

DAVID SINNED AND WAS RESTORED

2 Samuel 11–12; Psalm 51



Most kings went out to fight wars in the spring, but David stayed home in Jerusalem and sent his commander Joab and the army out instead. One evening, David was walking on the roof of his palace and saw a beautiful woman. David asked who the woman was. A servant told him, “This is Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah.” Even though she was someone else’s wife, David sent messengers to get her and bring her to him.

When David found out that Bathsheba was pregnant with his baby, he wanted her to be his wife. But she was already married. So, David made a plan to kill her husband Uriah.

Uriah was a soldier in the Israelite army. David wrote a letter to Joab and told him to put Uriah at the front line so Uriah could be easily killed. Joab obeyed King David, and Uriah died. David took Bathsheba to be his wife, and she gave birth to his son. David sinned in secret, but the Lord knew the evil David had done. The Lord sent Nathan to David. Nathan told David a story: “There was a rich man and a poor man. The rich man had lots of sheep, but the poor man had just one lamb he loved very much. When the rich man needed a lamb to prepare a meal, he took the lamb from the poor man rather than using a lamb from his own flock.”

David was extremely angry with the rich man in the story, saying that he deserved to die! Nathan replied, “You are the rich man! God has given you so much, and yet you decided to take the life of Uriah because you wanted his wife Bathsheba. You have done evil.”

David responded, “I have sinned against the Lord.”

Nathan replied, “The Lord has taken away your sin. You will not die.”

Then David wrote a song to God:

“Be gracious to me, God, according to your faithful love. Wash away my guilt and cleanse me from my sin. Against you alone I have sinned, so You are right when You judge.

“Purify me, and I will be clean; Wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Create a clean heart for me and renew my spirit.

“Do not remove Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore the joy of Your salvation to me, And I will teach sinners to return to You.”

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.



WELCOME Kids

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

OPTION 1: WHAT DOESN'T BELONG?

Display five groups of various items on a table or 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.

“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: WASH IT AWAY



Before the session, use a black permanent marker to write the word *SIN* on a white note card. Place the note card in a plastic baggie. Then fill a large bowl (not glass) with water. Be sure the bowl is deep enough for the word *SIN* to be fully emerged.

Show kids the plastic baggie with the word *SIN*. Draw a heart with permanent marker on the outside of the baggie around the word *SIN*. Explain that every person is a sinner. Invite kids in groups of two or three to approach you. Dip the plastic baggie completely vertically into the water and invite the kids to look down (not from the side) into the bowl. The word *SIN* will “disappear” while the heart remains visible due to the internal reflection of light. Continue inviting groups of kids to observe how the *SIN* is “washed away.”

SAY “While we didn't really wash away the ‘sin,’ we know Jesus can. In fact, only He is able to cleanse our hearts from all sin. Today, we will learn how David sinned and asked God to wash away his sin and make his heart pure. We'll see that David wrote a psalm to confess his sin and repent of it.”



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY

The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Today, we are going to hear how David sinned and was restored. Through our Bible story, we will learn that ***David sinned, repented, and was forgiven***. Whether this is your first time or your tenth time hearing this story, there is always something new to learn in God's Word.

Read from 2 Samuel 11–12; Psalm 51.

•What does this story teach us about God?

David tried to cover up his sin by having Uriah killed. By trying to hide his sin, he committed another sin! Just like Adam and Eve tried to hide from God in the garden after they ate the fruit, David tried to cover his sin. But God is not fooled. He sees and knows everything. **God knows all of our sin, but He has also provided the way to be forgiven of sin.**

•Who did God send to David, and what did the man tell David?

Nathan told David the story of the rich man who had taken the lamb from the poor man. David was angry and thought the rich man should pay for what he did. Nathan pointed out that David was like the rich man in the story. David deserved punishment for his sin. Everyone deserves death because of their sin. 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.

Form groups of two or three and practice retelling the Bible story in your own words. Think of someone you could share the story with this week.



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

3 GOSPEL DISCUSSION

David deserved to die for his sin, but God showed him grace. We all deserve to die for our sin, but God showed us grace by sending Jesus to take the punishment for our sin. When we confess our sin, repent, and trust in Jesus, God will forgive us. Do you need to repent of your sin?

4 PRAY

Dear heavenly Father, You are great and gracious. Thank You for sending Jesus to take the punishment our sin deserves. Please forgive our sin and help us walk in obedience to You. Amen.

THE GOSPEL

GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

The gospel is the good news—the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use Scripture and the guide provided below to explain how to become a Christian. Create an environment where kids are welcome to ask questions about what it means to follow Jesus.

				
GOD RULES	WE SINNED	GOD PROVIDED	JESUS GIVES	WE RESPOND
Ask: "Who is in charge at home?" Explain that because God created everything, He is in charge of everything. Read Revelation 4:11.	Ask: "Have you ever done something wrong?" Tell kids that everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin separates us from God. Read Romans 3:23.	Explain that God is holy and must punish sin. God sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment we deserve. Read John 3:16.	Ask: "What is the best gift you've ever received?" Say that Jesus took our punishment for sin by giving His life, and He gives us His righteousness. God sees us as if we lived the perfect life Jesus lived. This is the best gift ever! Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.	Explain that everyone has a choice to make. Ask: "Will you trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord? You can turn from self and sin and turn to Jesus." Read Romans 10:9-10.



THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

Use the Student Learner Guide to have the students follow along with the lesson. Have them answer the questions and fill in the blanks as you go.

1 THINK ABOUT THE STORY

- How does God know if we sin?
- How can our sin be washed away and forgiven?

2 GROUP DISCUSSION

Distribute Bibles. Guide preteens to open their Bibles to Psalm 51. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Psalm 51:10. Remind preteens that 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.

Then lead the group to discuss the following questions.

1. 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.)

2. 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.)

3. 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.)

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

Is anything or anyone greater than God?
No, God is greater than everything and everyone.



THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

1 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY

Instruct kids to open their Bibles to Jeremiah 10:6-7a. Lead them in reading the key passage aloud together. Form kids into a large circle. Guide kids to each say a word from the key passage in order until the entire key passage is said. Then, repeat the activity several times, encouraging kids to say the key passage faster each time.

2 PRAY

Invite volunteers to share prayer requests. Then pray, thanking God for His forgiveness through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

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.

Remind kids that 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.