



DAVID'S SIN & SORROW

God's Incredible Plan • U7#3 1st-3rd Grade • Jan. 18, 2026

Concept

God is grace and mercy.

Goal

Students will learn that we all continue to sin after we start a relationship with God, but when we make bad choices, we can choose to turn back to God and admit that we are wrong and thank Him that we are already forgiven.

Passage

2 Samuel 11-12

Key Verse: "David said to Nathan, 'I have sinned against the Lord.' And Nathan said to David, 'The Lord also has taken away your sin; you shall not die.'" 2 Samuel 12:13

Planning Ahead

Lesson Supplies	Craft Supplies
<p>Lesson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Mighty Acts of God, Starr Meade</i> <p>Learning Activity #1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mini canary post-it notes, 2 pads• Smile face stickers, 30/class• "God" sign	<p>Activity Station:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Ballot Bag made out of a lunch bag</i>• <i>20 squares of blue paper</i>• <i>20 squares of yellow paper</i>• <i>20 squares of pink paper</i>• <i>20 squares of green paper</i>• Printed hearts with Psalm 51:17, 1/student• Various colors of cut crepe paper• Glue sticks• Scissors

*TEACHERS PLEASE NOTE

For clarity, the italicized areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag.

Background Information/Teacher Helps

God's Incredible Plan • U7#3 1st-3rd Grade

The greatest of the seven penitential psalms, it [Psalm 51] is a poignant and moving piece of autobiography. It is a classic on a sinning man's progress from stubborn impenitence, through deep repentance, to glorious restoration...

Infatuated with the beautiful Bathsheba, the king had fallen into the sordid sin of adultery, which in turn involved him in a squalid intrigue that climaxed in the murder of her husband, Uriah. After a period of obstinate refusal to confess his sin (see Psalm 32:3-4), God used the soul-searching charge of Nathan the prophet- 'You are the man!' -to bring home the enormity of David's sin, while at the same time displaying His own boundless mercy and grace. 'The Lord also has taken away your sin' (2 Samuel 12:7, 13). God never leaves a penitent sinner in the dust.

The psalm is the uninhibited, broken outpouring of a soul overwhelmed with a sense of guilt, the outburst of sincere repentance after a disgraceful, inexcusable episode. And yet it is full of encouragement, for it reveals the heart of God and His attitude toward those who have failed.

...'Against Thee, Thee only, I have sinned' (51:4). Under the pressure of the Holy Spirit, David realized that ultimately all sin is against God. It insults Him and is rebellion against His sovereignty. He realized, too, that his had not been private sins, for they affected not only himself but the whole nation.

Up until that time his chief thought had been, 'How can I cover my tracks?' But now his only concern was, 'How ever could I have offered such an insult to a loving and holy God?'

Though God heard his plea and forgave him, David did not escape the social consequences of his fall. But his present concern was not for the results as they would affect him; his sorrow stemmed from a humbling sense of the shame he had brought on the name of his God. Without demur, he accepted the divine verdict on his sin: 'So that Thou art justified when Thou dost speak, and blameless when Thou dost judge' (vs. 4)...

[1] J. Oswald Sanders, *Enjoying Intimacy With God*, 1980, The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago, pp. 50, 51, 59, 60, 62.

Set Up

Incorporation Lg. Group

Introduction Lg. Group

Before Class: Count out three sets of ten post-its and return the pad to the shared supply bag for the other classes to use. Divide the smile face stickers into three sets of ten.

Activity Station

- **What's Right?**

- **Instructions:** Have 2 teachers at this station. As students arrive, read 2 Samuel 12:1-4 to them. Then ask them what they think should happen to the rich man who took the poor man's lamb. Their choices are:
 - 1. Make the rich man say he's sorry and give the poor man another sheep – Blue
 - 2. Make the rich man say he's sorry and give the poor man four sheep – Yellow
 - 3. Kill the rich man for killing the poor man's sheep – Pink
 - 4. Make the rich man give all his sheep to the poor man and have him take care of the poor man's sheep – Green
- They will take a paper square of the color that goes with the answer they chose and put it in the ballot bag. When all the students have voted, a teacher will count the ballots. The results will be announced in the Introduction.

- **Craft – Broken Heart Mosaics**

- **Instructions:** Pass out printed hearts. Cut the heart out of the paper. Have students use various colors of crepe paper pieces to paste on their hearts in a colorful mosaic. Cut out Bible verse (Psalm 51:17, "God, you will not reject a heart that is broken and sorry for its sin.") from the bottom of the printed heart page; glue on to mosaic heart. As the students work, tell them that today they will learn that David made a very bad choice and then tried to hide it. David finally admitted his sin and told God he was sorry. His heart was broken because he had sinned against God. He asked God to give him a clean heart, take away his guilt. This heart is a reminder that God forgives the person whose heart is broken and sorry for sinning.

