Friends, you rolled the Wacky Wardrobe! Do you know what that means? We need to see what’s inside the wardrobe. I bet it’s something wacky.** (Open the wardrobe and take out the envelope. Read the game that’s inside.) **Hello, dear friends! Welcome to the Wacky Wardrobe. Today, each time you roll the Wacky Wardrobe, everyone must do a fun, wacky dance!** (Show the kids an example of a wacky dance.) **Who can dance the wackiest? Have fun!**

“Wardrobe of Wonder” Side

- Roll #1: *Tech: Cue Palm Branch image.* **What was a palm branch used for in The Big God Story?** Children respond. **Yes, some people excitedly waved the branches on the streets when Jesus was entering Jerusalem. They wanted Jesus to be their earthly king. But was Jesus the kind of king they wanted?** Interact with responses. **No, Jesus knew the people needed someone to die and save them from their sins, not just another ruler. Jesus is the true King.**
- Roll #2: *Tech: Cue Empty Wardrobe image.* **Friends, why did we have an empty wardrobe instead of a clue?** Children answer. **That’s right! It reminds us of the empty tomb Jesus’ friends found on Easter morning. Why were Jesus’ friends looking for Him in a tomb? Jesus died, but He didn’t stay dead. He is alive! That’s really great news for us. Do you know why? God’s big story continues, and we get to be part of it!**
- Roll #3: *Tech: Cue Ear image.* **Right before Jesus started going out to heal people and teach them, He went away for a while. Where did He go?** Children answer. **Jesus was alone and wanted to spend some time praying and listening to God. You see, God had some special plans to share with Jesus, and He wanted Jesus to be prepared. Jesus was going to do amazing things and God wanted to help Him before He got started. The Father has big plans for Jesus.**
- Roll #4: *Tech: Cue Fishing Pole image.* **What do you use a fishing pole for?** Children answer. **That’s right. It’s used to catch fish. Some of Jesus’ disciples worked as fishermen before they started following Jesus. One day, when they were still fishermen, they came back to the shore not having caught anything. Jesus told them to put their nets out on the other side of the boat. They caught so many fish that their nets began to break!**

They realized Jesus was special and followed Him when He invited them. Jesus calls His disciples.

- Roll #5: *Tech: Cue Pillow image.* **What do we use a pillow for?** Children answer. **For sleeping, right? Jesus must have been tired when He was sailing with His disciples, because He slept during a big storm on the sea. How do you think the disciples were feeling?** Interact with responses. **Maybe they felt scared and nervous. Maybe they thought they were going to be hurt. What did Jesus do when they woke Him up? That's right, He calmed the wind and the waves. Jesus had power over the storm, because Jesus is God!**
- Roll #6: *Tech: Cue Loaf of Bread image.* **In what part of The Big God Story was there bread?** Children answer. **Yes, when Jesus fed five thousand people with only five loaves and two fish. They even had leftover food. Do you remember how many baskets were left over? How did Jesus feed so many people with so little food?** Children answer. **It was a miracle! God can provide for all of us, because God is Provider.**
- Roll #7: *Tech: Cue Dirt image.* **In what part of The Big God Story did Jesus use dirt?** Children answer. **Jesus put dirt on a blind man's eyes and told him to go wash in a pool. What happened when he washed the dirt off? That's right. The blind man could see again! This man had been blind from birth and used to be a beggar on the streets. But God's healing power gave him a new life. God wanted to use this man's life to show His power and love. God is powerful.**

After adequate time spent with the children playing with the Game cube—sharing stories, memories, and thoughts about God—transition into a Celebration Parade.

Friends, God is righteous. That means He is always good, and everything He does is right. God is always worthy of our worship. We've remembered the good things we heard in The Big God Story and shared with one another what God taught us in His story. Now, let's celebrate who God is in a Celebration Parade! Today in your small groups, you made something to use in the parade. What was it? Children will answer. **Yes! You made flags. When I count to three, you'll stand and walk over to your Small Group Leader. Your leader will have your flag for you. When the music starts, we'll all march around in a great big circle. We'll wave our flags, sing, march, and shout praises to God!**

Direct leaders to gather the children in their small group together, pass out the flags, and then form a large circle with everyone. Spread leaders evenly around the room.

Cue the worship song "God's Up to Something Good." Lead the kids in a parade of marching, twirling, and hopping around the circle to the music. Encourage kids to wave their flags and shout out praises to God as they make their way around the circle.

Questions

1. **What did Jesus do to show God's love to us?**
2. **What are some ways we can serve God?**
3. **What do you like about God's love?**
4. **Is there something you would like us to pray with you about?**

BLESS:: 5 min.

Small Group Leaders

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

RELATE

Children will have the opportunity to bless the other children in their small group. Gather children in a circle and give them instructions for blessing the person on their left. **God has given us so many good things. Many of those things we've remembered and celebrated together today. Before we leave, we're going to take a moment to give a blessing to the person on our left. Which side is your left?** Children respond. **Good job. Today, when it's our turn to bless our neighbor, we'll turn to her and say, "God loves you very much, and you are a part of His big story." Let's say that together.** Repeat this a couple times. As children bless each other, you can encourage them to touch the shoulder of the child on their left.

Once every child has been blessed, close with a final group blessing.

Children, may you go out this week with the knowledge that God is righteous.