

Remember & Celebrate

Day of Atonement: Remembering and Celebrating God's Righteousness


LESSON OVERVIEW

CONNECT//
10 minutes



Day of Atonement

SUPPLIES

- Festival Banner*
- Scissors
- Tape
- Food, drinks, plates, cups, utensils, and napkins 
- Name tags (1 per child)
- Markers

Connect Game: Hot Potato

SUPPLIES

- Connect Questions*
- Card stock
- Scissors
- Balls (1 for every 4–5 people, soft, small)
- Upbeat worship music (suggestion "Celebrate," TruWorship *Sincerely Yours*)

REMEMBER//
30 minutes



Remember Verse

Remembering God in ...

... Our Family

SUPPLIES

Bibles

... Our Faith Community

SUPPLIES

- Festival Banner (from CONNECT)
- Ponder Point Pennants*
- Bibles
- Tape
- Scissors
- Whiteboard
- Dry erase marker

... My Life

SUPPLIES

- Ponder Point Pennants*
- Blank Pennant cutout*
- Scissors
- Markers or colored pencils
- Tape


CELEBRATE//
15 minutes



Remember Roundup

1st–6th: Character Creations

SUPPLIES


- The Big God Story People strips*
- Scissors
- Bowl or basket
- Play dough (several lumps) 

Festival Games

1st–2nd: Going Fishing


SUPPLIES

- Festival Games Questions*
- Festival Games Answers*
- Long sticks or yardsticks (2)
- String (6')

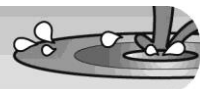
- Clothespins (2)
- Bedsheet (blue)
- Scissors
- Masking or painter's tape
- Optional: wood frame (for bedsheet), candy (several pieces) 

3rd–6th: Bowling for the Win

SUPPLIES

- Festival Games Questions*
- Plastic soda bottles (10, 2 L, empty)
- Ball (soft)
- Masking or painter's tape
- Optional: candy (several pieces) 

BLESS//
5 minutes



SUPPLIES

- At Home Weekly: Lesson 1*
- Bible

Further Resources

To help you plan and lead:

Customizable copy of Lesson 13 2018–19 Scope and Sequence TruStory How It Works Festival Investigation

At Home Weekly: Lesson 13

The weekly for the next lesson—to be sent home for preteaching by parents—is found in BLESS.

LEADER PREP

Each week you'll find encouraging articles that help you prepare your heart to present the lesson.

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 her 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.


CONNECT//10 minutes



Children are invited to eat together with their parents and engage with the day's biblical feast or festival.

Day of Atonement

SUPPLIES

- Festival Banner (see Resources)
- Scissors
- Tape
- Food, drinks, plates, cups, utensils, and napkins 
- Name tags (1 per child)
- Markers

PREPARE AHEAD

Encourage families to bring festival-themed goodies to the feast. Invite them to create the foods found on the Recipe cards passed out the previous week. Print, cut out, and assemble the Festival Banner.

SET UP

Tape the banner in a prominent place. Place the food, drinks, and other supplies on the feasting table. Put the name tags and markers near the entrance to the room.

RELATE

The Day of Atonement is the second of three fall holidays that the Israelites celebrated. It was a time of fasting, repentance, and rest. It was a solemn holiday and the one time of the year when the high priest entered into the Holy of Holies and made atonement for all of the sins of Israel as God had commanded. The Day of Atonement was the time each year when Israel remembered God's righteousness and holiness. The people were grateful for God's forgiveness and His willingness to take away their sins. Today Jewish people still observe the Day of Atonement (often known as Yom Kippur) as a day of fasting and prayer. They consider this day the most important holiday of the year.

Invite everyone to put on a name tag and then work together to set up the feast. Give the children, leaders, and parents separate jobs. For example, allow the kids to set the table while leaders fill the cups with water and parents set out the food. Reassign the jobs for each Remember & Celebrate gathering so everyone gets to be involved in a different part of the feast preparation.

