

date: 10/8/17

REMEMBER & CELEBRATE

Inspire

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

During a children's ministry conference, attending practitioners, leaders, volunteers, and writers from across North America remembered and celebrated what God had been doing in their ministries. It was a time of fellowship and praise—a time to remind us how good God has been—to fill us up for the work ahead.

Many of the stories told during the conference declared God as the Deliverer. One woman spoke about how God used a child's worship response piece to deliver her and her husband from bitter separation and divorce. Another man spoke of how God used a woman's simple act of saying, "I love you" to herself in the mirror to deliver her from years of self-hatred.

These stories proclaim the truth that God, the Deliverer, is active in the lives of His people today. They remind us that God is powerful. He hears our cries, and He uses even the most unlikely people and situations to deliver us from our deepest wounds.

Praise God who has the power to deliver in ways tailor-made for those who need it. And praise God for giving us in the faith community the opportunity to hear these stories so that together we can celebrate Him.

Tori Funkhouser
ROCKHARBOR Church

Equip

Offers perspective and context to the lesson's Bible passage

Passover: A Feast Celebrating God as Deliverer

During Passover, the Israelites celebrated their deliverance from the Egyptians as well as God as their deliverer. Each portion of the Passover feast symbolizes a part of the narrative of the Israelites' escape from Egypt. The meal includes lamb to symbolize the slain lamb whose blood marked the Hebrews' doorposts on the night of the 10th plague so that death would "pass over" those homes. In the New Testament, Jesus became the sacrificial Lamb of Passover to offer deliverance from sin for people from every age.

Support

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

Slavery takes many forms. Some live as slaves in foreign nations, while others cry out to be freed from the bondage of a dictator. But we're all enslaved in some way, shackled and bound by things we can't see: fear, doubt, vanity, and pride.

Most of the time our enslavement is spiritual, not physical. But it's just as real. And, just as God saved His people from physical slavery, He can save us from spiritual bondage.

This week, challenge yourself to ask God to reveal any spiritual bondage you're suffering under—and to deliver you from it. Maybe you fear that God doesn't love you as deeply as you've always heard, that you're not His chosen child, that you're not forgiven for what you did during high school, what you said to your friend, or how you often think about unclean things. Choose to step out of your comfort zone and ask God to come into the places in your life that have become spiritual millstones around your neck. Ask Him to heal you from the spiritual bondage of sin or darkness that only He can release. Ask God to free you. When you do this, be prepared to be surprised at the ways God will choose to work in your life.

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.

Tru Clues!

Tru Clues is a fun and interactive game where children will engage in a scavenger hunt. They'll look for clues and answer basic questions to help them prepare for more remembrance and celebration with their faith community.

SUPPLIES (per small group)

- Tru Clues notepad cover (see Resources)
- Tru Clues images: Creation, Dirt, Leaves, Rainbow, Suitcase (see Resources)
- Tru Clues envelope art (see Resources)
- Leader Discussion clue card (see Resources)
- Notepads (1 per child)
- Crayons
- Envelopes (5)
- Glue sticks (1 per child) or glue dots (strips of 5 per child)
- Painter's tape
- Optional: paper, scissors, fasteners (brads, tape, lace, or staples), laminator

PREPARE AHEAD

To create notepads, consider using five three- by five-inch pieces of paper and binding the pages together. Print the Leader Discussion clue card and one Tru Clues notepad cover per child and glue the covers onto the notepads. Note: Print envelope art directly onto envelopes, or attach to outside of an envelope. Consider laminating the envelopes

and cutting openings to make them durable and reusable. Print enough Tru Clues images to have one per child and put all of each Tru Clues image in its corresponding envelope (so all the Dirt images are in one envelope and so on).

SET UP

Place Tru Clues envelopes (filled with the “mystery” pictures) around the room in various spots, using the painter’s tape to secure them in place. Gather all the notepads you’ve put together, along with glue dots (or glue sticks) and crayons. Have them ready to hand out as you start your scavenger hunt.

Fours through fives will need one notepad and one strip of glue dots or glue stick per child. Kindergarteners will need one notepad and one crayon per child.

