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**BIBLE
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BIBLE LESSONS FOR KIDS | Volume 8



KING DAVID

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BIBLE FUN FACTORY

BIBLE LESSONS FOR KIDS

KING DAVID

Welcome to this series of Bible lessons for students age pre-school to sixth grade. You'll find these Bible lessons introduce children to characters of the Old Testament, making their lives very personal by putting their problems in a modern-day context. The characters introduce principles students can use every day in school, at home, and in the neighborhood, while growing in Christ.

David was called "a man after my own heart" by the Lord God. Therefore we'll be looking at some of his shining moments as portrayed in 2 Samuel. We'll see that David's actions can be a guiding light to us in school, at home, and in the neighborhood, and we'll find ways that we can be like him. David is loyal (lesson #1), generous (lesson #2), not embarrassed by his faith (lesson #3), great at apologies (lesson #4), and he bridles his tongue (lesson #5). Students will learn to stretch and grow in all these areas.

Lessons Included:

- David is Loyal
- David is Generous
- David Dances for the Ark
- David is Great at Repenting
- David Bridles His Tongue

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DAVID IS LOYAL

It's a good idea for kids to get a jump on the notion that they do not have to respond in kind when someone is unkind. Kids often say overly frank, and even cruel things. But if they learn early on that the best idea is to respond nicely, this can become second nature. David shows us this in his treatment of King Saul: three times the king was within David's grasp, and three times he refused to harm the man who pursued him unjustly. **Those who respond with kindness are not showing weakness. They come out ahead in the long run.**

MATERIALS LIST

Lesson

- No materials needed

Intro Activity, Younger Children

- Construction paper
- Crayons and markers, many colors

Intro Activity, Older Children

- Paper
- Pens or pencils

Activity, Younger Children

- Soap and water to wash hands
- Home-made play dough
- Red, pink, orange, or flesh-colored markers, plus dark markers
- 8.5x11" sheets of cardboard or poster board
- Craft glue

Activity, Older Children

- Their kind replies to tough remarks from the Intro Activity

Game, Younger Children

- Hand lotion

Game, Older Children

- Construction paper, one sheet for each child
- 1 balloon
- Masking tape

BIBLE READING: 2 SAMUEL 1

Background:

Saul pursued David for years in order to kill him. He was jealous because the Lord wanted David to be King. Three times David and his spies were surprised to find Saul unprotected, but David refused to hurt him, let alone kill him, because Saul was still King and therefore was still considered God's anointed. Finally Saul was killed in a battle.

2 Samuel 1: David Hears of Saul's Death

¹ After the death of Saul, a man arrived from Saul's camp, with his clothes torn and with dust on his head. When he came to David, he fell to the ground to pay him honor.

³ "Where have you come from?" David asked him.

He answered, "I have escaped from the Israelite camp."

⁴ "What happened?" David asked. "Tell me."

He said, "The men fled from the battle. Many of them fell and died. And Saul and his son Jonathan are dead."

⁵ Then David said to the young man who brought him the report, "How do you know that Saul and his son Jonathan are dead?"

⁶ "I happened to be on Mount Gilboa," the young man said, "and there was Saul, leaning on his spear, with the chariots and riders almost upon him."⁷

¹⁰ "And I took the crown that was on his head and the band on his arm and have brought them here to my lord."

¹¹ Then David and all the men with him took hold of their clothes and tore them.¹² They mourned and wept and fasted till evening for Saul and his son Jonathan, and for the army of the LORD and the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword.

LESSON (TEACHER WORDS IN BOLD): DAVID RETURNS EVIL WITH GOOD

Today we're going to take the Truth & Honesty Test. Raise your hand to tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth:

How many of you have ever said something really rotten to somebody else? A friend, a parent, a sibling? Most hands should eventually go up. Put your own hand up if they need prompting.

How'd you feel afterwards? Most should say they felt rotten.

God did not make the human spirit to be rotten to other human spirits. And when you do it, you're likely to feel...rotten. Sometimes, people get so used to saying rotten things that they don't feel bad about it anymore. That's what Jesus called "having their hearts hardened." But even the hardest of hearts can eventually be made soft if you have the courage to say something nice to the person's rotten remark. Sometimes a hard heart will soften right away.

Here's a modern-day story:

Tara came storming home from school for the third day in a row during the first week of fifth grade. "Mom, there's this girl in my class. She's so mean! Today she was telling something to two girls and when I got too close she said, 'If I wanted you to hear it, I'd have said it louder!' Emily is so ignorant. I'm sick of it!"

"Well. I'm just glad *you* don't talk that way," Mom answered.

"I'm going to have to learn...*fast*. I've never really had to stand up to anybody before."

"Are you sure you want to do that?" Mom asked.

Tara rolled her eyes. Her mom wasn't big on snide remarks. "I'm tired of being picked on. Especially by somebody who got left back last year! Why couldn't Emily have stayed with her own grade?"

Mom, who had been folding wash, dropped a t-shirt onto the pile with the type of smirk that always made Tara feel like she was missing the point.

Mom said, "Um...hel-lo! Think maybe that has something to do with it?"

“I don’t care. This *is* no excuse good enough,” Tara said.

Mom sighed. “I know that situation. I know Emily’s mom made that decision with the teachers, and did not even ask Emily if it was okay with her. I guess every family is different, but that sure wouldn’t have been *my* way of handling it.”

Tara knew she and her mom would have had lots of talks over a huge decision like repeating a year of school. She felt a pang of sympathy she didn’t want to feel.

But she couldn’t resist thinking about this, especially with her mom bearing out that knowing smile. Her mom loved a complicated situation.

Tara said, “So Emily was just, like, thrown into our class.”

“Just thrown in,” Mom agreed.

“And nobody even asked her how she would feel.”

“Nope,” Mom said.

***She must feel powerless, Tara thought. Nobody cares what she thinks.* She muttered something like that while getting out her homework. She really didn’t want to think about anymore.**

Mom persisted. “And where do people get their power when they feel powerless?”

Tara really wanted to think about this when Mom *wasn’t* around. It would be easier to think of ‘normal’ things—like how she might hold this failure thing over Emily’s head and torture the girl next time she opened her big mouth.

But Mom kept watching Tara, grinning. Tara hated when her Mom did that.

“Why would I want to eat with *you*?” Emily answered Tara’s invite just before lunch the next day. “I eat with the sixth grade. I’m allowed.”

It was like she’d struck Tara in the chest with a hatchet. Tara didn’t know who she hated more—Emily - or her mother and her bright ideas. But she was into it now, and her mouth was on autopilot.

“Well, if you change your mind, we’ll save you a seat,” she said and walked off, feeling Emily’s eyes in her back.

In the cafeteria Tara watched Emily try to sit with the sixth graders. But it was obvious, they didn’t really want her. She was a fifth grader. After two bites of her

sandwich, Emily got up, snatched up the pieces of her lunch, and came over and plopped down in the seat Tara saved.

Emily picked up Tara's snack bag with two fingers and a sickened look on her face. "What is *this*?"

She doesn't even say 'thanks for asking me to sit with you.' Fine, whatever, Tara thought.

"It's carrots," she said.

"Carrots!" Emily dropped them. "Ew!"

"They're healthy," Tara mumbled, her face on fire.

"Yeah? Problem is...they don't taste good." Emily took out a bag of Fritos out of her lunch and dropped them in front of Tara. Tara smiled pretty big. Fritos were her favorite, and her mom bought junk food twice a year if she was lucky.

"But I don't have anything to swap you," Tara said.

Emily pulled out a second bag and dropped them in front of herself dramatically. "I always carry a spare for people who secretly don't enjoy rabbit food. And what's *this*?" She picked up Tara's friend's raisins. "Yummy. Chocolate covered ants." She reached in her bag and tossed a small bag of M&Ms at the friend.

Tara's girlfriends giggled. So did Tara. Having Emily in class could wind up being fun.

INTRO ACTIVITY, YOUNGER CHILDREN: HEART OF A KING

Today, we'll be talking about how King David, before he was king, wept when King Saul died. He was sad about it, even though King Saul had been very mean to him for years. How did David manage to love someone who was mean to him? With God, all things are possible. Even though we're all different, God can make all our hearts loving. So we're going to color some hearts while we're waiting. See how many hearts you can fit on one sheet of coloring paper and how many colors you can use to color them in:



Give your students half a sheet of construction paper since they will only have about five to 10 minutes, and tell them to keep count of their colors and hearts!

INTRO ACTIVITY, OLDER CHILDREN: THE PERFECT REPLY

Let your students use your screen to see the following list and answer this question:

If someone came up to you in school and said any of the following things, write down, what would you say back? Write down what you'd say. Think of the first thing that comes to your head. (No bad words!)

“I hate your jacket. That color is gross.”

“Wow, you’re a slob. Look how messy your desk is.”

“Look how big your feet are. What size shoe do you wear, like, nineteen?”

“Do you have to bring tuna for lunch? Go sit somewhere else, you’re bombing me out.”

“How could you get a D on that easy test? Are you stupid or something?”

ACTIVITY, YOUNGER CHILDREN: PLAY DOUGH SMILES

One great thing about always trying to make a kind remark is that it makes your heart happy. It makes your heart smile. Let’s make your parents smile! Your parents probably have several imprints of your hands. Let’s give them one of your smile!

