



God Forgives David

2 Samuel 12:1-7; Psalm 51:1-12

Kids this age don't commit the sins that David did—adultery and murder—of course. But kids *do* sin, and they know how they feel when they've done wrong. While they don't need to know all the details about David's sin, use this lesson to help them know that whenever they feel guilty or bad about something they've done, God wants them to stop doing that thing and ask him for forgiveness.



► **Bible Point**
God wants us to repent when we sin.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Shadowy Catch <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Play Catch in the light and dark.	tossable items in your room	
2 Bible Exploration	David's Darkness <i>(about 15 min.)</i> See how David's sin enclosed him in darkness.	Bible, My Bible Fun, black crepe paper, scissors, tape	Tear out the Lesson 3 pages from each My Bible Fun student book. Cut three 6-inch strips of black crepe paper for each child.
	Nathan's Tale <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Hear how Nathan confronted David with David's sin.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD: "Nathan's Tale" (track 5)	

Key Verse
"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

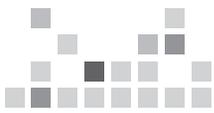
Weaving Faith Into Life
Kids will ask God to forgive them when they sin.





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>2</p> <p>Bible Exploration <i>(continued)</i></p>	<p>Into God's Light <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Learn the Key Verse, and say a prayer to ask for God's forgiveness.</p>	<p>Bible, CD player, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) Teacher Pack: CD: "If We Confess" (1 John 1:9) (track 6)</p>	
<p>3</p> <p>Weaving Faith Into Life</p>	<p>Light the Way <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Create a candle to remember that God lights the way out of sin and to have a reminder to repent.</p>	<p>cardboard tubes, crayons, CD player, My Bible Fun Teacher Pack: neon tissue paper, CD: "If We Confess" (1 John 1:9) (track 6)</p>	
<p>4</p> <p>Lasting Impressions</p>	<p>Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	<p>My Bible Fun</p>	
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		





God Forgives David

2 Samuel 12:1-7; Psalm 51:1-12

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

A note about this lesson: You might be surprised that you’ve been asked to teach this Bible passage to children this age. Rest assured that for this age level, we’ve chosen to focus on God’s forgiveness when we sin. Any details about David’s inappropriateness have been left out. Check out the lesson—we think you’ll find God has a lot to teach first- and second-graders through this important Scripture.

David Stays Home

David didn’t maintain a large year-round army. At that time, the world was largely agrarian, and farmers had to mind their crops at certain times of the year. So after the grain harvest in April and May, the farmer-soldiers were able to fight with the army, making the spring, especially late spring, a convenient time for war.

Although his soldiers went out to battle, it wasn’t necessary or wise for David to risk his life to do so. Instead he directed the fighting through messengers sent back and forth between him and Joab, his general.

David’s Eyes Get Him in Trouble

David’s walk on the roof was not unusual. Bathsheba was likely bathing herself as part of the purification ritual required after menstruation. The comment in 2 Samuel 11:4 that Bathsheba had just purified herself from her “uncleanness” (menstruation) establishes that she was not made pregnant by her husband, Uriah, because he was away fighting in the war.

David Covers Up His Sin

In summoning Uriah home from the war, David hoped that Uriah would sleep with Bathsheba so that later, when the baby was born, no one would suspect that the baby wasn’t Uriah’s. It may seem odd that Uriah steadfastly refused to sleep with his wife, but in fact it was not unusual for Israelite soldiers to take a vow of sexual abstinence during times of war. They felt it was wrong to indulge their own pleasures while their fellow soldiers were fighting.

Nathan Confronts David

Although Nathan was a prophet, it took tremendous courage for him to confront David about his sin. Remember that David had already killed once to cover up his sin with Bathsheba. What was to stop him from killing again to cover up the sin of killing Uriah? In spite of that possibility, Nathan did what God sent him to do.

Nathan’s prophecy came true: David and Bathsheba’s firstborn son died, David’s son Absalom incited a rebellion against him in which David was driven from Jerusalem, and Absalom slept with David’s concubines.

David Asks for—and Receives—God’s Forgiveness

David eloquently proclaims his remorse and repentance in Psalm 51. David’s sin devastated him and his kingdom, but he sought forgiveness in one of the most beautiful psalms of contrition ever written. His plea for cleansing is an example for us all.

The Jesus Connection

Sin separates each of us from God, but Jesus reunites us through his death and resurrection. Through him we have new life and the chance to repent and begin again! Reread Psalm 51. When was the last time you felt that kind of remorse for sin?

Thank Jesus for the beauty of being cleansed from sin. Without his sacrifice, we would be lost forever. You can write your prayer here.





Shadowy Catch Supplies

.....
tossable items in your room

David's Darkness Supplies

.....
Bible
My Bible Fun
black crepe paper
scissors
tape

David's Darkness Easy Prep

.....
Tear out the Lesson 3 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.

Cut three 6-inch strips of black crepe paper for each child.