- **Missions Prayer**

- **Instructions:** Talk about and pray for the Oasis Giving campaign.

Last week we learned about David, who grew to be a great warrior and king of Israel. Who remembers the key verse? "...God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7). From the time David was very young like you, he loved the Lord and trusted Him with all his heart. When David grew up and was king he had a very good friend, Nathan the prophet, who helped him know what God thought. David usually loved to hear from Nathan about God's will.

Introduction Continued

One day, however, David made a very bad choice. He stole another man's wife and then had the man killed.

When you came in to class, you heard a story about a rich man who stole a poor man's sheep. This is the story that Nathan told David. You voted on the punishment you thought the rich man deserved. This is what you thought. (Give results of the vote. To get them up and moving about a bit, you can have the students stand, if they like, when you state the choice they voted for.)

Transition

Everyone get a Bible, sit down and listen to what David thought should happen to the rich man. Then we will find out why Nathan told David that story.

Lesson Lg. Group

Instructions: Read Mighty Acts of God, pp. 84-86.

Well, David was so angry that he decided the rich man should die. What a shock! This story was about David! He was the rich man and Uriah was the poor man. David had many wives and Uriah had only one wife. David stole Uriah's wife while Uriah fought in David's army. Then to cover up his sin, David sinned even worse. He made sure Uriah was killed on the battlefield. Then Nathan told David what his consequences would be. He said, "Now there will always be people in your family who will die by a sword, because you despised me; you took the wife of Uriah the Hittite for yourself! This is what the LORD says: 'I am bringing trouble to you from your own family'" (2 Samuel 12:11, 12).

So what did David say after Nathan finished? Do you think he was mad at God for giving him consequences? (Allow some time for answers.) What do you do when your mom or dad gives you consequences for a bad choice? Do you blame others, try to make it seem as if what you did wasn't so bad or say you couldn't help it? I do sometimes. Sometimes I really want to make others believe that what I did wasn't my fault. But David didn't do that.

Open your Bibles to 2 Samuel 12 and look at verse 13. After Nathan spoke strongly to David and told him the consequences for his sin, David said, "I have sinned against the Lord" (2 Samuel 12:13). He didn't try to make excuses for why he did it. He had killed a man. He was guilty and knew he deserved to die. He admitted he was wrong and knew that there would be consequences for his sin. When we agree that we did something wrong and tell God we want to go His way, this is called repentance. David repented. God forgave David and their relationship was restored. David now experienced God's great love, but for the rest of his life he suffered the consequences of his sin. Even though God forgives us, we are responsible for the damage we cause when we sin and we must make it right with other people.

Lesson Continued

Transition

Learning Activity#1 Lg. Group

Good News

After David said, "I have sinned against the Lord," Nathan answered, "The LORD has taken away your sin. You will not die" (2 Samuel 12:13). God forgave David's sin. Only God has the power to forgive sin. He sent Jesus to die on the cross for all our sin. To become God's child we must agree that we have sinned against Him, we are sorry for our sin and want Jesus' death on the cross to take away the punishment we deserve. The punishment we deserve is to be separated from God forever. When we accept God's forgiveness we will never be separated from Him again. You can pray to God anytime or any place that Jesus' death will pay for your sins and you will be forgiven forever! Our key verse is 2 Samuel 12:13, "David said to Nathan, 'I have sinned against the Lord.' And Nathan said to David, 'The Lord also has taken away your sin; you shall not die.'" David repented and God forgave him.

Let's play a game that shows how sin turns us away from God and repentance turns us back to God and His forgiveness.

Game -- Spoilers and Gracers

Instructions: Have the class line up at one end of the room. Place the "God" sign on the white board (using poster putty) on the opposite end of the room. Divide the class into "players," "spoilers," "gracers." As you count off the first five students, 3 will be "players," 1 will be a "spoiler" and 1 will be a "gracer." Continue to divide the class in the same way. Have the "players" stay where they are, the "spoilers" go to the other side of the room and the "gracers" meet in the middle. Have a teacher in each group to explain the rules. At the signal begin the game. Monitor the progress while the game proceeds. Check the "heel-to-toe" walk, walking with a spot, etc., and disqualify if necessary. When all have reached the wall, have students sit.

Instruct the "Spoilers":

I will give you ten post-it notes. Your job is to stop "players" from moving and make them turn away from the "God" wall. You do this by sticking a post-it on them as they move from the starting point to the "God" wall. When you stick a post-it on them, the "player" must stop and turn to face the starting point. Continue sticking post-its on the "players" moving towards the "God" wall until all your spots are gone.

Instruct the "Gracers":

I will give each of you ten smile face stickers. Your job is to help "players" who say, "I have sinned against the Lord" to turn back to the "God" wall and continue to move towards the "God" wall. You say, "The Lord has taken away your sin" and stick a smile face sticker on top of the post-it. Then the "players" can continue towards the "God" wall.