Have all children wash their hands. Give each child a fist-sized glob of homemade white play dough (surf online to the easy homemade recipe on many sites). Have them knead the play dough until it is soft.

Then they should dry their teeth and lips with the paper towel. They should press the play dough to their own mouths while smiling as wide as they can. The impression of their smile will come off in the play dough.

Don’t press, or it will destroy the smile shape! Color in the lips with pink, red, orange, or flesh markers and mount on cardboard with craft glue. Add [NAME’S] SMILE and the date.

They can color in their lips pink or ruby red. Allow to dry.

ACTIVITY, OLDER CHILDREN: LOVING IN TOUGH SITUATIONS

First, have students read the “kind” or “nice” answers they thought of in the Intro Activity. Because they probably struggled, move on to some of the designed ones below:

It’s very hard to respond nicely to a mean comment. King David loved so deeply that he could do it, and we should always try. On my screen are the statements you played around with before the lesson, along with a few others. I’m going to recite some loving

answers. Read the loving reply on the right and match it up with the mean statement on the left.

1. "I hate your jacket. That color is gross."
 2. "Wow, you're a slob. Look how messy your desk is."
 3. "Look how big your feet are. What size shoe do you wear, like, nineteen?"
 4. "Do you have to bring tuna for lunch? Go sit somewhere else, you're bombing me out."
 5. "How could you get a D on that test? It was so easy!"
 6. "Your house is always so messy. Why don't you clean it up?"
 7. "Ew! You have food in your teeth!"
 8. "If you didn't eat so much junk food, you wouldn't be the size you are!"
 9. "I can't stand your sister. She's always running her big mouth."
-
1. "I know. But my parents were both raised to eat this way, and I'm stuck with it. Just be glad your family eats healthy."
 2. "I know. It's awful. I just hope they don't keep growing."
 3. "I wish I was neat like you. I'm always looking at your desk and wishing it was mine."
 4. "I'm sorry! I didn't know you hate tuna. I'll go sit beside Terry."
 5. "Wow, thanks for telling me!"
 6. "She's loud, but she lets me borrow all her stuff and never complains. She's got a big heart underneath it all."
 7. "Well, that's just because you're really smart."
 8. "Yeah, I really don't like the color either. I'm hoping to get a new one for Christmas."
 9. "My mom and dad are both working two jobs right now, so we had to decide that we don't mind the mess so much. But I wish my house was neat like yours."

GAME, YOUNGER CHILDREN: KINDNESS MESSAGES

One way to show we love is by doing something kind for another person. We can make each other feel very good is by massaging each other's hands.

Have children form pairs and sit across from each other at the table. One partner should open his hands very wide and put them face up on the table. The other person should run his index finger from the center of his partner's palm all the way down each finger very slowly, then up his wrist. Then switch, the receiver being the giver.

This next time, have one partner run his finger very slowly around the outline of his partner's hand, come across the person's wrist and go around again. He should repeat that on his partner's other hand. Then switch, the receiver being the giver.

Finally, they can both rub hand lotion into each other's hands.

If you have time left, have one partner form alphabet letters in the center of his partner's palm. Have him guess which letters they were. Then switch, the receiver being the giver.

It sure feels good to have someone be nice to you, doesn't it? And it sure feels better to be nice than to be mean, doesn't it? Now that we're so relaxed, let's try to picture this week coming up... and we don't say one single mean thing! It's a goal to shoot for.

GAME, OLDER CHILDREN: KING DAVID'S HEART

God called King David "a man after his own heart," meaning God loved how David could manage to love his enemies. Let's play a game where we try to keep King David's heart alive and well.

Have children form two teams. Each child should have a rolled-up piece of construction paper to use as a bat. Using a blown-up red balloon, play a game sort of like volleyball only instead of a net, use a piece of masking tape that runs across the floor.

The children may only use their "bats" to send the balloon from their team to the other team. Each team can take three swings at the balloon before it has to go to the other side. When a team lets King David's heart touch the ground, the other team gets the point.

(Suggestion: Have several balloons in case one gets stabbed.)

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, you said King David was a man after your own heart. We want to be kids after your heart, too. Please give us the strength to be kind to people, especially those who have not been so kind to us.

Amen.

DAVID IS GENEROUS

Once David was King, he didn't lord it over people that he had power and fame and extremely expensive belongings. He looked around for people that he could be nice to. He found one of Jonathan's sons who was crippled in both feet. He gave him all that Jonathan and his father, King Saul, had once owned. **It is better to give than to receive. David knew that and set an example for us.**

MATERIALS LIST

Lesson

- Coins (younger children) and dollars (older children) cut out in the Intro Activities
- Cupcakes, one for each child

Intro Activity for Younger Children

- Photocopies of coin sheet—one for each child (if possible, have the photocopies made on card stock)
- Scissors

Intro activity, older children

- Photocopies of dollar bills sheet—one for each child
- Scissors

Activity, Younger Children

HEADS UP: SOME PRE-CLASS RESEARCH MAY BE REQUIRED—SEE ACITIVITY

- Construction paper for drawing, one sheet for each child
- Markers and crayons

Activity, Older Children

HEADS UP: SOME PRE-CLASS RESEARCH MAY BE REQUIRED—SEE ACTIVITY

- Laptop, if possible. If not, Internet printout with pictures of someone in the news who would enjoy cards of encouragement (see suggestions in activity)
- Large mailing envelope addressed to the recipient of the cards
- Construction paper for card making, one sheet for each child
- Markers and crayons

Game, Younger Children

- Masking tape
- Coins for the Intro Activity and Lesson

Game, Older Children

- Masking tape
- Dollars from the Intro Activity and Lesson

BIBLE READING: 2 SAMUEL 9

David Gives Back

¹ David asked, "Is there anyone still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show kindness for Jonathan's sake?"

² Now there was a servant of Saul's household named Ziba. They called him to appear before David, and the king said to him, "Are you Ziba?"

"Your servant," he replied.

³ The king asked, "Is there no one still left of the house of Saul to whom I can show God's kindness?"

Ziba answered the king, "There is still a son of Jonathan; he is crippled in both feet."

⁴ "Where is he?" the king asked.

Ziba answered, "He is at the house of Makir in Lo Debar."

⁵ So King David had him brought from Lo Debar, from the house of Makir.

⁶ When Mephibosheth (Muh-PHIL-buh-sheth) son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, came to David, he bowed down to pay him honor.

David said, "Mephibosheth!"

"Your servant," he replied.

⁷ "Don't be afraid," David said to him, "for I will surely show you kindness for the sake of your father Jonathan. I will restore to you all the land that belonged to your grandfather Saul, and you will always eat at my table."

⁸ Mephibosheth bowed down and said, "What is your servant, that you should notice a dead dog like me?"

⁹ Then the king summoned Ziba, Saul's servant, and said to him, "I have given your master's grandson everything that belonged to Saul and his family. ¹⁰ You and your sons and your servants are to farm the land for him and bring in the crops, so that your master's grandson may be provided for. And Mephibosheth, grandson of your master, will always eat at my table." (Now Ziba had fifteen sons and twenty servants.)

¹¹ Then Ziba said to the king, "Your servant will do whatever my lord the king commands his servant to do." So Mephibosheth ate at David's table like one of the king's sons.

¹² Mephibosheth had a young son named Mica, and all the members of Ziba's household were servants of Mephibosheth. ¹³ And Mephibosheth lived in Jerusalem, because he always ate at the king's table, and he was crippled in both feet.

LESSON (TEACHER WORDS IN BOLD): DAVID GIVES AWAY SOMETHING LIKE 30 MILLION DOLLARS

We're going to play a game with the money you were using before the lesson. The name of the game is to keep most of your money and to get other people's money. Whoever has the most money at the end of the game wins the prize.

Okay: Pretend the person to your left has a terrible illness. His family doesn't have health insurance. You really want to help him. He will die without help. However, the name of the game is to have the most money at the end. Let's everyone give to the person on your left what you think it is good. *You are going to put the money on his or her seat, so you can't see how much you just got.* Let 10 seconds pass for thinking it through. **Everybody... "Rise up" and give now!**

Let the children pass to their left what they think is fair for giving, and then sit down again, without looking at their seats.

Okay: Pretend you're walking down the street of a big city, and you see a blind man. The person to your left is now blind. He is holding out his hands and telling you he hasn't eaten in two days. It's freezing cold. Let's everyone give to that blind person on your left what you think is good. Let ten seconds pass for thinking it through. **Everybody... "Rise up" and give now! No looking at what you've got!**

Let the children pass to their left what they think is fair for giving, and sit down again.

Okay: Pretend the person to your left is your best friend. His dad just passed away. And if you don't help out, he and his mom will have to move into a terrible neighborhood. Let's everyone give to that best friend what you think is good. Let ten seconds pass for

thinking it through. **Everybody... "Rise up" and give now! Remember: the name of the game is to have the most money at the end!**

Let the children pass to their left what they think is fair for giving.