Together, engage in the activities found in the following section. These conversation starters and activities will help your kids and parents connect with old friends and get to know new friends. They will also help your faith community interact with the day's festival. Optional: As your parents and kids eat and talk, invite them to decorate the Festival Banner before hanging it in the room.

Connect Game: Hot Potato

SUPPLIES

- Connect Questions (see Resources)
- Card stock
- Scissors
- Balls (1 for every 4–5 people, soft, small)
- Upbeat worship music (suggestion "Celebrate," TruWorship *Sincerely Yours*)

PREPARE AHEAD

Print the Connect Questions cards onto card stock and cut them apart. You might come up with a few more questions for this activity.

RELATE

Invite the children to split into groups of four or five people. Have each group form a circle, and hand one person in each group a ball. Let everyone know you're going to play a song, and as the music plays, they should toss the ball to different people in the group—either around the circle or any other way they choose. As soon as the music stops, the person holding the ball gets to answer one of the Connect questions that you'll ask. Play a few rounds and give each person the chance to answer at least a couple of questions.

Connect Questions

- **What are some of your favorite foods?**
- **During the Festival of the Day of Atonement, a priest would send a goat out into the desert. What is your favorite animal? Why?**

- The Day of Atonement is a time to ask for God’s forgiveness. When was a time you needed to ask someone to forgive you?
- People spend time praying on the Day of Atonement. What are some things you and your family pray about?

REMEMBER//30 minutes



Children reflect on what they’ve learned about God in The Big God Story, who He is, and what He’s doing in their own lives.

Remember Verse

Spend time remembering the previous weeks’ Remember Verses. Encourage the children to stand and say the verses together.

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 1 John 4:9

Yet the LORD longs to be gracious to you; therefore he will rise up to show you compassion. For the LORD is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him! Isaiah 30:18

Remembering God in ...

... Our Family

SUPPLIES

- Bibles

RELATE

In Leviticus 23, God commanded His people to celebrate festivals throughout the year. During each festival, the Israelites stopped to remember what God had done for them and to celebrate His goodness to them. The Day of Atonement gave the people an opportunity to remember and celebrate the righteousness of God during their fall celebrations. This feast was a time of fasting, prayer, and rest as the priest atoned for the sins of the people. Sins were symbolically placed on the scapegoat and sent out into the desert because God’s righteous character cannot stand sin. In the New Testament, Jesus fulfilled this holiday by being the ultimate sacrifice for our sins.

- **What does the word *righteous* mean?** Explain that the word *righteous* means perfect, holy, and without guilt or sin. If someone is righteous, it means that he is committed to truth and follows after God’s holiness.
- **What comes to mind when I say, “God is righteous”?** Leaders and parents, feel free to share examples from your own lives.

God has proven Himself righteous throughout the Bible and throughout history—and in our lives and the lives of those around us. God has an amazing track record of taking care of His people and showing His righteousness through the way He has acted. The festivals and feasts gave God’s people time to remember and celebrate the righteousness of God. God set up these feasts to bring back memories of His righteousness and to call people to righteous lives in the next year.

- **Describe some events or passages from the Bible that show God’s righteousness.** Leaders, feel free to give some brief examples to get the conversation started.
- **Describe a time when you saw God show His righteousness to you or your family.** Leaders and parents, feel free to share examples from your own lives.

... Our Faith Community

SUPPLIES

- Festival Banner (from CONNECT)

- Ponder Point Pennants (see Resources)
- Bibles
- Tape
- Scissors
- Whiteboard
- Dry erase marker

PREPARE AHEAD

Print and cut out the Ponder Point Pennants.

RELATE

Spend some time during this section helping your kids remember and celebrate some of what they've experienced and learned about God. Show them the pennants. Each one names the main point highlighted about God during each lesson. These, as well as the questions below, will help jog the kids' memories about what they learned about God and how it affected their daily lives.

