



God Forgives David

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

Preschoolers are learning they can't have everything they want. When you deny cries for an extra cookie, a toy, or more playtime, children may be tempted to simply take what they want. They can readily identify with David who did just that! What a joy to teach preschoolers about sin in the context of forgiveness. Tell children that when we do wrong and say we're sorry, God accepts our apology, forgives us, and forgets our sins forever.



► Bible Point
God forgives us when we say we're sorry to him.

Key Verse
God is our help (adapted from Psalm 46:1).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Children will apologize to God when they do wrong and know that God forgives them.

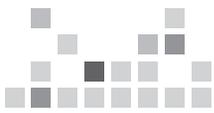
LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started <i>about 5 min.</i>	Welcome and Celebrate Welcome each other, and praise God through music.	signal, CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	Strong Help Help each other lift heavy objects.	Bible, several heavy objects such as adult-size chairs	Set your heavy objects against a wall.
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Puppy Pointers Hear how Theo took another puppy's bowl.	CD player, Theo puppet, disposable bowl, marker, rubber band Teacher Pack: CD	Write "Ruff" on a disposable bowl, and attach the bowl to Theo's paw with a rubber band.
	Bible Time: A Heart Full of Sin Play a game to take something from someone.	Bible Teacher Pack: "David" figure	





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;">4 Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> (Choose 2 centers.)</p>	<p>Center 1: I Want More Move a sheep from the poor man to the rich man.</p>	<p>My Bible Hugs, scissors, glue, 1 cotton ball and 1 craft stick per child</p>	<p>Remove the Lesson 3 pages from My Bible Hugs, and write the children's names on them. Cut along the dotted line to make a slit in each child's paper.</p>
	<p>Center 2: Fill 'Er Up! Fill their "hearts" with good things.</p>	<p>CD player, 1 paper cup and several heart stickers per child, bowls of cereal, antibacterial gel (optional) Teacher Pack: CD</p>	
	<p>Center 3: New Hearts Change sad-face hearts to happy-face hearts.</p>	<p>modeling dough, craft sticks, several heart-shaped cookie cutters</p>	
	<p>Center 4: One Single Sheep Make a treasured sheep.</p>	<p>one 4-inch square of black construction paper, 1 paper doily, and several cotton balls per child; white crayons, glue</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">5 Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Be a FaithWeaver Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	<p>My Bible Hugs</p>	
	<p>Action Prayer Follow an action prayer with motions.</p>		
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		





David Becomes King

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 preschoolers 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.





Welcome and Celebrate Supplies

.....
 signal
 CD player
Teacher Pack
 CD: "Come and Join Us"
 (track 2), "Praise Him,
 Trust Him" (track 3)

1 GETTING STARTED

Welcome and Celebrate

 **Tip** Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

What You'll Do

As the children arrive, greet each one with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to gather the children together in a circle on the floor.

Lead children in singing "Come and Join Us" to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" (track 2 on the CD).

 **Come and join us, everyone!**
Sing and learn what God has done.
Come and join us, everyone!
Come and join us, we'll have fun.
Come and join us, everyone!
Sing and learn what God has done.
(Repeat 2x.)

Say: **Now that we're all together, let's sing and praise God. We praise God because**
 ► **GOD FORGIVES US WHEN WE SAY WE'RE SORRY TO HIM.**

Lead children in singing "Praise Him, Trust Him" to the tune of "Praise Him" (track 3 on the CD).

Encourage kids to follow the motions in parentheses.

 **Praise him, trust him.** *(raise right arm and then left arm)*
Let's all sing together! *(cup hands to mouth)*
We can count on our God! *(raise both hands)*
Praise him, trust him. *(raise right arm and then left arm)*
We can count on our God now! *(raise both hands)*
(Repeat 2x.)

Say: **It's good to praise God for all the wonderful things he does. I'm so glad that**
 ► **GOD FORGIVES US WHEN WE SAY WE'RE SORRY TO HIM.**





2

KEY VERSE
ACTIVITY

Strong Help

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have the children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to Psalm 46:1, and show children the words.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible says, "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble." This means that God helps us. Let's say it together.** Lead the children in repeating the adapted Key Verse: **God is our help (Psalm 46:1).**

I want to move these chairs [or other heavy objects] to the other side of the room, but I'll need help because they're heavy. Let a child try to pick up a chair. **You aren't strong enough to handle these alone; you need help.** Choose two or three more children to help the first child pick up a chair. Allow all the children to help move the chairs to the other side of the room.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Ask:

- Why couldn't you move the chairs by yourself?
- Why was it easier when more people helped?

Say: **God is our help. God is stronger than any trouble we face, and he'll help us. We can pray and ask God to help us. Even when we do wrong things, God helps us. ► GOD FORGIVES US WHEN WE SAY WE'RE SORRY TO HIM. That's what happened to David in the Bible. Let's say our Key Verse again.** Lead the children in saying the Key Verse: **God is our help (Psalm 46:1).**

3

BIBLE
EXPLORATION

Puppy Pointers

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Listen, everyone, Theo's coming! He has something to show us. Let's find out what it is.** Play "Here, Theo" (track 4 on the CD), and bring out Theophilus the FaithRetriever with a disposable bowl attached to his paw. Then follow along with the script.