Okay. Pretend the person to your left is your mom. She just lost her job and she is crying hysterically. Her car just broke, and in order to get it fixed, she has to use every dime she saved for Christmas presents, a Christmas tree, and Christmas dinner. Let ten seconds pass for thinking it through. ... **"Rise up" and give now what might help your family have a Christmas! Remember: the name of the game is to have the most money at the end!**

Let the children pass to their left what they think is best for giving.

Okay. Pretend the person to your left is the head of the Coast Guard. A giant tidal wave just struck and carried 150,000 New Yorkers out to sea. Moms, children, dads, and grandparents are five miles out in the ocean wailing and waiting to be rescued. Some can't swim. There is a huge shortage of money in the Coast Guard because nobody expected a thing like this to happen. They must get ships out to sea quickly, and the whole effort will cost a fortune. The government is slow, but they need money fast. How much would you give to save 150,000 people? Let ten seconds pass for thinking it through. ... **"Rise up" and give now! Remember: the name of the game is to have the most money at the end. Do NOT look at your seat!**

Let the children pass to the left what they think is best for giving. If someone says she's out of money, do NOT let her use some of her stash she's been getting from the person on her right.

Okay. Last question. Pretend the person to your left is the head of a huge humane society. He or she has saved over a thousand animals from abuse, starvation, and dogfights. But the economy is bad. He's almost out of food, and nobody has been giving. If he doesn't come up with twenty thousand dollars fast, all these animals he saved will begin to starve. How much would you give to save a thousand animals? ... "Rise up" and give now! Remember: the name of the game is to have the most money at the end!

Let the children pass to the left what they think is best for giving.

Everyone count the money left in your hand. Let everyone go around and say how much he has in his hand.

Now bring out what is on your seat. Count that. Let everyone count.

If you have a lot of money, that means you had a very generous neighbor. Some of you had very generous neighbors, didn't you? Yes.

But what did I say the name of the game was? To have the most money at the end of the game.

And what does that mean if you were very generous in your giving? It means you risked losing the game. You had to hope for a very generous neighbor if you wanted to be generous.

It seems I've been tricking you a little, doesn't it? First I read to you about King David, who gave away what would today be the equivalent of around 30 million dollars to King Saul's crippled grandson. It seemed we were going to learn about generosity. Then, I introduced a game and the rules implied that the way to win was to *hold on* to your money. Is it confusing? Yes.

There are two games going on in this world we live in. One tells us we ought to be rich. The rich have more fun. The rich go to more great places. They can buy more stuff, more toys and better clothes. They look more important. They enjoy more power.

Then, there's the other game—God's game. God knows we are on this earth for a very short time—compared to how long we will be in heaven. He wants us to make this life count. *David owned a huge kingdom. He gave a huge chunk of it away, knowing that his generosity to a crippled man would make him richer in his heart than keeping it all to himself.*

There are many rich kings in history. Now their lives, even their stories, are in the dust. We know of King David for one reason only—his heart of gold. He could have kept it all to himself for the 40 years he reigned as king. Or he could give much away and be known for more than 3,000 years.

God wants us to look back on our lives when we turn eighty, and look at wonderful years of having given things away. When we go to heaven, he wants us we leave our world a better place and enjoy rewards that don't ever go away.

Who has the most money in their hands? (Hopefully!) the person will confess.

I said you would win the game. You do. You get to take all the money—everybody's. Everybody hand all of it over! Congratulations! There's nothing wrong with being rich in this life.

But here's the problem: That's fake money. You can't really buy anything with it. And God knows that you can't buy anything really spiritual and lasting even with real money. There's only one way to enrich your life in heaven, and that's by becoming a friend of

Jesus. Your money will pass away, or as many wise men have said: YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU.

Address the student who won: **How would you like to trade that money in for something that's real? And really yummy?** Trade the money for the cupcakes, and let that person pass them out.

INTRO ACTIVITY, YOUNGER CHILDREN: MONEY LOTS OF MONEY

David was a very, very rich king. He also gave lots and lots away. During the lesson we're going to have to make choices with our money, so let's create our own little banks.

Help children get a Monopoly bank together as follows:

- 2 \$500 bills
- 5 \$100 bills
- 2 \$50 bills
- 6 \$20 bills
- 5 \$10 bills
- 5 \$5 bills
- 5 \$1 bills

If your students can read, let them see the list on your screen and get their own bank together. If you are using play money from another game, let them get a different banking derivative based on that currency.

INTRO ACTIVITY, OLDER CHILDREN: I'M RICH, I'M RICH!

Today, we're going to talk about King David, how much net worth he had, and how he chose to spend his money. We'll have to make some tough choices, but for now, let's get our bank together.

Help children get a Monopoly bank together as follows:

- 2 \$500 bills
- 5 \$100 bills
- 2 \$50 bills

- 6 \$20 bills
- 5 \$10 bills
- 5 \$5 bills
- 5 \$1 bills

If your students are unfamiliar with Monopoly, let them see the list on your screen and get their own bank together. If you only have a few students, let them double up and make up 2 or 3 banks for themselves. Have them divide up evenly what remains so that all money is being used

If you are using play money from another game, let them get a different banking derivative based on that currency.

ACTIVITY, YOUNGER CHILDREN: GET WELL CARDS

As children, we don't often have money to work with, but we can still give with our hearts. We can color pictures for people who are sick and aren't getting enough visitors.

Have the children make get well pictures for someone in your church who is ill. Have them include that person's name and draw a picture of themselves with a message that they devise. Help them with the writing

Did you know that it is a proven fact that people who get cards and letters and support from others have a greater chance of recovery? What you did this morning will make Mr(s). [NAME] feel very much better!

ACTIVITY, OLDER CHILDREN: CARING ABOUT OTHERS

As children, you don't often have money to work with, but we can still give with our hearts. We can make cards that would cheer someone up.

This activity provides an opportunity for children to become socially aware. Earlier in the week, read online news and find someone who might be comforted by letters of encouragement, even if they are far away. If you're stuck, use the President of the United

States. Have kids write to the White House, and tell the President they are praying for him and his decisions with either the war or educational funding or something else.

An example would be something like this: It was recently on the news that a Chicago mother lost her only child in a school beating. He was from a bad neighborhood, but was an honor student, so this mother was despondent. Your Sunday school kids can write letters to someone like this who would be very encouraged to know a whole Sunday school class was thinking of her. If you use someone like that, you can address letters to the media of their hometown which is available online.

Either tell the kids the story, or show them a YouTube video of the incident on your laptop if it isn't too violent or graphic.

Easier Suggestion: Find someone on the prayer list of your church who may be housebound or staying in the hospital due to illness. Have the kids write to that person.

For the cards:

Suggest that kids should draw a picture of angels surrounding the person and say something like, "Dear Ms./Mr.[Name]: I am praying for you, and I am sure the angels are over you," and sign their names.

Collect the cards at the end, put them in a big envelope to mail. Remind the children to pray for that person during the week.

GAME, YOUNGER CHILDREN: GIVE THE MONEY

In our lesson today, the name of the game was having the most money! But I was fooling you a little bit. This time, the game is to give the most money away!

Give every child back their coins. For each child, that's 8 little coins, 5 medium coins, and 8 big coins.

Give each child a sandwich bag. Go around, and with a long piece of masking tape, tape the sandwich bag behind them, around their waists as follows:

Open the sandwich bag, so the flap is standing up.

Rip off a piece of masking tape around three feet long

Have the child face away from you with arms raised.

Run the piece of tape around the front so that the halfway point is at the child's belly button

Press down and around.

When you get to the back, stick the flap of the sandwich bag under the tape

Then let the tape overlap so it won't come off.

Each child should have a "pouch" behind him.

Goal of the game: Chase around behind people and stick your coins in their bag without them feeling it. The person who ends up with *the least amount of money* after five minutes of play wins.

Rules:

Carry your own coins in your hand. You can only put one coin at a time in somebody else's pouch.

No holding tightly to pouches, as they can rip!

If you feel someone touching your pouch you can't spin away, as pouches can tear. You have to stay focused on giving your coins away.

To name a winner, simply count the number of coins in each pouch and not amounts, unless you have enough coins to give everyone the same derivative.

Let's all remember how GOOD it felt to give away money this week!

GAME, OLDER CHILDREN: GET RID OF THAT MONEY!

In our lesson today, the name of the game was keeping your money! But I was fooling you a little bit. This time, the game really is to *give away* the most money!

Let each child take one of each type of bill. That's six bills each.

Give each child an empty 8-ounce can, (from something like pears or tomato sauce). Tape it to their backs as follows:

Have a child get down on all fours. Stick the can straight up so the opening faces the ceiling and the bottom rests on the kid's back.

Take a long piece of masking tape and run it all the way around the child and the can, like a belt, only the tape goes across the mouth of the can, too. Don't entirely close off the mouth of the can with the tape. Tape tight, like a tight belt, so it won't fall off!

Divide the room into two groups.

Group One should take its money in hand in the play area.

Group Two should leave its money on the table.

Say, "Go!"

Group Two has to get down on all fours and try to keep away from members of Group One.

Group One should chase after members of Group Two and try to stuff their dollars in the cans taped to the backs of Group Two.

When everyone is rid of their money, the round stops.

Group Two may remove the cans and put them on the table—with the money in them.