1 GETTING STARTED

Shadowy Catch

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Have kids form pairs and find something they can safely toss to each other in a game of Catch. Have partners stand at least 6 feet apart.

Turn off the lights, and keep them off for at least a minute. While the lights are off, have pairs continue playing the game. Then turn on the lights again, and allow children to play in the light for at least a minute.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to play in the dark?
- What was it like to play in the light?
- What would it be like to live all the time in darkness?

Say: **The Bible says sinning is like living in darkness. When we don't deal with our sin, we aren't in the light of God's love. But Jesus fixed it so we don't have to be stuck in the darkness forever. ► GOD WANTS US TO REPENT WHEN WE SIN. When we repent, we tell God we're sorry for the wrong things we've done. God takes away the darkness and brings us back to the light again.**

Today we're going to learn what happened when King David lived in the darkness of sin and how he repented of his sin.

.....

2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

David's Darkness

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Give each child today's My Bible Fun page along with three 6-inch strips of black crepe paper. Hold up a My Bible Fun page, and point to the picture of the man in the "David's Darkness" activity.



Say: **The Bible says King David was a great king who loved God.** Open your Bible to 2 Samuel 12:1-7, and show kids the passage. Tell kids this is God’s book. **The Bible also teaches us about David’s mistakes. We can learn a lot from King David’s mistakes. King David was rich and powerful, but he wanted something he wasn’t supposed to have. Think about a time you wanted something that someone else had. Raise your hand when you’ve thought of something.** Allow time for all children to raise their hands.

Say: **King David took what didn’t belong to him, even though that hurt other people. By his choices, David wasn’t living in God’s light—he was living in darkness.**

Give a piece of tape to each child, and show children how to tape a strip of crepe paper vertically over the picture of King David on the My Bible Fun page.

Say: ► **GOD WANTS US TO REPENT WHEN WE SIN.** That means that God wants us to tell him that we sinned—and then stop doing that thing. King David could’ve done that. But he didn’t. He wanted to keep everyone from finding out what he’d done. So he lied about it and hurt people again.

By his choices, David wasn’t living in God’s light—he was living in darkness.

Have kids tape another piece of crepe paper over King David.

Say: **King David *still* didn’t deal with his sin. He tried to keep hiding it from everyone. He hurt people so no one would find out what he’d done.**

By his choices, David wasn’t living in God’s light—he was living in darkness.

Have kids tape another piece of crepe paper over King David.

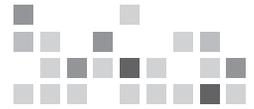
Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What happened to King David’s picture in our activity because of his choices?
- What’s it like when we hide our sin the way King David did?
- What advice would you give to King David if you could?

Say: **God loves us and wants to help us out of the darkness of sin. ► GOD WANTS US TO REPENT WHEN WE SIN.** When we repent, God forgives us for the wrong things we’ve done and brings us back into his light. In this Bible passage about King David, God sent a prophet named Nathan to help King David back into the light of God’s love. Let’s find out what Nathan said to King David.





Nathan's Tale Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Nathan's Tale"
(track 5)

Nathan's Tale

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Sometimes when we're in the darkness of sin, it's hard for us to see that what we've done is wrong.**

Nathan wanted to help David understand that what he'd done was wrong. So he told David a story. Let's listen to the story.

Play the "Nathan's Tale" segment (track 5 on the CD). After Nathan finishes the story ("so he took it"), pause the CD.

Ask:

- **Who do you think the rich man in Nathan's story stands for?**

Say: **After Nathan told King David the story, he asked King David what he thought about the rich man. This is what David said.**

Continue playing the CD. After King David says, "He wasn't even sorry for what he had done," pause the CD again.

Ask:

- **What was King David saying about his own sin?**

Say: **Listen to what happened next.**

Continue playing the CD. Pause the CD after Nathan says, "Without thinking about who you hurt."

Ask:

- **What can David do now to help himself and others?**

Say: **Listen to what happened next.**

Continue playing the CD; then stop the CD after David says, "I have sinned against the Lord."

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in the following discussion.

Ask:

- **What do you think of Nathan's story about the lamb?**
- **Why do you think Nathan told this story to King David instead of just telling David exactly what he did wrong?**
- **What do you think David did after hearing Nathan's story?**
- **How do you know when you've done something wrong?**





Say: **David told God he was sorry for what he'd done. In fact, he wrote a whole psalm about how sorry he was. But David still had to live with the consequences of his actions. ► GOD WANTS US TO REPENT WHEN WE SIN. When we say we're sorry, God brings us out of the darkness of sin and into the light of his love again.**

Nathan's story was like a light guiding David out of the darkness of sin.

Into God's Light

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to 1 John 1:9, and show the passage to the kids.

Say: **First John 1:9 says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."** Ask kids to repeat the Key Verse with you. Explain that *confess* means telling the truth about what you've done, *faithful* means doing exactly as you've promised, *just* means doing what's fair, *purify* means making something totally clean, and *unrighteousness* means wrong things.