RELATE

Invite children to join you. Everyone will line up to head out on a scavenger hunt for clues. Give each child a notepad and a glue stick or crayon. Tell kids that each piece of paper in the notepad is for them to draw a picture of the clue, or to attach the clue to, as they’re found. Children will use each picture to answer the questions.

Begin the scavenger hunt around the classroom, looking for the clues together as you go. When you see a clue, stop as a group. Have a child volunteer retrieve the clue envelope and look inside; then have a volunteer hold it up for everyone to see. Depending on the age of your group, give kids a minute or so to attach the picture of the clue or draw a picture of the item in their notepad. Hold the clue up for children to copy as they draw, and then return it to its place.

Repeat until all five clues have been found and drawn or attached. For younger children, you may want to find all the clues at once and then return to tables to discuss them and put them in the notepads. Gather all of the children together and sit in a circle to investigate the clues.

ASK

As you pull out each clue, have children refer to their notepads. Then ask the corresponding questions.

- **Creation Picture: What’s in this picture? Who made these things? Who lives here? Where did we find this picture in The Big God Story? What did this help us remember about God? This What’s/it helps us remember that God is Creator and He made everything.**
- **Dirt: Where can we find dirt? How do we use it? We saw God use dirt for something very special in The Big God Story ... What was it? Allow answers. Yes! God created you and me!**
- **Leaves: Talk about leaves and their various shapes, sizes, and colors in God’s creation. Where did we find leaves in The Big God Story? How were they used? Adam and Eve lived in a garden. When they sinned, God promised to send a Savior to redeem us. God is Redeemer!**
- **Rainbow: Talk about the way a rainbow looks. Someone very special made a rainbow for each of us. Who was it? Does anyone remember what it means when we see a rainbow? Allow answers. Yes, God is a covenant keeper!**
- **Suitcase: A suitcase means I’m about to go on an adventure! Who went on a very big adventure with God? I’ll give you a hint: He moved to a new land *and* was given a new name! Interact with the children as they respond to your questions. Yes, Abraham. God made a covenant with Abraham. God is a covenant keeper!**

Ask the children: **I wonder, where have we seen all these things before?** Allow the children to answer. **They were all What’s/its from the Wardrobe of Wonder. They can remind us to celebrate all the good things God has done! They helped us to learn and know what is true about God. When we know God, we can be part of His big story!**

Chloe's Rules

SUPPLIES

- [Chloe's Rules video](#) (see Resources)

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!**

Open time in prayer.


Remember and Play

Host/Storyteller

Remember Boxes

Today as you lead this time of remembering and celebrating God, you'll be using numbered boxes to remember back to previous lessons and facilitate the festivities.

SUPPLIES

- [Numbers 1–6 master](#) (see Resources)
- Items for boxes (see images in Resources): #1 Picture of Creation; #2 Dirt; #3 Leaves; #4 Rainbow; #5 Suitcase; #6 snack items for Chat & Chew
- Colorful boxes (6; may vary in size; large enough to hold items listed above)
- Chat & Chew snack items 
- Resealable bags (1 per child)
- Paper towels (1 per child)
- Upbeat worship song (suggestion: "Celebrate," TruWorship *Sincerely Yours*)

PREPARE AHEAD

Print the Numbers 1–6 master and the images for each What's It, unless you prefer to use actual objects to recall the What's Its. (Files suitable for projecting the images have also been provided.) Place the numbers on the front of each box and the items inside the corresponding Remember Box. Create snack packs by placing the Chat & Chew snack items in resealable bags, enough for each child in every small group, along with paper towels. Place the Chat & Chew snack packs in box #6 to be used later. Optional: Place the Remember Boxes inside the Wardrobe of Wonder.

Remember Boxes Storytelling

Consider having child volunteers help you reveal the item in each box. Choose a different child for each box and include him in the reveal and discussion. If you'd like, you may refer to the Tru Clue as you're discussing the Remember Box. Typically the Tru Clue and box item are identical, and each will prompt the children to recall a part of The Big God Story. Use them to lead the children to the Ponder Point and what this helps us remember about God.

