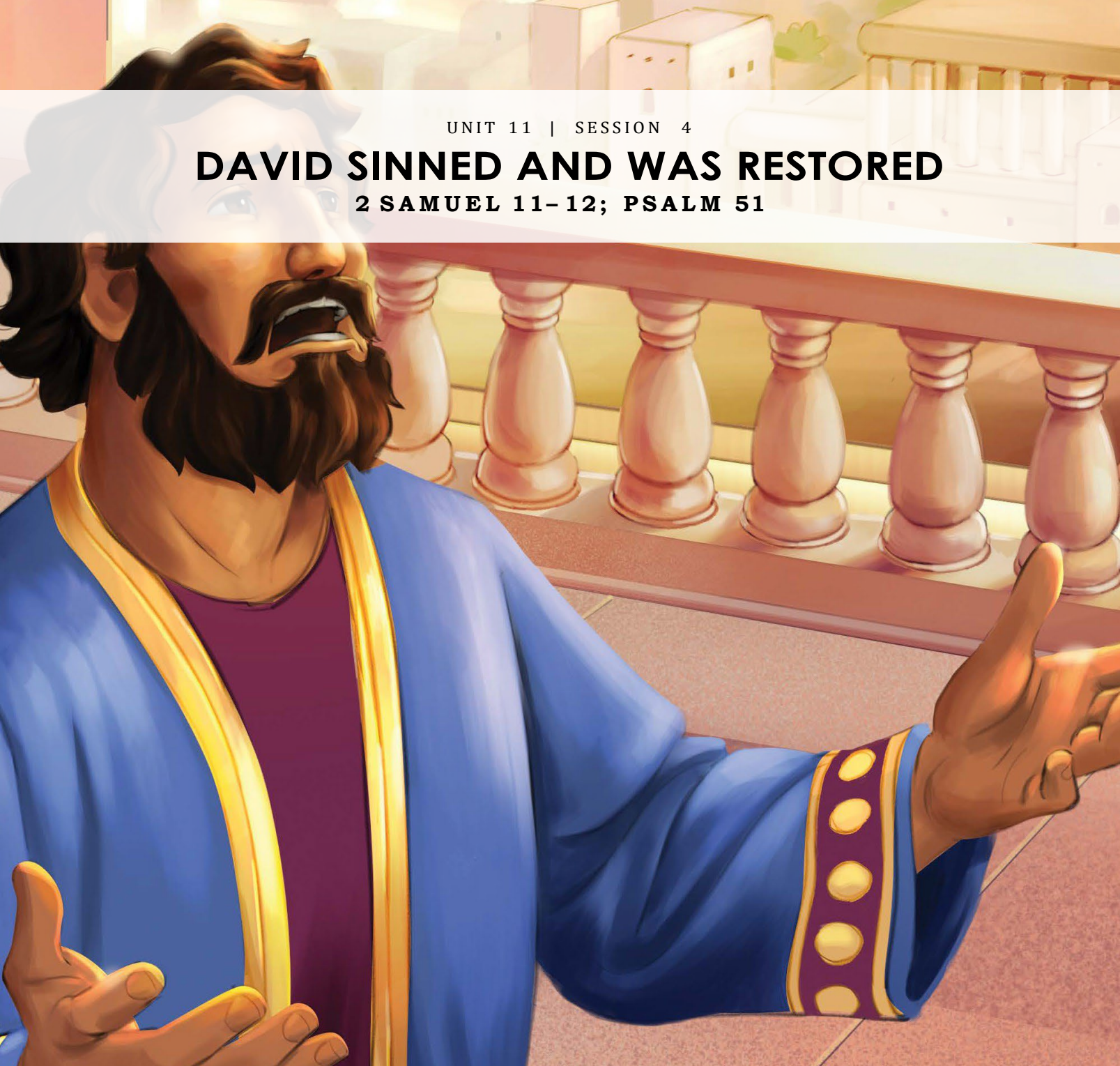


DAVID SINNED AND WAS RESTORED

2 SAMUEL 11-12; PSALM 51



KEY PASSAGE: Jeremiah 10:6-7a

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: *Is anything or anyone greater than God? No, God is greater than everything and everyone.*

