

Use Week of:

Unit 11 • Session 5

David Sinced and Was Restored

BIBLE PASSAGE:

2 Samuel 11–12; Psalm 51

STORY POINT:

God forgave David.

KEY PASSAGE:

Psalm 145:13a

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

How is Jesus the perfect King? Jesus perfectly rules over everything.

INTRODUCE THE STORY
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TEACH THE STORY
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EXPERIENCE THE STORY
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LEADER Bible Study

The Ammonites were no strangers to the Israelites. They often fought over the region of Gilead, which stretched east of the Jordan River. David had tried showing kindness to the Ammonites, but they humiliated the Israelite ambassadors. (See 2 Sam. 10:1-5.) Thus began a war between the Israelites and Ammonites. This context sets the scene for the story of David's sin and restoration.

David had experienced a season of blessing from God and success on the battlefield. The tribes of Israel united under David. But the upward trajectory of David's life did not continue much longer.

One evening, David looked from his rooftop and saw Bathsheba bathing. He found out that she was the wife of Uriah, one of David's elite soldiers. Her married status alone made her off-limits to David, but he nevertheless called for her and slept with her. David probably assumed his sin would go unnoticed, until Bathsheba told him she was pregnant. With Uriah gone to war, it was obvious the baby was not her husband's.

David called Uriah home from the battle and encouraged him to be with his wife. But Uriah refused. Uriah didn't think it was fair for him to be with his wife while other men were at war.

So David instructed his army commander to position Uriah in the most violent part of the battle so he would be killed. This time, David's plan worked. Uriah was killed, and David took Bathsheba as his wife.

God knew David's sin and sent Nathan the prophet to confront David. David's confession is recorded in Psalm 51. God wanted David's heart to change so he would not want to sin again. God forgave David, but David still faced the consequences of his sin.

Like David, we need more than a changed lifestyle to be made right with God; we need new hearts. Jesus died to satisfy God's wrath against sin so that we could be made alive in Him.

The BIBLE Story

David Sinned and Was Restored

2 Samuel 11–12; Psalm 51

David was the king of Israel. One spring, David sent out the army to fight. He put another man in charge of the army, and David stayed home.

One evening, David was walking on the roof of his palace. He looked out and saw a beautiful woman named Bathsheba. Bathsheba was the wife of Uriah, one of the best men in David's army. David made up a plan. He told the leader of the army to send Uriah into the hardest part of the battle. David hoped Uriah would be killed. David's plan worked. Uriah was killed, so David took Bathsheba into his house to be his wife.

God knew what David did, and He was not happy with David. God sent Nathan the prophet to talk to David. Nathan told David a story: A traveler came to a rich man who had many animals. The rich man did not give the traveler his own animal. Instead, he took a poor man's lamb—the only lamb the poor man had—and gave it to the traveler to eat.

This story made David feel angry. "The rich man should be punished!" David said.



“You are the man!” Nathan said. God had made David king and given him more than he needed, but David took what wasn’t his. **David realized he had sinned against God.**

David wrote a psalm. He **told God he was sorry and asked God to forgive him, and God did.** David wrote, “God, change my heart.” David realized he could try to please God with sacrifices, but that would not be enough to pay for his sin. **David’s heart needed to change so that he would not want to sin again.**

Christ Connection: God hates sin because it dishonors Him and hurts us and other people. When we sin, God forgives us because Jesus took the punishment for our sins when He died on the cross. Jesus changes our heart so that we no longer want to sin.

Bible Storytelling Tips

• Use stick

figures: Draw stick puppet figures to represent King David, Bathsheba, Uriah, and Nathan while telling the story. Use different voices for each of the people and the narrator while telling the story.

• Show emotion:

Pause and show the appropriate emotion on your face at the following places in the story: when God is not happy with David, when David is angry at Nathan’s story, and when David is sorry.

INTRODUCE the Story



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Welcome time

- “Crown Him With Many Crowns” song
- offering basket
- Allergy Alert
- favorite toys related to the Bible story theme

Play a theme song in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow your church’s security procedures. Set an offering basket near the door to collect at an appropriate time. Post an allergy alert, if necessary. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

Activity page

- “Color to See” activity page, 1 per child
- crayons or markers

Invite preschoolers to color the blocks using the appropriate color based on the key.

SAY • What did you discover when you colored your page?
A cross! The cross reminds us of how Jesus died to take the punishment for our sins. In today’s Bible story, we will hear about a time King David sinned and God forgave him.

LOW PREP

- centers with toys

Take responsibility

Set up at least three different centers for children to play in. These centers should be filled with items that preschoolers can easily clean up, such as a block center, a home-living center, or a dress-up center. After five minutes of play, tell preschoolers that it is time to clean up. Ask them to take responsibility for their centers. Adult leaders may assist with cleanup to ensure everything gets put away correctly.

SAY • Thank you all for cleaning up your centers! You showed responsibility and did your jobs very well. Today's Bible story is about a time when King David did not take responsibility for something he had done wrong. He tried to hide his sin instead of confessing it to God. We will find out what happened when we hear the Bible story.

