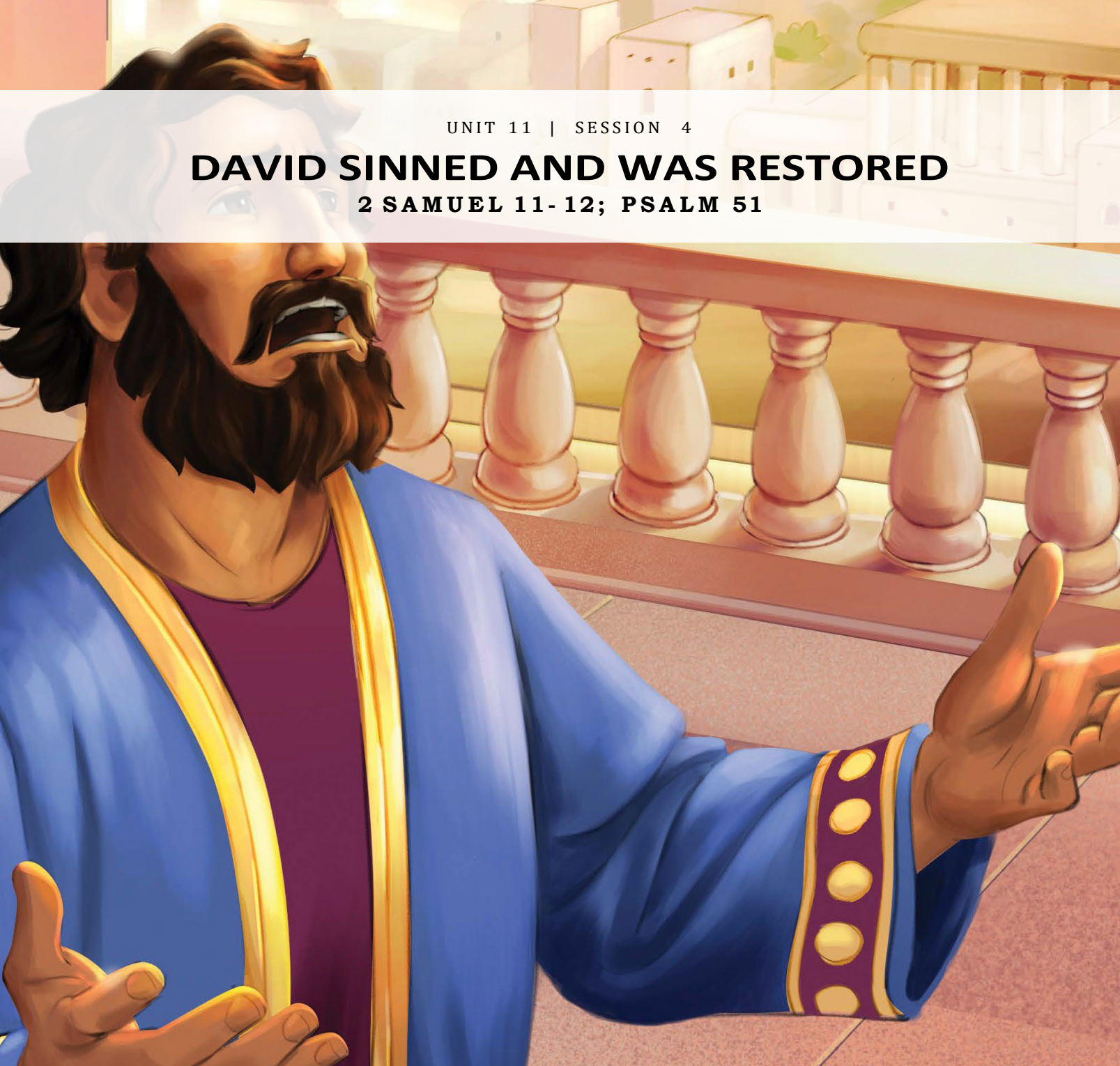


DAVID SINNED AND WAS RESTORED

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



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 (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**



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LOVE

THE GOD 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 see how David sinned against God and how the prophet Nathan helped David recognize his sin.”

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles, and display the Old Testament Kingdoms Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Psalm 51. Explain that the book of Psalms is a collection of songs and poems. Share that many of the psalms were written by David and help us see how God was faithful in David's life.

Consider pointing out Jerusalem (H5) on the Old Testament Kingdoms Map. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Psalm 51:17, or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verse aloud.

SAY “David tried to cover his sin, but God already knew what David had done. When David wrote Psalm 51, he understood that God doesn't want us to try to hide our sin. Instead, God wants us to come to him with hearts that are broken by sin. God wants us to confess our sin to Him. Going to God with our sin is the only way to be forgiven and fix our hearts. God sent Jesus to take away our sin and give us hearts that are clean.”

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY “In Psalm 51:4, why do you think David said he had sinned against God alone?”

Tell kids that all sin is against God because He made us and created us to love Him. When we sin—whether we lie, hurt someone, or steal—it is first a sin against God. Also, doing wrong to others is a sin against God because all people are made in His image, and He has commanded us to love one another.

SAY “If God knows our sin, why should we confess our sin to Him?”

Help kids understand that while God already knows our sin, when we confess our sin we are showing that we agree with Him about our sin. “If we say, ‘We have no sin,’ we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us” (1 John 1:8). We come into the truth when we acknowledge our sin and turn away from it. The Bible also tells us that, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

SAY “What sin might you need to confess to God?”

Pause for a moment of contemplation, inviting kids to think about some of their actions this past week. Allow time for kids to pray to God and confess their sins. Help kids understand that we can turn to God at any time to ask Him for forgiveness. Remind kids that we are made “clean” or right with God when we repent of our sin and trust in Jesus.

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

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LIVE

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: FORGIVEN HEART

Provide each kid with two 6 inch foam hearts. On one heart, lead the kids to write the word *SIN*. Consider inviting kids to write different sins they have committed such as *lying, disobeying, saying mean things*, etc. Use a hole punch to punch two holes at the top of each heart. Place the “clean” heart on the bottom and the “sinful” heart on the top. Then use chenille craft stems or ribbon to tie the hearts together. Kids can flip up the “sinful” heart to reveal the “clean” heart underneath.

SAY “Today, we learned that **David sinned, repented, and was forgiven.** We all sin. But when we repent of our sin and trust in Jesus, God will forgive us. We repent by telling God our sin and by turning away from our sin. Each of us can have a forgiven heart through faith in Jesus.”

OPTION 2: CREATE A SONG



Remind kids that David was sorry for his sin and wrote Psalm 51 as a prayer to God. Encourage kids to work together to write a song of thankfulness to God for how He forgives sin. As the kids come up with the words, help them write the words on a sheet of paper. Prompt them to create motions to go with the words to the song. This will help them to recall the lyrics to their song more easily. Once the song is finished, invite kids to sing it and perform the motions together.

SAY “David’s psalm reminds us that we all sin, but God has shown us great mercy through Jesus. We can share God’s mercy with others by telling them about Jesus and how we can be forgiven of our sin by trusting in Him.”

2 REFLECTION AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper and pencil to each kid. Ask kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Who can I tell about this story?

Be sure to send the sheets home with the kids along with the activity pages so parents can continue to discuss the Bible story with their kids. If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page. Pray for your group.