RELATE

Look what I found waiting for us. Refer to the six boxes on the stage or *cue Wardrobe of Wonder sound effect* to indicate to the Host and Worship Leader that there's something inside the Wardrobe of Wonder. **These are Remember Boxes. Each of box has something special inside that can help us remember even more about God! After we**

remember, what do we do together? Wait for children. **We celebrate! That's right! Let's take a look inside our first box and remember.**

Box #1: Picture of Creation (Creation). **What part of The Big God Story had something to do with this picture?** Children answer. **What did God do? He made our world! What else did He make? That's right! He made people, and He made each one of us!** Point to the kids. **You and you and you! When we see this picture, we can remember that God made us, He loves us, and He has a special place for you in His story! What do we know is true about God?** Pause for answers. **God is Creator.**

Box #2: Dirt (Adam and Eve). If using actual dirt, hold it up for the kids to see. **What is this in our Remember Box? That's right, it's dirt! Where did we see dirt in The Big God Story?** Kids answer. **That's right. God made Adam, the very first man, out of dirt! Then God made Eve. Adam and Eve had a perfect friendship with God, and because of Jesus, we get to know Him too! What do we know about God?** Allow answers. **God created me.**

Box #3: Leaves (The Fall and Restoration). **What happened in the part of The Big God Story where we saw leaves? That's right, Adam and Eve sinned when they ate the fruit that God told them not to eat. What did they do next? They tried to hide from God after they made a very bad choice. What did God do?** Interact with answers. **They had to leave the perfect garden, but God still loved them very much! God is good, and He never leaves us all alone. God saw and heard what happened in the garden. He had a plan. God made a promise to send a Savior. Who is The Promise? What did He do? The Big God Story is all about His great big love for us. We get to be a part of telling that story to others! What do we know is true about God? God is Redeemer.**

Box #4: Rainbow (The Flood). Talk about the rainbow—its colors and shape. **When do we see rainbows? What do they help us remember?** Children respond. **Yes! God promised Noah He would never again flood the entire world. Do you remember what that very special promise is called?** Kids answer. **That's right! A covenant. A covenant is a very special promise that God makes with His people. And when God makes a promise, He keeps it because God is a covenant keeper. God put a beautiful rainbow in the sky. When we see the rainbow, we can remember God's promise. What do we know is true about God?** Allow answers. **God is a covenant keeper.**

Box #5: Suitcase (Abram). **What part of The Big God Story does this suitcase help us remember? Who obeyed God and moved his family to a new place?** Pause for answers. **That's right! Abraham trusted God and went where God told him to go. What was God's covenant with Abraham? Not only was Abraham going to have a big family, his family would have a very special job. What was their special job?** Allow answers. **Their special job was to tell everyone all the things that are true about God! What does this part of The Big God Story tell us about God?** Allow answers. **God is a covenant keeper.**

Questions

1. **God delivered us by sending Jesus ... What would you like to say to Jesus for being your deliverer?**
2. **How can we praise God for being our deliverer?**
3. **How do you feel about God being our deliverer?**
4. **When God delivered His people from Egypt and Pharaoh, they were very thankful! What are some things that God has given you that you're thankful for?**

REMEMBER VERSE

**You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power,
for you created all things.**

Revelation 4:11a

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

Today, leaders, parents, and children will have the opportunity to take what they've been given to be a blessing to others. Each child will have the opportunity to bless the other children in their small group. Gather in a circle and give instructions for blessing the person on your left.

God delivered His people from slavery in Egypt, and Jesus has delivered us from our sins. Jesus is the way for us to be with Him forever. 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. **When we bless someone, we tell her something that's true about God and the special person God has made her to be. When it's our turn to bless our neighbor, we'll turn to her and say, "God is our deliverer and He has saved us." Let's say that together.** Repeat this a couple of times with the children. Do a quick check of their left and right again. You can have them touch the shoulder of the child on their left if they would like.

Before the children head out for the week, invite parents and leaders to stand behind them for this final blessing. Invite them to place a hand on their child's shoulder.

Children, may you be glad in God who delivers you! May you know He loves you and cares for you and sets you free!