CHRIST CONNECTION: When David admitted his sin before the Lord, he was forgiven. When we confess our sins to the Lord and believe in Jesus, God is faithful and just to forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

STORY POINT: David sinned, repented, and was forgiven.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

LEADER Bible Study

David was a king after God's own heart, but he was also a sinner. As we study 2 Samuel 11–12, we learn how David fell into temptation and sinned against God and others. Yet, we also witness the incredible mercy offered to those who repent of their sin. Out of David's brokenness we see what it looks like to have a broken and contrite heart, and we gain a glimpse of the redemption offered to us through faith in Christ.

What transformations do we see in David's life? How do these passages lead us to walk in restoration rather than in sin?

In our previous session, we read that David was established as king over Israel. Yet from the start of 2 Samuel 11, we see how David's temptation to follow his heart led to sin. As other kings and soldiers went to war, David idly passed his time in Jerusalem. Rather than lead his men in battle, David allowed the lust of his eyes to rule him. Through one choice at a time, David plummeted into covetousness, adultery, lying, and murder.

Only after being confronted by the prophet Nathan did David repent of his sin, leading him to pen the words of Psalm 51. In this psalm, David declared God's righteousness in contrast to his own unrighteousness. He begged God to cleanse him of his sin. He asked for a new heart and spirit to be able to teach sinners the way of repentance.

This psalm models repentance to us, showing us what it looks like to turn from sin and to receive the mercy only God provides. David's hope was in the God of His salvation who promised a future descendant to rule with justice and righteousness. Unlike David, Christ lived a perfect, sinless life and died for sin so that our hearts may be made clean.

Through confession of sins and profession of faith in Christ, we are saved, forgiven, and cleansed of our unrighteousness. Lead boys and girls to see the weight of the sins that separate us from God and the gift of grace that reunites us with the Father who sent His Son to redeem us. Pray for kids to see their need for the Savior and to cling to the hope only He provides.



PREPARE

THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



WELCOME

10–15 MINUTES

Greet kids and open the session



LEARN

25–30 MINUTES

Teach kids the story of the gospel



LOVE

15–20 MINUTES

Lead kids to love the God of the gospel



LIVE

15–20 MINUTES

Lead kids to live out the mission of the gospel



Be prepared to help the large group leader with one or both of the following activities. Feel free to also use these activities at the end of your small group session to fill time if you end early.

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: WHAT DOESN'T BELONG?

Display five groups of various items on a table (or pictures on the screen). In each group, include four items that are similar and one that is different or doesn't belong. For example, you could include four different fruits and a pencil. Invite kids to look at each group and determine what item doesn't belong. Direct kids to not share their answers aloud. Instead, ask for volunteers to come to the table and pick out the item that doesn't belong. Ask kids why they chose that particular item.

SAY “Each group had an item that didn't belong with the others. Today, we will see that David took something that didn't belong to him. David sinned when he took a woman who belonged to another man. However, we'll also learn that **David sinned, repented, and was forgiven.**”

OPTION 2: WHAT AM I?



Form kids into two teams, and play a game of pictionary. Choose a kid to go first, and whisper the name of an animal or object in her ear. Lead her to draw the animal or object on a dry erase board while her teammates try to guess what is being drawn. Allow 30 seconds for teams to guess. Award a point if the team guesses correctly. Play several rounds as time allows. The team with the most points wins.

SAY “As you drew the pictures, the more details you added, the better your teammates could guess correctly. Sometimes we need someone to help show us a clear picture before we truly understand what it is. Today, we will see how God sent the prophet Nathan to David to help him see his sin more clearly.”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

HAND OUT THE ACTIVITY PAGE TO BEGIN SMALL GROUP –

If you choose not to use the activity page during small group, **PLEASE hand it out BEFORE parent pick-up** as it has the parent information sheet attached to the coloring sheet so parents know what the children studied today.