Strong Help Supplies

Bible
several heavy objects
such as adult-size
chairs

Strong Help Easy Prep

Set your heavy objects
against a wall.

Puppy Pointers Supplies

CD player
Theo puppet
disposable bowl
marker
rubber band

Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo"
(track 4)

Puppy Pointers Easy Prep

Write "Ruff" on a
disposable bowl, and
attach the bowl
to Theo's paw with a
rubber band.





Theo: Hi, everybody!

Teacher: Hello, Theo! It's nice of you to come to church with us today. Do you have something to show us?

Theo: I brought Ruff's bowl with me.

Teacher: Why did you bring Ruff's bowl, Theo?

Theo: Because I like it better than mine.

Teacher: Theo, it's wrong to take something that's not yours.

Theo: But I like it better.

Teacher: It doesn't matter, Theo. God tells us not to steal. In the Bible today, we'll learn about a man who stole something that wasn't his.

Theo: What happened to him?

Teacher: God was very upset with him. But the man said he was sorry and asked God to forgive him. And ► **GOD FORGIVES US WHEN WE SAY WE'RE SORRY TO HIM**, so God forgave the man.

Theo: I'm going to give Ruff his bowl back and tell him I'm sorry.

Teacher: That's a good idea! I'm sure Ruff will forgive you and God will, too. Friends, let's say goodbye to Theo.

Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.

Bible Time: A Heart Full of Sin Supplies

Bible
Teacher Pack
"David" figure

Bible Time: A Heart Full of Sin

What You'll Do

Have children sit in a circle with you. Open your Bible to 2 Samuel 12:1-7, and show the children the words.

Say: **David was the king in Israel, but David did something wrong. God had given King David so many good things. David lived in a beautiful home. He had yummy food to eat. He had soldiers to fight for him. Lots of people knew King David and loved him. There was one thing David couldn't have. Uriah had something that David wanted, so David stole it from him.**

Set the "David" figure in the middle of the circle.

Say: **This is my picture of David. I'm going to close my eyes and count to five. If one of you can take the picture of David from the center of our circle before I open my eyes, you get to be the next one to close your eyes and count to five. Then we'll play again.**

Close your eyes and count to five. Then open your eyes to see who took the "David" figure. Play this game several times, and then place the "David" figure back in the Teacher Pack.

Afterward, say: **This game was fun, but it isn't always fun when someone takes something that belongs to you.**





Talk With Kids

Say:

- Tell about your favorite thing that you hope no one ever steals.

Say: **God knew that David had done something wrong, so God wasn't happy. God sent Nathan to David to give him a special message. Nathan told David this story: "A rich man had lots and lots of sheep. A poor man had only one sheep. The poor man loved his little sheep. But one day, the rich man took the poor man's sheep because he wanted it instead of one of his own."**

Ask:

- What do you think about what the rich man did?

Say: **When David heard Nathan's story, he was mad at that mean rich man. Nathan said, "YOU are the man! God has given you so many things but you stole from Uriah. That's wrong!" David was sad. He felt yucky and bad inside because he knew that he had sinned against God.**

Ask:

- What could David do to feel better?

Say: **David told God he was sorry. And God forgave David because ► GOD FORGIVES US WHEN WE SAY WE'RE SORRY TO HIM. God washed away all those bad feelings and made David clean and new on the inside! Just like God forgave David, ► GOD FORGIVES US WHEN WE SAY WE'RE SORRY TO HIM.**

4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today's Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you're ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they'd like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center's description.

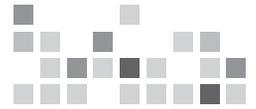
CENTER 1:

I Want More

What You'll Do

Give each child a Lesson 3 page from My Bible Hugs.

Help children each glue a cotton ball "sheep" to the end of a craft stick. Show them how to stick the sheep puppet through the slit in their paper and move it from the poor man



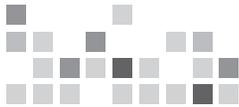
Center 1: I Want More Supplies

My Bible Hugs
scissors
glue
1 cotton ball and 1 craft stick per child

Center 1: I Want More Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 3 pages from My Bible Hugs, and write the children's names on them. Cut along the dotted line to make a slit in each child's paper.





Center 2: Fill 'Er Up! Supplies

CD player

1 paper cup
and several heart
stickers per child
bowls of cereal
antibacterial gel
(optional)

Teacher Pack z

CD: "He Cares for You"
(1 Peter 5:7) (track 8)

**ALLERGY
ALERT**

to the rich man. Let children retell Nathan's story about the rich man taking the poor man's only sheep.

Afterward, say: **The rich man took the poor man's only sheep, even though the rich man had hundreds of sheep of his own. God wants us to say we're sorry when we do wrong. ► GOD FORGIVES US WHEN WE SAY WE'RE SORRY TO HIM.**

■ CENTER 2:

Fill 'Er Up!