Then, the groups switch. Group One gets down on hands and knees, and Group Two tries to get rid its dollars by putting them in the cans of Group One, down on all fours.

The person with the least amount of money wins.

And let's remember today how GOOD it can feel to give away money!!

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, thank you for examples like King David, who got so much joy out of doing good and providing for those less fortunate. Help us to develop a heart like King David's.

Amen.

DAVID DANCES FOR THE ARK

King David was not embarrassed by his faith. When he brought the Ark of the Covenant to Zion, he danced in the streets. How often are children filled with joy about a good grade on a test or a school project only to be made fun of or called a geek by friends? After Sunday school, we take our pride in God outside of church. **How do we show pride in God and our faith, when others might laugh? Psalm 25:1-2 tells us: “To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; in you I trust, O my God, Do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.”**

MATERIALS LIST

Lesson

- Dollar-store noisemakers: Kazoos, party horns—one for each child
- Bongos or coffee-can drums

Intro Activity for Younger Children

- Coloring paper; one sheet for each child
- Markers and crayons

Intro Activity, Older Children

- Scenario (see Intro Activity) several copies, so children can read it as they arrive.

Activity, Younger Children

- Noisemakers from intro activity
- At least two jump ropes

Activity, Older Children

- No materials needed

Game, Younger Children

- Bouncy ball
- Sticky note

Game, Older Children

- At least four bath towels (if you have enough for the whole class, that means they can all play the game at once)

BIBLE READING/STORY: 2 SAMUEL 6

The Ark Brought to Jerusalem

¹ David again brought together out of Israel chosen men, thirty thousand in all. ² He and all his men set out from Baalah of Judah to bring up from there the ark of God. ³ They set the ark of God on a new cart and brought it from the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, sons of Abinadab, were guiding the new cart ⁴ with the ark of God on it, and Ahio was walking in front of it. ⁵ David and the whole house of Israel were celebrating with all their might before the LORD, with songs and with harps, lyres, tambourines, sistrums and cymbals.

⁶ When they came to the floor of Nacon, Uzzah reached out and took hold of the ark of God, because the oxen stumbled. ⁷ The LORD's anger burned against Uzzah because of his irreverent act; therefore God struck him down and he died there beside the ark of God.

⁹ David was afraid of the LORD that day and said, "How can the ark of the LORD ever come to me?" ¹⁰ He was not willing to take the ark of the LORD to be with him in the City of David. Instead, he took it aside to the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite. ¹¹ The ark of the LORD remained in the house of Obed-Edom for three months, and the LORD blessed him and his entire household.

¹² Now King David was told, "The LORD has blessed the household of Obed-Edom and everything he has, because of the ark of God." So David went down and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-Edom to the City of David with rejoicing. ¹³ When those who were carrying the ark of the LORD had taken six steps, he sacrificed a bull and a fattened calf. ¹⁴ David, wearing a linen ephod, danced before the LORD with all his might, ¹⁵ while he and the entire house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouts and the sound of trumpets.

¹⁶ As the ark of the LORD was entering the City of David, Michal daughter of Saul watched from a window. And when she saw King David leaping and dancing before the LORD, she despised him in her heart.

¹⁷ They brought the ark of the LORD and set it in its place inside the tent and David sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings before the LORD. ¹⁸ After he had finished sacrificing the burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD Almighty. ¹⁹ Then he gave a loaf of bread, a cake of dates and a cake of raisins to each person

in the whole crowd of Israelites, both men and women. And all the people went to their homes.

²⁰ When David returned home to bless his household, Michal daughter of Saul came out to meet him and said, "How the king of Israel has distinguished himself today, disrobing in the sight of the slave girls of his servants as any vulgar fellow would!"

²¹ David said to Michal, "It was before the LORD, who chose me rather than your father or anyone from his house when he appointed me ruler over the LORD's people Israel—I will celebrate before the LORD. ²² I will become even more undignified than this, and I will be humiliated in my own eyes. But by these slave girls you spoke of, I will be held in honor."

LESSON (TEACHER WORDS IN BOLD): KING DAVID GIVES JOY TO GOD

Showing faith joyfully inside the walls of Sunday school is easy. Yet messages learned in Sunday school are not often spoken outside of church.

To show his faithfulness and humility, David, King of Israel, danced and with joy for carrying the Ark of the Lord.

Should we, as faithful students, wear a T-shirt with Jesus on the cross to school? That's not necessary, but we should exercise our freedom if we want to. It is better to have Jesus in your heart than on your shirt, but you should enthusiastically share your family's tradition in our faith when asked.

How do you show your faith outside of church?

Allow them to give some ideas. Prompts:

Don't be afraid to say, "Merry Christmas" in school or out.

Don't be embarrassed to say grace if your family is eating out.

If someone asks about your family's faith, *tell them enthusiastically!*

If you have a favorite t-shirt or piece of jewelry bearing a dove, cross, or other Christian symbol, enjoy your liberty! Wear it where dress code allows!

If someone asks where you're going on Sunday, say, "Sunday School! Wanna come?"

David had 30,000 followers. They all helped celebrate the arrival of the Ark into the City of David. Everyone was joyful. They sang loudly and danced and danced and danced!

Pass out kazoos, coffee-can drums and other noisemakers to children. Put on your playlist Praise and Worship music.

Let's dance for the Lord and for all we're thankful for! Everyone to the music!

Dance gleefully yourself, so they will get the idea. As older children may balk at this, do motions they can follow. Tell them to get up, get their blood moving. If you have dancers in your class, let them design their own "glory dance" and show everyone.

I may look silly...but I feel great! Let's have a talent show! The loudest, most obnoxiously joyful person gets a prize.

Give each child half a minute to stand up and show off a homemade dance. Applaud and swing noisemakers.

Say to each: **David was thankful that the great Ark of the Covenant had finally come home to his city! What are you thankful for?**

Let the students answer.

Let the students vote on their David. You be Michal. Bring David to the front of the room. Prompt David to respond to Michal every time with "Am I supposed to care???" Play music. David should skip around the group in a circle and dance totally.

"Um, King David! Excuse me, but...you look totally dumb." David just danced bigger and said...

"Am I supposed to care???"

"Um, King David. You're making a huge embarrassment of yourself over this... religion thing!" David just danced bigger and said...

"Am I supposed to care???"

"Um, excuse me!! You've got sweat balls rolling down your face! And that girl six rows into the crowd is totally laughing at you!" David danced even bigger! And said...

"Am I supposed to care???"

"Wow. That David, he doesn't care about anything, except that he loves the Lord a lot. Maybe I'm the one who should be embarrassed..."

Cut music.

1 Corinthians says that our faith will look “foolish” to some who don’t believe or only believe half-heartedly. Obviously, in David’s day, this was equally true. Some things never change. What did David focus on to get past his own peer pressure?

His focus was on the Lord, not what people thought of him.

Was David fearful of the Lord? Yes, when Uzzah touched the Ark and God killed him, David was afraid and didn’t feel worthy of the Ark.

How did David get through his fear? David took the Ark to a friend’s house, instead of the City of David. When after three months, he saw that God blessed his friend and his friend’s family, he lost his fear.

Lean into the group as if you’re telling them a big secret.

The Ark of the Covenant has disappeared. We no longer know where it is. Some say it’s buried in a cave in Egypt. Some say it was carried off to Africa in some war against Israel. Some say it’s in heaven with God.

We no longer have the Ark to celebrate. But we have David’s dance in our hearts always. We have his joy. We have his ability to be happy about our faith—in public, in private, whenever we are asked, whenever we feel called to tell others.

Exchange noisemakers for cookies. While eating, have children tell something good God did for them that week.

INTRO ACTIVITY, YOUNGER CHILDREN: SHOWING OUR JOY FOR THE LORD

Today we’re going to learn how joyful King David was when the Ark of the Covenant came home to his city. Draw a picture showing something you are joyful about. It could be your home, your dog, a river, an ocean, a tree, or a happy face.

Before the lesson, talk about the pictures; let each child explain his.

INTRO ACTIVITY, OLDER CHILDREN: TOO COOL?

Leave the following story on your screen so that kids can review it. Tell them to pick the option they would choose and to write down why:

A student is having a birthday party next week. He gets teased in class, but inside, you think he is funny. One of your friends made fun of him when he sang during a play you went to last year. He missed some high notes really bad, and you laughed when all your friends did.

This kid helped you with a difficult homework problem recently in class. You thanked him, but when he asked you to sit with him at lunch, you went to your friends' table instead. He said "hi" to you in the hall the next couple of days, but after you just nodded your head and half smiled a few times, and he stopped saying "hi." It is four weeks after the day when he helped you with your homework and you did not sit with him at lunch.

You get an invitation to his party. How would you feel/what would you do? Pick any below and/or write your own:

- Be glad he asked and be excited to go.
- Don't respond and don't go.
- Wait to see what your friends are doing and how they feel.
- Sometime before the party, go up to him and try to explain why you've been "cold" lately.
- Sleep over at a friend's house and tell him you have something else to go to.
- Go to the party but leave after a half-hour.
- Send a "no" response.
- Your Own:

Have them discuss the situation among themselves until the lesson is ready to start. Impress upon them that there is no perfect answer above; however, some options are more likely to show our Christian virtue. Ask what is more important: saving face by ignoring someone considered a bit dorky, or making him feel liked and not caring how other classmates feel about you?