Say: **When we do wrong things, we're living in the darkness of sin. When we tell God we're sorry for the wrong things we've done, God takes away the darkness and brings us back to the light again.**

I'm going to turn off the lights to remind us that sinning is like living in darkness. I'll lead a prayer, and you can pray silently.

Turn off the lights. When you say the last line of the prayer, turn the lights back on.

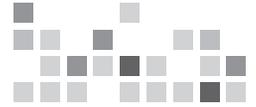
Pray: **Dear God, we're sorry we do things that are wrong. This is something I've done wrong that I want to tell you about. Pause to let children pray silently. God, we're sorry for what we've done. Thank you for forgiving us. Thank you for lighting the way to your love and forgiveness. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Turn on the lights, and say: **Let's sing a song to thank God for lighting the way out of the darkness of sin. Let's sing "If We Confess" (1 John 1:9).**

Give kids copies of the lyrics. Play "If We Confess" (1 John 1:9) (track 6 on the CD), and encourage kids to sing along.

 **If we confess, if we confess our sins,
He's faithful and just
And will forgive us our sins
And purify us from all unrighteousness.
If we confess, if we confess our sins.**

**God says he will set us free
If we confess our sins.**

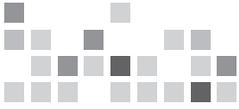


Into God's Light Supplies

Bible
CD player
copies of the lyrics page
(at the end of this
lesson)

Teacher Pack
CD: "If We Confess"
(1 John 1:9) (track 6)





God says he will set us free
If we confess our sins.

If we confess, if we confess our sins,
He's faithful and just
And will forgive us our sins
And purify us from all unrighteousness.
If we confess, if we confess our sins.
If we confess, if we confess our sins.

"If We Confess" (1 John 1:9) by Carol Smith. © 2003, 2006 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in the following discussion.

Ask:

- What do you think our Key Verse means?
- What are the good things that happen when we confess our sins?

Say: ► **GOD WANTS US TO REPENT WHEN WE SIN.** God wants us to tell him we're sorry when we do something wrong. Just as God forgave David, God forgives us. Now let's make lights to help us remember what we've learned.

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Light the Way

■ **Tips** If you don't have cardboard tubes, simply roll a sheet of paper into a tube and tape it closed. You'll need one tube for each child. You may also want to have other tissue paper on hand to make the flames fuller.

What You'll Do ■■■■

Give each child a cardboard tube. Set out crayons. Help kids write "God lights the way" on their tubes.

Give each child a section of neon tissue paper. Show kids how to bunch one end of the tissue paper and push that end into the tube. The other end should stick out of the tube to represent the flame of a candle.

Play "If We Confess" (1 John 1:9) (track 6 on the CD) as children make their candles, and encourage kids to sing along.

Light the Way Supplies

cardboard tubes

crayons

CD player

My Bible Fun

Teacher Pack

neon tissue paper

CD: "If We Confess"

(1 John 1:9) (track 6)





When kids have finished making their candles, have them retrieve their My Bible Fun pages. Ask kids to think of one thing they need to say “I’m sorry” for and use a crayon to write a word about it or draw a picture about it on the bottom of their pages.

Say: ► **GOD WANTS US TO REPENT WHEN WE SIN.** That means that we need to confess, or tell God what we did wrong, and ask for forgiveness. When we don’t deal with our sin, it’s as if we’re living in the darkness.

Turn out the lights, and say: **Just as candles light our way, God lights our way out of the darkness when we tell him we’re sorry.**

Turn on the lights, and say: **Use your new candle as a reminder to repent if you sin this week.**



4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Say: Let’s each choose a Daily Challenge to help us remember that ► **GOD WANTS US TO REPENT WHEN WE SIN.**

Direct kids to find this week’s Daily Challenges in their My Bible Fun pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- Think of a way you disobeyed this week, and ask God to forgive you.
- Tell a friend about God’s forgiveness, and ask if your friend would like to pray with you.
- Lead your family in singing a song of praise to God for his forgiveness when we repent.

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell the kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Ask:

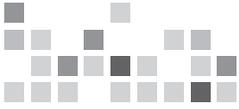
- What’s a practical way you’re going to do your Daily Challenge? Share a time, a place, or other ideas.

Say: ► **GOD WANTS US TO REPENT WHEN WE SIN.** God used the prophet Nathan to confront David in a way that David would realize his sin, confess the sin, seek God’s forgiveness, and repent of his sin. God forgave David, and God will forgive us, too.

Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Fun





Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about sin and repentance. Kids can also do the activities on the “HomeConnect” portion of their My Bible Fun pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about e-mailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church’s families. Available at group.com/digital.

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids, thanking God for taking the darkness of sin away and giving us a way to live in the light. Also ask God to help us remember to repent for what we do wrong.





If We Confess (1 John 1:9)

If we confess, if we confess our sins,
He's faithful and just
And will forgive us our sins
And purify us from all unrighteousness.
If we confess, if we confess our sins.

God says he will set us free
If we confess our sins.
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