SAY “Today, we will learn that *David sinned, repented, and was forgiven.*”

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles, and display the Old Testament Kingdoms Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Psalm 51. Tell kids that the book of Psalms has many authors including David, Solomon, Moses, Asaph, and Heman. Share that the psalms are a collection of songs, prayers, and poems. The psalms encourage us to worship God and praise Him for who He is.

Consider comparing the Old Testament Kingdoms Map to a modern-day map to help kids understand where David was from. (Tip: Locate the areas in and around modern-day Jerusalem [H5]). Choose a volunteer to read aloud Psalm 51:10 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verse aloud.

SAY “David recognized the sin that was in his heart, and he repented of it. He asked God to create in him a clean heart. The power to create clean hearts only comes from God. The Bible tells us that when people trust in Jesus, the Lord makes them into new creations (2 Corinthians 5:17). This means their old, sinful nature is gone away and believers have new, pure desires that want to obey God and follow His ways. Christians won’t be perfect until Jesus returns, but they will want to live for Jesus and repent of sin.”

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY “Why do we try to hide our sin?”

Discuss how the Bible tells us that people love the darkness rather than light because of their evil deeds. Tell kids that we don’t want our sin exposed because we fear judgment. Share how bringing our sin into the “light” by confessing it to God and trusting in Jesus is the only way to have our sin forgiven. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read John 3:18-20.)

SAY “Why must God judge sin?”

Share how God’s perfect justice requires that each and every one of our sins we have committed against Him be punished. Remind kids that David recognized his sin was against God, and he deserved death. Discuss how Jesus took the punishment our sin deserves when He died on the cross. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read John 3:36.)

SAY “How did David show true repentance?”

Remind kids that true repentance doesn’t just mean saying “I’m sorry” for sin. Discuss how true repentance requires a change of heart and action. Tell kids that David asked God to give him a clean heart so he could follow the ways of God. David’s desire was to turn away from his sin and follow the righteous ways of God. True repentance also shows a heart that hates sin and is deeply grieved over it. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Acts 3:19.)

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: COME INTO THE LIGHT

Before the session, use black construction paper to create three silhouettes of different objects such as a tree, a stick figure, and a heart. Glue each silhouette to the inside of a brown paper bag, trying to get the silhouette as close to bottom as possible. Fold the paper bags so they are flat. Dim the lights.

Hold up each paper bag and tell kids that there is an object inside each one. Be sure to keep the bag away from a light source during this part. Invite kids to guess what might be inside. Then open the first bag and place a tea light candle in the bag, revealing the tree. Repeat this step for the other two bags. Discuss how the objects were “hidden” in the dark, but the light exposed them.

Afterward, Have each kid make one or more of their own bags.

SAY *David tried to hide his sin from God, but God already knew. God is light and nothing remains hidden from Him. God sent the prophet Nathan to expose David's sin. David sinned, repented, and was forgiven. We will find forgiveness when we bring our sin to God and repent of it.*

2 JOURNAL AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page. As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas.

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

Review the gospel, and encourage kids to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions. Then pray, thanking God for His forgiveness through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. As time allows, lead kids to complete “A Clean Heart” on the activity page.

OPTION 2: PRAYERS OF REPENTANCE



Encourage kids to think about God's great grace and how He forgives sinners. Invite kids to have a time of prayer before God. Spread kids throughout the room, trying to keep them apart to limit distractions. Challenge kids to think about their own hearts and if they have any sin to confess and repent of. Provide paper and pens if kids would like to write out their prayers. Consider playing calming worship music at a low volume. Be sensitive to any kids who may need you to pray for them.

SAY “*Like David, we are all sinners. But just as God was gracious to forgive David's sin, He is also gracious to forgive our sin. When we trust in Jesus, God washes away our sin and makes us right with Him. Believers continue to repent of their sin, not to earn favor with God, but because their hearts desire to live for Him and His ways. When we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*”