ACTIVITY, YOUNGER CHILDREN: JUMPING FOR JOY

Add two or three jump ropes to the drums and noisemakers used in the Lesson. Let each student take turns using them at the front of the room to the following rhyme:

Slow or “two-step” jumping:

Joyful, joyful, joyful me!

I’m as happy as can be!

I thank God with all my might,

Morning, afternoon and night

For....

_____! (fill in the blank: my dog, my family, my house, my friends)

Fast or “one-step” jumping:

One o’clock two o’clock three o’clock four o’clock five o’clock six o’clock seven o’clock eight o’clock nine o’clock ten o’clock eleven o’clock... until missing.

ACTIVITY, OLDER CHILDREN: PRACTICING WHAT TO SAY

By the time you guys get in seventh grade, you’ll feel a lot of pressure to do what we call “conform.” That means “be like everybody else.” But a wise man once said, “The truth was never decided by the popular vote.” Sometimes we have to go against the crowd. That isn’t easy. But it helps to practice in advance. Let’s think of how we will react in any of the following...

Let them take turns reading the scenarios below. Impress upon them that there are no perfect answers, but examples of problems they will surely face):

- **A kid in school comes up to you and makes a laughing comment about your backpack. “Nobody uses a backpack in seventh grade. They’re for babies.” You just bought the backpack, and you kind of like it. Close your eyes, take a deep, slow breath, and imagine yourself responding. What are you doing?**

- **A bunch of kids in your neighborhood are hanging out. One kid says kind of proudly, “My parents are atheists. Believing in God is stupid.” Essentially, he has just called you and your family stupid. Close your eyes, take a deep, slow breath, and imagine yourself responding. What are you doing?**
- **You go to public school. You attend a youth group that meets after school on Wednesdays, which means you need to bring your Bible to school. A kid sees it and says, “What, are you trying to be a saint?” You get a nickname for half the day, “Saint Sarah” (“Saint Sam.”) Close your eyes, take a deep, slow breath, and imagine yourself responding. What are you doing?**

Remember: Nothing has changed much since the days of King David. There were many Michals to deal with back then, and there are many now. King David’s love for God—his love for God in front of others—made him known for 3,000 years. A hundred years from now, who will remember the kids who had big mouths? Who do you want to remember *you*?

GAME, YOUNGER CHILDREN: BOUNCING FOR JOY

King David showed his joy for the Lord by dancing in the streets. Michal thought David was silly and hated him for his activity. In essence, Michal wanted to stop David’s joy.

How many times are we happy about something, and someone wants to take it away from us or stop our joy? It could be a parent, who is doing it for your own safety, but it could also be another kid, who remembers a Sunday-school teacher doing something special for you, and not for him or her.

Take the sticky note and put it on one of the kids. The kid stands in the middle and the other kids stand in a circle around “Joy.” One of the children takes the plastic ball and tries to throw it to another child in the circle, without the child in the middle getting the ball. If the child in the middle gets the ball, the child who threw it goes in the middle and gets the “joy” sticker.

Throwing the ball so the person can’t catch it...This reminds us of when people try to keep joy away from us. But we can “catch” and “keep” our joy if we keep our eyes on it!

Prizes could be given to a winner, or all the children.

GAME, OLDER CHILDREN: WIND FROM OUR SAILS GAME

Give each student a balloon. Have everyone blow theirs up but pinch it; do not tie it. When you say, “Go!” children should go around trying to pull the balloons away from other students without getting their own pulled away.

The last student with a balloon still pinched and blown up wins the round.

Sometimes, we feel pretty good about ourselves. Then someone can come along and “knock the wind out of our sails,” which means put us down. Did you notice how, when you were trying to knock the wind out of somebody else’s balloon, yours became a much easier target?

It’s like that with our joy. We should keep it close and be aware of it. We should try not to put others down. As soon as we do, we can lose our own joy!

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, let us look at people in this world with the same heart and mind that David and Jesus had. Let us be patient with those who are different. And let us not deny the joys that are given to those who believe in you Lord.

Amen.

DAVID IS GREAT AT REPENTING

David made some serious mistakes as King and almost cost him his kingdom. However, he was also one of history's greatest apologizers. His great Psalm 51, "Create in Me a Clean Heart," is a great testament of his ability to want to make all things right again. Children have a great opportunity to learn through King David that mistakes are forgivable. **Children can learn almost subconsciously these days that to apologize is a sign of weakness. However, asking God's forgiveness and the forgiveness of others is a freeing, releasing exercise that brings us great relief from guilt and restores us to wholeness.**

MATERIALS LIST

Lesson

- See intro activity

Intro Activity for Younger Children

- Heavy book for each student
- 6-foot piece of twine or string for each student

Intro Activity, Older Children

- Heavy book for each student
- 6-foot piece of twine or string for each student

Activity, Younger Children

- Copies of boat shapes contained in lesson for each student
- Construction paper
- Markers
- Glitter glue
- Glue sticks

Activity, Older Children

- Prepare blank pieces of paper that say "Getting to do it over again" at the top (one for each student)

Game, All Children

- Nothing Required

BIBLE READING/STORY: PSALM 51

Historical background:

David was generous, loyal, and deeply loving. He was everything from poet to musician to great warrior, which is rare. Most artists aren't very good fighters, and most wrestlers of today can't write poetry. Historically, he was almost one of a kind. But he was not a perfect king. He made some pretty enormous mistakes. One was falling in love with the wife of another man. David tried to cover up the scandal by putting the husband at the front line of the battle, but when the husband died fighting for the kingdom, David suffered the consequences of his actions. It was a scandal that cost him the respect of many people for years to follow and almost cost him his kingdom.

He came to the Lord for help and forgiveness with this prayer.

Psalm 51

(Some large words changed for children's sense)

- ¹ Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion
blot out my wrongdoings.
- ² Wash away all my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin.
- ³ For I know what I did wrong,
and my sin is always before me.
- ⁴ Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are proved right when you speak
and justified when you judge.
- ⁵ Surely I was sinful at birth,
sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

- ⁶ Surely you desire truth in the inner parts;
you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.
- ⁷ Cleanse me with oil, and I will be clean;
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.
- ⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones you have crushed rejoice.
- ⁹ Hide your face from my sins
and blot out all my iniquity.
- ¹⁰ Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
- ¹¹ Do not cast me from your presence
or take your Holy Spirit from me.
- ¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.
- ¹³ Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will turn back to you.
- ¹⁴ Save me from guilt, O God,
the God who saves me,
and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.
- ¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.
- ¹⁶ You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;
you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.
- ¹⁷ The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
a broken and sorry heart,
O God, you will not despise.
- ¹⁸ In your good pleasure make Zion prosper;
build up the walls of Jerusalem.

INTRO ACTIVITY, YOUNGER CHILDREN: PRETEND ANCHORS

We're going to pretend today we're going far out to sea. We need to make a pretend anchor. We'll make them out of these books and this twine. You can get started now!

Bring out very heavy books, such as coffee-table books, or you can borrow some pretty sizeable books from your pastor's office. Give one to each child. Take one for yourself.

Give a six-foot piece of string to each child and keep one for yourself. As each child arrives, show him how to tie up the book in a post-office tie that crosses underneath, and then comes around to the top again, so that it is securing all four sides. Tie them off at the top using a "finger knot," where somebody puts their finger on the first knot, enabling them to tie the second, more binding knot.

Each child should have about three feet of string left, counting both ends. Show them how to tie a knot at the very ends of each piece of string. A box knot will hold best: You simply loop left-over-right for the first knot, then right-over-left for the second knot.

The strings should be long enough between the book and the top knot so they can slip their heads through, though don't tell them to "be a ship and wear the anchor" until the lesson.

INTRO ACTIVITY, OLDER CHILDREN: A WEIGHT AROUND OUR NECKS

Today we'll be talking about something we did this week that we're not proud of, and how to get rid of feelings of guilt or shame or embarrassment. We're going to create a "weight around our necks." You can start now.

Bring out very heavy books, such as coffee-table books, or you can borrow some pretty sizeable books from your pastor's office. Give one to each child. Take one for yourself.

Give a six-foot piece of string to each child and keep one for yourself. As each child arrives, show him how to tie up the book in a post-office tie that crosses underneath, and then comes around to the top again, so that it is securing all four sides. Tie them off at the top using a

“finger knot,” where somebody puts their finger on the first knot, enabling them to tie the second, more binding knot.

Each child should have about three feet of string left, counting both ends. Show them how to tie a knot at the very ends of each piece of string. A box knot will hold best: You simply loop left-over-right for the first knot, then right-over-left for the second knot.

The strings should be long enough between the book and the top knot so they can slip their heads through, but don't tell them to “wear” that weight until lesson.

LESSON (TEACHER WORDS IN BOLD): DAVID TEACHES US ABOUT APOLOGIZING

Go and get the book you tied with the string for yourself (see intro activity). “Accidentally” trip over somebody's foot.

“Oops! I'm sorry [student]! Did I hurt you?”