Lesson 7, God Is Love: Luke 10:25–37

Invite a volunteer to come up to draw on the whiteboard. Whisper the word “heart” to him and invite him to draw the word. Ask someone to guess what word the drawing represents. Once someone guesses correctly, invite her to come up and hang that lesson's pennant under the Festival Banner. **What does a heart make you think of?** Invite children to respond. **Yes, love! Jesus used a parable to teach His followers that God is love. One day a man came to Jesus with a question. The man knew it was most important to love God and his neighbor. But, he wondered, who was his neighbor? Jesus told a parable about a man who had been beaten up and robbed. Two religious people passed by without helping the man. But then a Samaritan (a person whom the Jews disliked) stopped to help the man. Even though the Jews would have considered the Samaritan to be a bad person, he was the one who helped the man and showed love to him.**

Jesus used this parable to show us that God is love. God loves everyone, and when we follow Jesus, God calls us to show love to everyone too. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, He helps us love those around us, just as He loves us every day!

- How does it make you feel to know that God loves you no matter what?
- How can you show love to people in your life?

Lesson 8, Jesus Is Salvation: Luke 14:12–24

Invite a volunteer to come up and draw “banquet” on the board. Once someone guesses correctly, invite him to hang the lesson's pennant under the banner. **What does a banquet help you remember about The Big God Story?** Invite responses. **Yes, this reminds us of the parable Jesus told about the man who was going to give a great banquet. He told all of his guests that he was ready, but they all started making excuses about why they couldn't come. So, he told his servant to invite the poor, the lame, and others who hadn't been invited before. Jesus used this parable to show us that God wants everyone to know Him. Up until this point in The Big God Story, the Jewish people had been invited to know God in a special way. But when Jesus came to earth, everyone was invited to know God, including us! Because of Jesus, everyone is invited to spend eternity with Him. Jesus is salvation.**

- What do you think the party is like when we come into God's kingdom?

Lesson 9, God Redeems: Luke 15:1–32

Invite a volunteer to draw “sheep.” Have the child who guesses correctly hang the lesson's pennant. **What does a sheep help you remember about The Big God Story?** Pause for responses. **Jesus told three parables related to being lost. In the first parable, a man lost one of his sheep and then rejoiced when he found it. In the second parable, a woman lost one of her coins and searched for it until she found it. In the third story, a father lost his son who chose to move away. When the son returned, the father was happy and invited him home. In the parable of the lost son, the father rejoiced when his son came home. In the same way, our heavenly Father rejoices when the lost return home. God redeems us from sin. Whenever someone accepts Jesus and returns to His way, God rejoices! God loves each of us, and He wants us to all know Him.**

- Have you ever lost something and then found it? What happened?
- Why do you think God rejoices so much when one of His lost children comes home?

Lesson 10, God Forgives: Matthew 18:21–35

Invite a volunteer to draw “money.” Have the child who guesses correctly hang the lesson’s pennant. **What parable did Jesus tell about a man who owed a lot of money?** Invite children to respond. **In this part of The Big God Story, Jesus told a parable about a man who owed a king a lot of money. The man went to the king and begged for mercy because he didn’t have the money to pay the king back. And the king showed the man mercy and forgave his debt! The man felt so grateful to the king.**

On his way home, the man met a fellow servant who owed him a much smaller amount of money. He demanded that the man pay him back, and when he couldn’t, he sent the man to jail. The king had just forgiven this man a huge debt, but he wasn’t willing to do the same for someone who owed *him* money! Jesus used this parable to show us God forgives. Our sin is like a huge debt, but God sent Jesus to pay that debt for us. Because God has forgiven us for so much, we can be willing to forgive others.

- Have you ever had to forgive someone who hurt you? Was it difficult? Why or why not?
- How does it make you feel to know that God has forgiven all of your sins?