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have the children wash their hands (or clean their hands with antibacterial gel), and then have them sit down to prepare their snack. Distribute paper cups, heart stickers, and bowls of cereal. Let children decorate their cups with the heart stickers. Talk about how God wants our hearts to be filled with good things like love and kindness, not sin and jealousy.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Ask:

- What are bad things people do that fill up their hearts with bad things?
- What are good things people do that fill up their hearts with good things?
- Why does ► **GOD FORGIVE US WHEN WE SAY WE'RE SORRY TO HIM?**

Say: **When King David said he was sorry, God took all those yucky sins from David's heart. God wants our hearts filled with good things like love and kindness. Let's sing a prayer to God, and then fill our heart cups with good things to eat!**

Lead children in singing "He Cares for You" (1 Peter 5:7) (track 8 on the CD) as a prayer before snack time.

 **What are you worried about now?**

**Trying to figure it out now—
God knows right where you are now.
You know it's all in his hands now.
You know he cares for you;
He always cares for you.
You know he'll see you through;
He'll always see you through.**

**Cast all your anxiety
On him
Because he cares for you.
He cares for you.
Cast all your anxiety
On him
Because he cares for you.
He cares for you.**





Jesus cares for you.
(Repeat from beginning.)

What are you worried about now?
Trying to figure it out now—
God knows right where you are now.
You know it's all in his hands now.

"He Cares for You" (1 Peter 5:7) by Jay Stocker. © 2004 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

When the song ends, let children fill their cups with cereal and enjoy the tasty treat.

CENTER 3:

New Hearts

What You'll Do

Set out the supplies. Show children how to flatten the modeling dough and then use the cookie cutters to make heart shapes. Let children use the craft sticks to draw sad faces on the hearts.

Talk With Kids

Ask:

- What makes God sad?
- What can we do when we've done something wrong?

Say: **God is sad when we do wrong things. But ► GOD FORGIVES US WHEN WE SAY WE'RE SORRY TO HIM. And that makes God happy.**

Have children squish the sad-faced hearts and roll out fresh new modeling dough hearts. Then have children draw happy faces on their hearts. Point out that when God forgives us, we feel fresh and new inside.

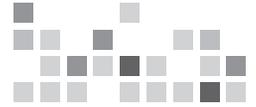
CENTER 4:

One Single Sheep

What You'll Do

Give each child a paper doily and a square of black construction paper. Have children follow these steps to make sheep:

- Fold the square diagonally; with the point facing down, bend the two corners in slightly to make ears for the sheep.
- Glue the folded square, point facing down, to the center of the doily.
- Draw eyes on the sheep's face with a white crayon.
- Glue cotton balls around the edges of the doily to make a sheep.



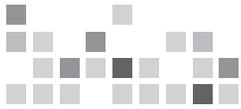
Center 3: New Hearts Supplies

- modeling dough
- craft sticks
- several heart-shaped cookie cutters

Center 4: One Single Sheep Supplies

- one 4-inch square of black construction paper, 1 paper doily, and several cotton balls per child
- white crayons
- glue





Say: The poor man in today's story had only one sheep. And even though the rich man had lots of sheep, he came and took away the poor man's one single sheep.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Ask:

- Tell about a time you had something taken away from you that you loved very much.
- Why do you think God was sad about David stealing from Uriah?

Say: David did a bad thing. He told God he was sorry and asked God to forgive him. God forgave King David and made his heart clean again. ► **GOD FORGIVES US WHEN WE SAY WE'RE SORRY TO HIM, too.**



5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Be a FaithWeaver

What You'll Do ■■■■

After the children have cleaned up their centers, bring everyone back to a circle area on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they remember about what they learned from the Bible today.

Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today's lesson to their lives this week. Use this challenge for encouraging your children's growing relationships with Jesus.

Be a FaithWeaver
Supplies

My Bible Hugs



Talk With Kids

Say: Today we learned that ► **GOD FORGIVES US WHEN WE SAY WE'RE SORRY TO HIM. I would like each of you to choose a way that you can ask for forgiveness this week.**

Give kids these three ideas to choose from:

- **When you do something wrong, tell the person you hurt that you're sorry and give that person a hug.**
- **When you do something wrong, draw a picture for God, and say you're sorry. Hang the picture in your room to remind you that God loves you and forgives you.**
- **When you do something wrong, pray to God for forgiveness. Then wash your hands to remind you that God always forgives us and washes away sins that make us dirty.**

Have kids whisper in your ear or tell you which idea they've chosen, and then circle it on each child's My Bible Hugs page. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

Action Prayer

What You'll Do

Lead children in the following action prayer. Have them repeat after you while doing the motions in parentheses.

God, I love you. (*hug themselves*)

When I do bad things, (*shake their forefinger "no"*)

Please forgive me when I say, (*cup hands over mouth*)

I'm sorry God for what I've done. (*rub fist over heart*)

In Jesus' name, amen. (*put hands together in prayer*)

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Hugs pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the "Be a FaithWeaver" activity. Encourage the parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment throughout the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

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