Coming back, trip over somebody else.

“[Student]! I'm so sorry! I'm having a klutzy day! Are you all right?”

Accidentally drop the book

“I apologize if that scared everyone. Forgive me?”

Yes.

What did I just do three times in less than a minute? You apologized.

Some people—especially children—don't like to apologize. They feel weak or embarrassed or like somebody could take advantage of them if they say “I'm sorry.”

Do I look any worse for having said “I'm sorry” three times? No.

I actually feel a lot better. It's kind of awful to think that a friend you love might be mad at you. Saying “I'm sorry” when you hurt somebody actually keeps friends *from* being mad at you.

Sometimes it's hard to say “I'm sorry” to God. We feel that he is very huge and very perfect, and maybe he'll get annoyed when we did something wrong, so we should hide from him.

Problem: God knows everything. You can't hide from him. If you apologize to him for something you did wrong, he forgives you right away. The biggest damage we do is when we don't apologize.

It's sort of like these very heavy books.

Feel how heavy yours is. Let them each pick the book up and try to lift it.

Let's try a trick with these books. Let's try to "wear" them, like they're an anchor, and we're the ship. Put your own string around your neck and stand up, holding onto the book so it won't pull your neck. Tell them to do the same.

Now we are all "wearing" our heavy books! How does that feel? Uncomfortable. Not every good.

Well! Why don't we go play ship-at-sea? Let's all take a walk around the room, wearing our beautiful anchors! Get up and lead the kids around. Sway from side to side, like a ship. They should be complaining that it feels awkward, they can't really do anything fun, or even that the string feels bad against their necks and they have to hold the book with their hands, too.

Sit them back down, but they should keep wearing the book.

This heavy book is like the mistakes we make—whether we hurt God or somebody else. It's like a huge weight around our necks. It prevents us from having a lot of fun. It makes us act awkward, because we feel guilty.

The Bible promises that God is very quick to take away that sin, that heavy weight. We simply have to feel sorry and ask him to take it from us. It's like this:

Honestly think of something you did already today or the day before that you would like forgiveness for. Shut your eyes and say it, something like the following example.

"Lord, yesterday I got scared because my daughter got a bad grade. But instead of admitting I was scared for her future, I yelled at all three of my children. I'm sorry I yelled, Lord. I know that only made my daughter feel worse. Please take that sin away from me. Amen."

Take the book off your neck, slowly, and heave a huge sigh of relief. **Wow, that feels better.**

Let's go around the table. We've all done something this week. Let's think of something we did that way maybe kind of horrible, and we'd like to get the weight of it off our necks.

Let kids think of things they did that they're not proud of. One confession should bolster the next person's. If by chance, you get an utterly silent group, tell another time that you fell short.

Let's all get rid of this weight. Let's ask God to come and take it. Bow our heads.

Father, we are sorry. We don't like to hurt our friends and even more so, we don't like to hurt you. Hear us as we silently ask you to come take this burden from us... Make us clean. If you can clean up after King David and that atrocious thing he did in loving another man's wife, then surely, you can clean up after us, too.

Moment of silence, so everyone can lay their load on the Lord.

Amen.

Now everyone imagine your Heavenly Father reaching down. Imagine that he is pulling that string from around your neck...have everyone pull the strings off their neck...and carry off that nasty thing we did.

Now open your eyes. That sin is *gone*. As the famous evangelist Corrie ten Boom used to say, "God takes your sin, throws it into the ocean, and puts up a sign: No Fishing Allowed."

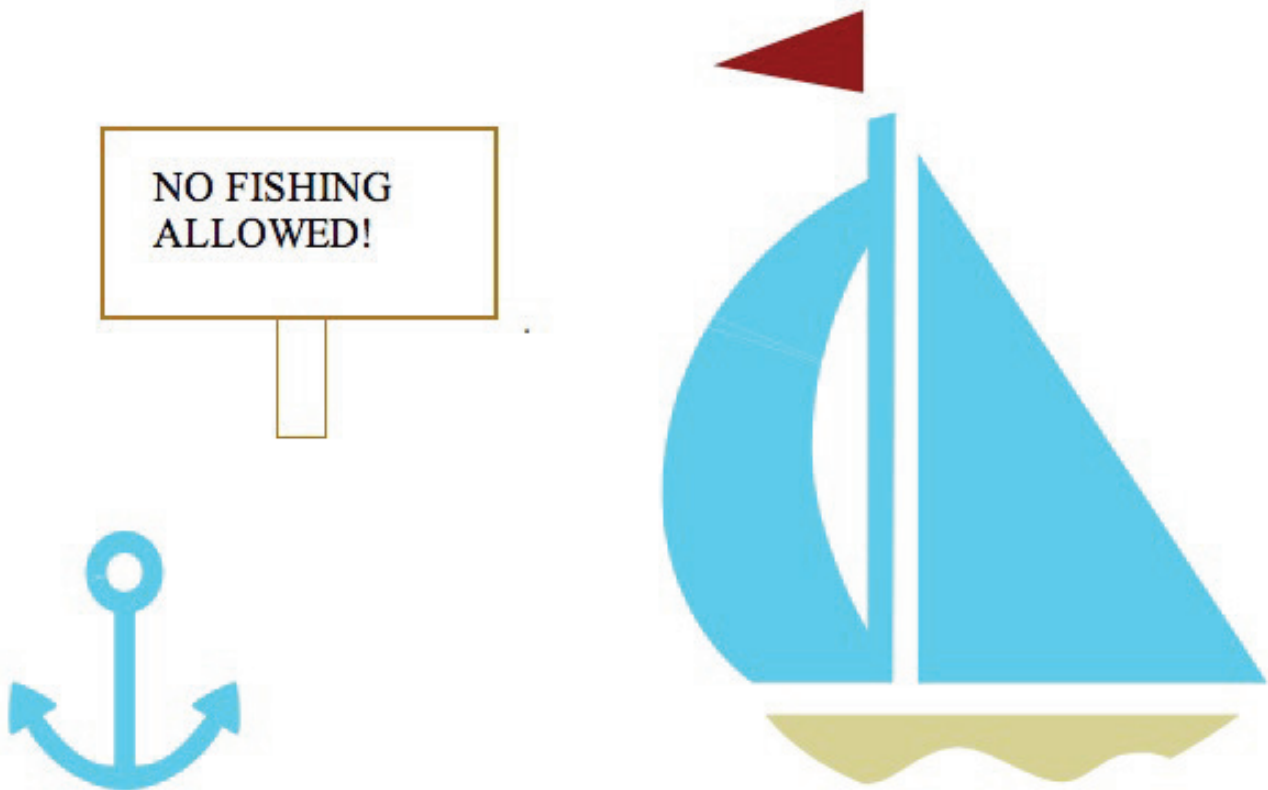
It's like you're a ship, and now your anchor has been lifted. Now you can roam free in the wind! God will make you clean and comfy and will not remember that sin ever, ever again! How cool is that?

You can *always* rely on God to forgive you. That's one of the reasons why he's the best friend you'll ever have. Getting people to apologize to each other?? Sometimes that is a more difficult matter, though not always! We'll work on that in the activity!

ACTIVITY, YOUNGER CHILDREN: SHIPS AT SEA

Apologizing to God is like being a ship at sea without that heavy anchor! You can go and go in the breeze. Let's make a ship to show it!

Put up on your screen the sailboat, anchor, and sign shapes so the children can see them. Have them make the "sea" on construction paper with blue markers and glitter glue. Then have them try to copy the shapes. The sailboat should go above the water, anchor at the bottom of the water, and the sign at the top of the water!



ACTIVITY, OLDER CHILDREN: GETTING FORGIVENESS FROM OTHERS

One of the reasons God is our best friend is that he always forgives right away, and he is very gracious about it. We *know* this. But we don't always know how our friends are going to react if we apologize.

Let's close our eyes. I want you to pretend something. Let them close their eyes.

Your name is Marley. Iesha is your good friend. Yesterday, you were supposed to go over to her house. You forgot. You went to a different friend's house after school. Today, you see her across the school yard. She's scowling...right at you!

"Oh, wow!" you think. "I forgot! Now, she's mad at me. What do I do? If I go up to her...maybe she'll yell in my face! Do I pretend like I still forgot? Do I make up

something? What do I do??” You’re actually disappointed, because Iesha has a dog you love to play with, and your parents won’t let you have one. Her mom also bakes homemade chocolate-chip cookies every time you go over. You just simply forgot.

Now open your eyes. Take a deep breath. Shut them again. Once eyes are shut:

Your name is Iesha this time. Marley is your good friend. Yesterday, she was supposed to come over to your house. You waited and waited, and she never came. You imagine that she got a better invitation. Some kids Marley hangs with have huge houses and trampolines outside. You just have a normal house, and you don’t play much in the yard because your dumb dog poops all over the yard and you’d die of embarrassment if someone stepped in it. And your mom is a problem, too. She “hovers,” always trying to bake cookies and make nice-nice to your friends, while other friend’s moms don’t seem to care, and they are cool and leave everyone alone.

You’re starting to think you simply shouldn’t ask people over anymore. There are too many rich kids in this school. Maybe your house smells like your dog! And maybe you don’t realize because you’re used to it! Maybe your family is a bunch of pigs!