Lesson 11, God Is Gracious: Matthew 20:1–16

Invite a volunteer to draw “grapes.” Have the child who guesses correctly hang the lesson’s pennant. **What do grapes help you remember about The Big God Story?** Invite responses. **Jesus told a parable about a man who hired some people to work in his vineyard early in the morning and promised to pay them one denarius. The man hired some more people later in the day, and he paid them one denarius as well. Then he hired some people even later in the day, and they got paid the same amount as those who’d started earliest. Some people thought this wasn’t fair, but the owner reminded them that they’d agreed to work for one denarius. The owner was the one who decided how much to pay his workers.**

Through this parable, Jesus taught us that God is gracious. Not one of us deserves God’s grace, but He gives it to anyone who will accept Him.

- Have you ever felt like you’ve been in an unfair situation? What was it?
- How does it make you feel to know that God shows grace to anyone who asks for it?

Lesson 12, Jesus Is the Good News: Matthew 28:16–20

Invite a volunteer to draw “globe.” Have the child who guesses correctly hang the lesson’s pennant. **What does a globe make you think of in The Big God Story?** Encourage children to respond. **A globe, which shows all the nations, reminds us of the command that Jesus gave His disciples to go and make more disciples who would follow Him. He wanted them to go to every country so that everyone would know about Him. Jesus wanted His disciples to go everywhere—north, south, east, and west—to share that God loved us so much that He sent His Son to die for us and invite us to know Him.**

Jesus told His disciples to baptize people in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and show them how to be His disciples. When we’re disciples of Jesus, He is our leader and we walk in His way and obey what He has told us in the Bible. But Jesus didn’t ask us to do this on our own. He says that He will be with us forever. Jesus sends us His Holy Spirit to help us follow Him. Jesus is the Good News!

- Why is Jesus the Good News?
- When have you told someone about the good news of Jesus?

... My Life

SUPPLIES

- Ponder Point Pennants (see Resources)
- Blank Pennant cutout (see Resources)
- Scissors
- Markers or colored pencils
- Tape

PREPARE AHEAD

Print a Blank Pennant cutout for each child and cut it out. Print the Ponder Point Pennants and cut them out. Optional: Tape RESPOND pieces from past lessons around the room.

RELATE

Show the children and parents each of the triangular Ponder Point pennants. Each Ponder Point highlights God and one

of the things He was doing in that part of The Big God Story. Use these banners to help kids remember and celebrate. As you show the Ponder Point pennants, tape each one to the bottom of the Festival Banner and ask questions, such as: **What has God done in your life?**

Then, give the children a chance to respond to what they've learned about God and how it's affected their lives. Encourage the kids to write stories or draw responses to God on a Blank Pennant. For example, kids might write, "God, thank You for Your gift of love," or they might draw themselves and an event that reminds them of God's love in their lives. After children have a chance to respond to God in this way, encourage them to tape the triangular banners like bunting to the bottom of the Festival Banner.

CELEBRATE//15 minutes




Through interactive games and activities, children will retell portions of The Big God Story together.

Remember Roundup

During Remember Roundup, kids will "round up" the people in The Big God Story whom they heard about during the past several weeks.

1st–6th: Character Creations

SUPPLIES

- The Big God Story People strips (see Resources)
- Scissors
- Bowl or basket
- Play dough (several lumps) 

PREPARE AHEAD

Print The Big God Story People strips, cut the strips apart, and place them in the bowl or basket.

RELATE


Split the group into two teams. Have one child from each team come up to the bowl or basket. Allow the kids to pick a strip from the bowl (both teams picking one person together). On your signal, the person from each team will take the play dough and fashion it into the person, people, or object from The Big God Story. Explain that they may also need to create props for their person so others know who it is. The child's team will try to guess the person, people, or object they're creating. The child can also use the person they create to "act out" a story. Once a team guesses correctly, have one more child from each team come up and pick a strip from the bowl. Keep playing until you've gone through all of the strips. Then invite everyone to gather in a circle and look at all the names in the bowl. Encourage them to share what they remember about that person or object from The Big God Story.

Festival Games

Invite your children to play these fun and engaging games as they remember some of what they've heard in The Big God Story recently.