Learning Activity#1 Continued

Remember you can't put a smile face sticker on top of a post-it until the "players" say "I have sinned against the Lord." Continue sticking smile faces on the "players" until all the post-its are covered.

Instruct the "Players":

Your goal is to go from this side of the room to the "God" wall. You may move only by touching the heel of one foot to the toe of the other foot. Practice that. When I say "go," start walking toward the "God" wall. As you walk, "spoilers" will stick post-it notes on you. When you get a post-it you must stop and turn to face the starting point. To be able to turn around and move back towards the "God" wall you must say "I have sinned against the Lord" until a "gracer" puts a smile face on top of the post-it and says, "The Lord has taken away your sin." Then you can turn back and move towards the "God" wall.

Debrief:

Just as the post-its kept you from reaching the wall, sin keeps us from God. But also, just as you said, "I have sinned against the Lord" and received a smile face, our repentance moves us toward God and His grace. God is perfect and can't be in the presence of sin. We all sin so we can never get to God by ourselves. Jesus' death and resurrection made it possible to have a relationship with God forever. The smile stickers are like God's grace or forgiveness. When we admit we have sinned against God, His forgiveness covers our sin, like the smile stickers covered the post-its. Even after we have accepted God's forgiveness we will continue to sin. Those sins have already been forgiven as well. When we sin we usually feel guilty, turn away and are afraid to talk to God. But when we repent as Christians, we turn back to God, admit that we are wrong and thank Him that we are already forgiven. God tells us in His Bible that no matter what we do He will always love and accept us. The more we repent, the closer we will grow to God and He will be our best friend. Imagine what it would be like if God were our friend.

Let's look at a situation that you might experience.

Object Drama

"Sticky Fingers"³ acted out by student workers

Instructions: The teacher will tell (not read) the "storyteller" sections while the student assistants act it out.

³ Adapted from Kathy and David Lynn, *More Zingers*, Grand Rapids, Mich: Zondervan Publishing House, 1990, p.21.

Transition

Learning Activity# 2 Lg. Group

Learning Activity# 2 Continued

"Sticky Fingers"

Storyteller:

Fernando had just recently invited Jesus into his heart and he was trying to make choices that God would want him to make. He was the last to leave the class for lunch. He gathered up his books and papers and headed for the door. But then he saw it - Lenny's brand new <<insert appropriate item that students covet>> - sitting right out on his desk. Lenny must have forgotten it. His grandmother had just given it to him as a birthday gift last week.

Fernando did not have his own <<item>> and saw no possibility of every having a <<item>>. Lenny's <<item>> was right at Fernando's fingertips. He could easily take it without getting caught. Should he take it? Or maybe just borrow it? Lenny's grandmother would buy him another one anyway—she was rich and bought him everything!

Discussion:

- If you were Fernando would you be tempted to take the <<item>>? Why? Why not?
- What does Fernando have to lose? (God's love – NO!, Closeness with God – YES!, Lenny's friendship, punishment from school, his own self-respect, trust of others.)

Storyteller:

Now let me tell you what Fernando did. He took the <<item>> and when Lenny saw him with it he told Lenny that his mom bought it for him. Not only did he steal the <<item>>, but then he lied about where he got it. But Lenny's <<item>> was missing and this one was exactly like it. He told the teacher that Fernando took his <<item>>. Fernando continued to deny it. Finally, the teacher talked with Fernando and told him that she didn't know what else to do but to call his mother to ask her if she bought the <<item>>. OOPS! Looks like Fernando is busted. What do you think he will do?

Discussion:

- Continue to deny he took it and hope his mom will back him up.
- Admit he took it but say that Lenny's grandma is rich and can buy him another one.
- Admit he took it, give it back and tell Lenny he is sorry.

Storyteller:

Well, Fernando chose to continue to deny that he had taken it. But his mother did not back him up. She told the teacher that she hadn't bought the <<item>>. Now Fernando knows he's really in trouble.

Learning Activity#2 Continued

Transition

Learning Activity#3 Sm. Groups

Discussion:

- If he were to respond like king David did about his sin, what would Fernando do? (Go to God and admit that he sinned not only against Lenny but also against God. He would be willing to take whatever consequences the teacher and his mom decided. He would be thankful that the Lord had taken away his sin and guilt.)

Let's get into small groups.

- What do you do when your mom, dad or teacher gives you consequences for a bad choice? Do you blame others, try to make it seem as if what you did wasn't so bad or say you couldn't help it? I do sometimes. Sometimes I really want to make others believe that what I did wasn't my fault.
- How do you feel when you refuse to admit that you were wrong? (The goal here is to help students realize that they feel guilty and alienated from others and God.)
- If we were to learn from David's experience, what would we do when we sin? (Be honest.)
- Have you ever admitted when you were wrong? What happened? How did you feel? (The goal here is for students to know that there is freedom and forgiveness in admission of sin and be willing to take the consequences for the sin.)

Let's pray now and thank God for his grace.