Suddenly...here comes Marley. Uh-oh. What will she say? Will she try to make up something, and I’ll know right away that she went for a rich kid’s trampoline?

“Iesha...oh my gosh! I am so sorry. I totally forgot! I am such a space queen, I can’t believe I did that to you. Can I come over today instead? I really love Boswell and missed playing with him, and I totally missed out on those cookies I never get anywhere else. Forgive? Please?”

How do you feel now????

Will you be the one to apologize next time??

Hand out the papers that say at the top, “Getting to Do It over Again.”

Think of a time you hurt somebody’s feelings and missed out on apologizing and making the other person feel better. Write out now what you *should have* said. It will be good practice for the future.

Let children read theirs aloud if they want to.

GAME, ALL CHILDREN: I'M SORRY! GAME

In our game today, we're going to practice saying the words "I'm sorry!" The more times you say it, the easier it will become!

Have the students form two teams and line up at one end of the room. You go to the other end of the room.

Students will have to race forward, doing the crab walk with the heavy book on top of their stomachs. (In a crab walk, you're facing the ceiling with your hands and feet on the floor.) Students have to crab walk to you. Every time the book falls off, they have to stop and pick it up. *Do not use the strings around the necks this time! The book should lie free.*

When each student reaches you, he says, "I'm sorry!" You take the book, and he runs back freely and tags his classmate.

What happened when you said, "I'm sorry?" You took the weight from us, like God would.

Once you got rid of that heavy weight, what were you able to do? Sail back freely!

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, thank you for examples like King David, who got so much joy out of doing good and providing for those less fortunate. Help us to develop a heart like King David's.

Amen.

DAVID BRIDLES HIS TONGUE

David remains one of the most famous and popular kings in Israel's history. Yet he attested to the fact that his greatest powers came from above and not from himself. He was content to leave things in the Lord's hands when he probably had the power, might, and popularity to kill people who rose up against him. The famous story of Shimei's rant attests to this. **It's easy to return evil for evil. It's hard to turn away, seek no revenge, and put the matter in God's hands. But God does not disappoint. He always rewards us in the long run.**

MATERIALS LIST

Lesson

- Bats on books from Intro Activity
- Index cards with six scriptures written on them:
 1. Job 15:5 Your sin prompts your mouth; you adopt the tongue of liars.
 2. Proverbs 10:19 When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise.
 3. Proverbs 11:12 A man who lacks judgment mocks his neighbor, but a man of understanding holds his tongue.
 4. Proverbs 12:18 Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.
 5. James 1:26 If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless.
 6. 1 Peter 3:10 For, whoever would love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from deceitful speech.

Intro Activity, Younger Children

- Construction paper
- Dark markers
- Discarded paperbacks, one for each child
- Scotch tape
- Scissors

Intro Activity, Older Children

- Construction paper
- Stick glue
- Brown lunch bags, one for each child
- Scissors

Activity, Younger Children

- Construction paper
- Popsicle sticks, one for each child
- Stick glue
- Markers
- Glitter (optional)
- Newspaper (only if using glitter, to catch the glitter)

Activity, Older Children

- Construction paper
- Glow-in-the-dark paint (can be purchased at any craft store)
- Paintbrushes (skinny brush)
- Markers

Game, Younger Children

- Four Sunday school chairs
- Craft table
- Two paperbacks from Intro Activity

Game, Older Children

- Blindfold
- Doves of peace from the activity
- Tape

BIBLE READING / STORY: 2 SAMUEL 16

Historical background:

One of the results of David's sin, having a man killed to marry his wife, was that many people in his kingdom were appalled. They assumed God would never forgive David. Over the years they formed an alliance with David's son Absalom, thinking he would get the throne. They wanted to be on the "popular side," similar to us wanting to be in the "popular crowd." They underestimated God's forgiveness.

As for David, he had watched God seize the kingdom from Saul and give it to him. It's likely that he wondered, with Absalom growing so popular, if God wasn't repeating history and taking the kingdom from another king—this time, himself. He didn't want to fight God over the matter. He took his wives, servants and simply left the kingdom, and six hundred of his dearly beloved followers insisted on leaving, too.

A lot of false assumptions were being made. The people assumed God could never forgive a very huge sin. David assumed God would strike him in the worst of ways, but he had enough humility (humbleness) to leave the matter in God's hands.

2 Samuel 16: Shimei Curses David

⁵ As King David [and his followers] approached Bahurim, a man from the same clan as Saul's family came out from there. His name was Shimei, and he cursed as he came out. ⁶ He pelted David and all the king's officials with stones, though all the troops and the special guard were on David's right and left. ⁷ As he cursed, Shimei said, "Get out, get out, you man of blood, you scoundrel!" ⁸ The LORD has repaid you for all the blood you shed in the household of Saul, in whose place you have reigned. The LORD has handed the kingdom over to your son Absalom. You have come to ruin because you are a man of blood!"

⁹ Then Abishai said to the king, "Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? Let me go over and cut off his head."

¹⁰ But the king said, "What do you and I have in common, you sons of Zeruah? If he is cursing because the LORD said to him, 'Curse David,' who can ask, 'Why do you do this?'"

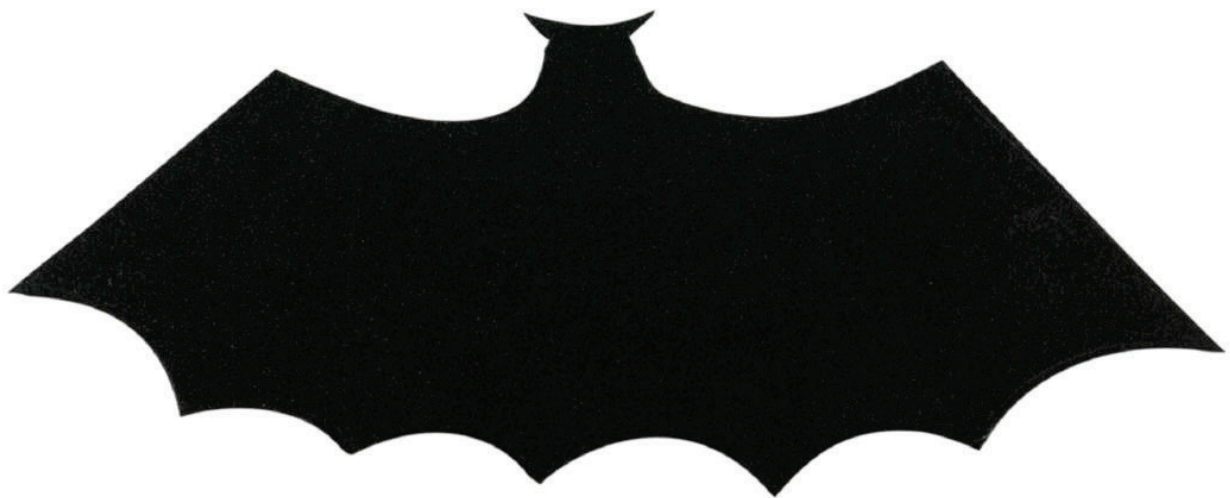
¹¹ David then said to Abishai and all his officials, "My son, who is of my own flesh, is trying to take my life. How much more, then, this Benjamite! Leave him alone; let him curse, for the LORD has told him to. ¹² It may be that the LORD will see my distress and repay me with good for the cursing I am receiving today."

¹³ So David and his men continued along the road while Shimei was going along the hillside opposite him, cursing as he went and throwing stones at him and showering him with dirt. ¹⁴ The king and all the people with him arrived at their destination exhausted. And there he refreshed himself.

INTRO ACTIVITY, YOUNGER CHILDREN: BATS IN OUR FACES

Today we're going to talk about how awful it feels when someone says something mean to us, and we know we're supposed to be kind to almost everyone. The memory of being embarrassed, it's kind of like having a hundred bats in your face. So, we're going to make our own flapping bats.

Have the bat shape below visible on your screen. Have students do their best to create the shape on construction paper and cut it out. Then have them fold the bat in half and tape it to the outside of the book. They can "rattle the bats" by flipping all the pages of the book with one finger.



Warn them *not to close to their eyes and to only flap their bats at themselves and not others!*

INTRO ACTIVITY, OLDER CHILDREN: BATS IN THE ATTIC

Have you heard the expression, “I’ve got bats in the attic?” It means we have a memory that we can’t get rid of—and not a good memory. It’s generally something embarrassing that we wish didn’t happen. We think of it for years. Today we’re going to talk about what to do if we’re embarrassed in public and what it feels like. Generally it feels like bats in our faces. Right now, we’re going to make the bats in our attic.



Have the bat shape visible on your screen, and have students make bunches of them on a brown bag.

They should cut the wings loose by folding the paper in a V around a wing, such as the blue dotted line above, and cutting. They should leave the bodies in place, but flip the wings forward so that the wings will flap.

When they’re done, they should stick their fist in the bag, and it should rattle the wings.

LESSON (TEACHER WORDS IN BOLD): DAVID TEACHES US ABOUT BITING OUR TONGUES

King David was in a real mess, wasn’t he? Yes.