1st–2nd: Going Fishing

SUPPLIES

- Festival Games Questions (see Resources)
- Festival Games Answers (see Resources)
- Long sticks or yardsticks (2)
- String (6')
- Clothespins (2)
- Bedsheet (blue)
- Scissors
- Masking or painter's tape
- Optional: wood frame (for bedsheet), candy (several pieces) 

SET UP

Create two "fishing poles" using a stick or yardstick with about three feet of string tied to each one. Tie a clothespin to


the end of each string. Have two volunteers hold a blue bedsheet vertically (or attach a sheet to a wood frame) to create “water” for the kids to fish over. Print the Festival Games Questions and cut apart the strips. Also print the Festival Games Answers for your reference. Ask a volunteer or parent to sit behind the sheet so she can clip questions to the clothespins as the students “fish.” Use the tape to mark a start line on the floor.

RELATE

Divide everyone into two groups and have each group line up behind the start line. Then have the first person in each line come up to the fishing area, take a fishing pole, and toss the “hook” (clothespin) over the “water” (bedsheet). A volunteer behind the sheet should clip one of the question strips to each hook and give the line a tug. When the fishers feel the tugs, they can reel their lines back in and see what question they caught. Then each fisher can read her question to her group, and the group can huddle up and decide on an answer. Once each team has decided on its answer, the person who fished out the question can report it to the leader. If the answer is correct, the child’s group gets a point. Play until every child has had a chance to fish for a question. Consider giving candy prizes to the winning team.

3rd–6th: Bowling for the Win

SUPPLIES

- Festival Games Questions (see Resources)
- Plastic soda bottles (10, 2 L., empty)
- Ball (soft)
- Masking or painter’s tape
- Optional: candy (several pieces) 

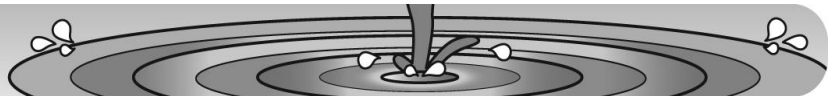
SET UP

Set up the bottles in a pattern similar to bowling pins, with a row of four bottles in the back, then a row of three bottles, then two bottles, and then one bottle in front. Use the masking tape to create a lane at least three feet wide and nine feet long. Create a line at the end of the lane (opposite the bottles). Print a copy of the Festival Games Questions.

RELATE

Form the kids into two teams, and have each team line up behind the line. Give the first child on each team a ball. Allow the child from the first team to roll the ball toward the bottles to try to knock them over. Keep track of how many the first child knocks over. Set the bottles back up and let the child from the other team try to knock over the bottles. The child who knocked down the most pins gets a chance to answer a question, which you’ll ask. If he gets it right, he gets a point for his team. Play until every child has had a chance to bowl or answer a question. The team with the most points wins. Consider giving candy prizes to the winning team.

BLESS//5 minutes



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.

SUPPLIES

- At Home Weekly: Lesson 1 (see Resources)
- Bible

RELATE

During Remember & Celebrate lessons, encourage the parents to bless their children. Also encourage them to invite kids whose parents aren’t present to join their groups. Invite the parents to pray the written blessing over their child and also to pray a special blessing over them in their own words.

Invite the parents to place a hand on the shoulder or hand of their child and say the blessing based on Psalm 23:1–3:

(Child’s name), **the Lord is your shepherd. He makes you lie down in green pastures and leads you beside quiet waters. He refreshes your soul and guides you along the right paths for His name’s sake.**

May God remind you daily that He is righteous and brings you rest and peace.

After the parents and leaders have blessed the children individually, invite everyone to gather for the communal blessing. Encourage a parent to read the blessing over the group Psalm 7:17:

I will give thanks to the LORD because of his righteousness; I will sing the praises of the name of the LORD

Most High.

May you rest in and trust our righteous God, who deserves praise and honor. He loves you, protects you, and rejoices in you.

Send home the At Home Weekly with your kids.