Let’s take a look at our own lives and see what his behavior will reveal to us.

Have you ever been yelled at? Most should say yes. **How did that feel?** Bad.

Have you ever been yelled at in front of your friends? Most should say yes. **How did *that* feel?** Horrible, embarrassing, scary.

How do you think King David felt, this loud former friend of King Saul’s yelling at him in front of *six hundred* friends? Humiliated, horrified.

What did he say in response? He told his warrior Abishai to leave the yeller, Shimei, alone, that maybe God had told him to yell.

Do you think God told Shimei to yell those horrible things? Their instincts will probably tell them to say “no,” but you can explain here more truth.

Someday we’ll study the prophets. Often times, the prophets were led to yell at very horrible kings and rulers. But those kings and rulers had bad hearts and had been acting horribly for years! How is David different from very bad kings?

He made some mistakes, but he was sorry. He didn’t like messing up.

David had 600 really good friends. He was embarrassed in front of them. He basically said, “Maybe if I don’t seek revenge, if I put it in the Lord’s hands, God will take care of it.”

Now, let’s talk about you guys. Have you ever had what they call 45-Minute Delay Syndrome yet?? If they don’t know what that is, explain:

Forty-five-minute Delay Syndrome is when someone says something to you that is very snide or sneering or mean or clever, but in a mean way, and you get all angry inside but you tongue is tied. And...45 minutes later, you think of the perfect thing you *should have* said.

Let kids think of some examples of embarrassments when it came to them later what would have been the perfect response.

Some people go over what they *should have* said in moments like that for years and years. They’re not putting it in the Lord’s hands. Look at some of the things the Bible has to say about the tongue:

Pass out the index cards with the scriptures on them, and either let kids read them or you read them and then let kids hold them.

Job 15:5

Your sin prompts your mouth; you adopt the tongue of the crafty.

Proverbs 10:19

When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise.

Proverbs 11:12

A man who lacks judgment derides his neighbor, but a man of understanding holds his tongue.

Proverbs 12:18

Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

James 1:26

If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless.

1 Peter 3:10

For, whoever would love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from deceitful speech.

Did you ever stop to think maybe it was a good thing that you let that person get the better of you?

People often compare “sins” to heavy weights around our necks. Along with our sins, we can ask God to take our “heavy weights,” which include frustrating memories of when someone else hurt our feelings.

Our frustrating or embarrassing memories don’t necessarily involve guilt, but they’re like a thousand bats. They flap in our faces and make us want to cringe. Everybody get out your “bats,” and let it flap in your face. *Your face only! Not in the eyes of others!*

Let the children take the bat they taped to the book and, using one finger, flip through the pages very quickly and let it rattle in their faces.

Just like we can get rid of our sins by giving them to God, we can give our embarrassments to God. He will bring justice in his own way and his own time.

Let’s all get rid of the bats. Let’s ask God to come and take them. Bow heads.

Father, we feel so embarrassed sometimes, especially when someone says something mean. We don’t like being hurt, and we often want to say something just as hurtful back. Thank you for stopping us. Thank you for taking the burden from us. Thank you that someday...we don’t know when...you will be the one to serve total justice. Hear us as we silently ask you to come take these embarrassing moments from us, and give us peace...

Moment of silence, so everyone can lay their load on the Lord.

Now, everyone rip your bat off the book (older children: crumple up that bag of bats). Put it in the hat. Pass hat around. When it gets back to you squash the hat until everyone hears all the bats being crushed.

Amen.

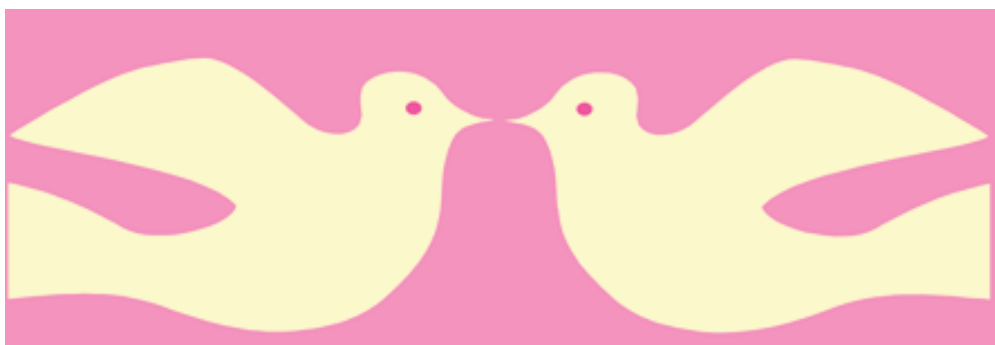
Oh yeah: What happened to David in the end? His son who tried to overtake his kingdom was killed by warriors. He had usurped his dad's authority for nothing, except his own death. All of Absalom's followers went back home and forgot about him ever being king. David was restored to his kingdom. He lived the rest of his life as king over Israel and died peacefully in bed, a very old and wise man.

His son Solomon, the baby he had with the woman he should not have fallen in love with...what do you think happened there? God saw how sorry David was, and he made good come out of bad, like he can always do when we're sorry. Solomon went on to be King of Israel and has been known in western civilization as the wisest man who ever lived.

ACTIVITY, YOUNGER CHILDREN: DOVES IN OUR HEARTS

Now that we've gotten rid of that nasty bat, we're going to replace him with something good. Giving bad memories to God brings us peace. Often in Bible stories when there was peace, or when God wanted to show he was near, people would see a dove. Let's make Doves of Peace to replace those flapping bats!

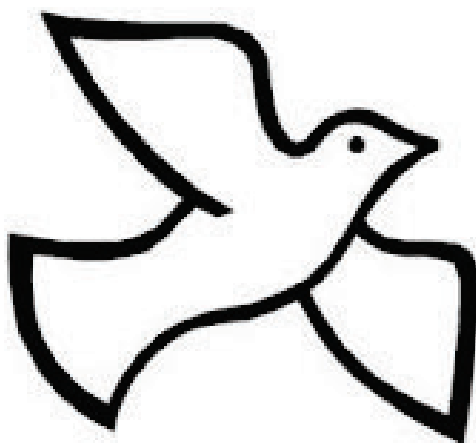
Create a shape like the doves below. One is fairly easy to draw freehand. Draw it on the left side of a piece of paper, then fold the paper in half. When you cut it, you will have the shape you drew, plus its mirror. Use this as a template and trace the shape onto construction paper for your students.



Have students cut them out and paste them side-by-side on a Popsicle stick so that it becomes like one bird. They should apply paste only to the heads and bodies. They can flap it back and forth after the paste dries. On the Popsicle sticks, they can write: I HAVE PEACE, then decorate the dove's wings with glitter or other craft accessories.

ACTIVITY, OLDER CHILDREN: DOVES ON THE CEILING

We've given our bats to Jesus, and now let's replace it with something that will glow in the dark. If you put this on your wall or ceiling when going to sleep at night, it will remind you to give all your humiliating moments to Jesus rather than trying to get even yourself. And you can thank him that he will bring justice in due time. We don't have to worry about that. We are given peace in exchange for humiliation. Peace in our faith is often symbolized by a dove.



Have each student copy the fairly-easy dove shape above onto a piece of black, dark-blue, or dark-green construction paper. Give them glow-in-the-dark paint, which can be purchased in any craft store, and a paintbrush. They should lay thin strokes only across the lines in the dove; don't try to color it all in. They should write at the bottom: I HAVE PEACE, and try to make that glow in the dark as well.

GAME, YOUNGER CHILDREN: DOVE GAME

Now that we've made our peace doves, let's pretend we are doves! We'll have a relay race and spread our wings!

Create a course with four chairs (two for each team), the table, and a couple of books (one for each team) lain on the floor. Students have to run around the first chair, run backwards around the second chair, crawl under the table, and spin a circle while jumping on one foot on top of the paperback. They can then slap the wall and run back to their team. The whole time they are running, they should remember to flap their wings like a dove. The next person repeats.

While we have peace, it doesn't always mean life will be easy. Life is like this relay course. We still can feel confused and like there's an awful lot to do and think about. But Jesus brings the peace that passes understanding when we cast our cares on him!

GAME, OLDER CHILDREN: IN YOUR FACE

Sometimes when people get in our faces and yell, we want to get even so badly that it's hard to hear the voice of the Lord. But he is always calling out to us, to guide us in the right things to do. Let's practice listening through in-your-face comments.

Have the students form pairs. Each pair will have a turn to do the following:

One stands at the far end of the room blindfolded. The other tapes his dove of peace to the wall somewhere in the room. Spin the blindfolded student. It will be the blindfolded student's job to find the artwork, while his partner can only use the words, right, left, forward, backward, higher and lower.

When you say, "Go!" time the pair with a smart phone.

Other kids can make gross noises, go "bleh bleh bleh" in his face and laugh at him, but the blindfolded student has to listen through it for the voice of his partner to find his dove of peace. The blindfolded student must tear it from the wall before he can remove his blindfold.

The first pair to find the dove of peace wins.

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, thank you for showing us King David's way of remaining quiet in the face of embarrassment. Certainly, if he could do that in front of 600 followers, we can do it in front of a few people.

Amen.