Gather sheep

Scatter cotton balls all over the floor. Invite preschoolers to pick up as many cotton balls as they can in two minutes. Compare the number of cotton balls each child collected. Gather the cotton balls and scatter them on the ground again. Play another round. Continue play as time allows.

• cotton balls
• timer

SAY • Did you have fun gathering the cotton balls? These cotton balls remind me a little bit of sheep. Some of you gathered a lot of sheep, and some gathered just a few. In our Bible story today, the prophet Nathan told a story about a man who had a lot of sheep but still took a sheep from someone else! Let's find out more in our Bible story time.

Transition to tell the story

To gain the attention of all the preschoolers to move them to Bible study, show the countdown video, turn the lights off and on, or clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy. Invite preschoolers to march as if they are in an army as they move to Bible study.

• countdown video
(optional)

TEACH the Story



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Introduce the Bible story

- Bible
- bookmark
- Giant Timeline

Place a bookmark at 2 Samuel 11 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

SAY • The Bible is God's Word, and God's Word is true!

Today's Bible story comes from the Book of 2 Samuel in the Old Testament.

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline.

Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Watch or tell the Bible story

- Story Point Poster
- "David Sinned and Was Restored" video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster

Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling tips. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

SAY • Doing what God says not to do is called *sin*. David sinned. The prophet Nathan helped him understand his sin. David felt sorry for his sin and asked God to forgive him. **God forgave David.** We sin when we do things God says not to do too. When we disobey our parents or treat someone unkindly, we sin. We can ask God to forgive us, just like David did. If we trust that Jesus was punished for our sin by dying in our place, then God will forgive our sin too!

Practice the key passage

Place the key passage marker at Psalm 145:13. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Invite preschoolers to repeat the verse after you in different voices. Suggested voices are a whisper, a shout, an ant's voice, a lion's voice, a high voice, and a deep voice.

SAY • No matter how you say it, our key passage is always true! God's kingdom will last forever!

Sing the key passage song, "Everlasting Kingdom," and the theme song, "Crown Him With Many Crowns."

- Key Passage Marker
- Key Passage Poster
- "Everlasting Kingdom" song
- "Crown Him With Many Crowns" song

Learn the big picture question

SAY • Our big picture question is, *How is Jesus the perfect King? Jesus perfectly rules over everything.* King David did many good things, but he also did wrong things. He was a sinner, just like all of us. The only One who has no sin is Jesus. Jesus is the perfect King, and He will rule over everything forever!

- Big Picture Question Poster



Missions moment

SAY • **God forgave David.** We can be forgiven of our sin because of Jesus. Missionaries, like the Harrell family in Mozambique, take this good news to people all over the world. We can also share the good news of the gospel wherever we go.

Encourage preschoolers to name places they go often. Make a list of the places as preschoolers say them. Then tell preschoolers to jump as high as they can when they hear you shout the location where they will tell someone about Jesus. Shout out each location.

- large sheet of paper or poster board
- marker
- dry erase board (optional)
- dry erase marker (optional)

Pray and transition to experience the story

EXPERIENCE the Story



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LOW PREP

Sing a song

Lead preschoolers in singing the following lyrics to the tune of “Mary Had a Little Lamb.”

“David sinned and said ‘I’m sorry,’
said ‘I’m sorry,’ said ‘I’m sorry!’
David sinned and said ‘I’m sorry.’
God forgave David.

We all sin and need forgiveness
need forgiveness, need forgiveness.
We all sin and need forgiveness;
God will forgive us too.”

SAY • Good singing! David sang a song when he realized he sinned against God. **God forgave David.** We all sin, and we all need forgiveness too. The punishment for our sin is death, but God sent Jesus to die in our place. If we say we are sorry for our sin and believe Jesus died for us, then God will forgive us!

Remove leaves

Post an allergy alert. Guide preschoolers on a walk outside. Walk preschoolers to a tree, bush, or other plant where they can remove leaves. Instruct preschoolers to take several leaves off the plant or tree. Then ask preschoolers to try to

• Allergy Alert
• walking rope
(optional)

put the leaves back on the tree. Encourage preschoolers to share what they observe.

SAY • Removing leaves from a plant is easy, but putting them back on is impossible! It is also easy to sin. God hates sin because it dishonors Him and hurts us and other people. We need changed hearts that no longer want to sin, but we cannot change our own hearts, just like we cannot put leaves back on a plant. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives us because Jesus was punished for our sin when He died on the cross. Jesus changes our heart so that we no longer want to sin. **God forgave David**, and God will forgive us, too, when we trust in Jesus.

Wash a heart

Give each preschooler a craft foam heart. You may also cut heart shapes from craft foam sheets. Guide preschoolers to color on their hearts with washable markers.

Set a plastic tub on a towel-covered table. Fill the tub with a few inches of water and several squirts of baby shampoo. Invite preschoolers to take turns washing their hearts in the tub of soapy water. Provide assistance as needed. Provide paper towels to dry preschoolers' hands.

SAY • In today's Bible story, David wrote that he needed a clean heart because he knew he had sinned. He asked for forgiveness, and **God forgave David**. We made our hearts dirty with markers, and then tried to clean them. Did all the marker come off of the heart? Just like we cannot make these hearts totally clean, we cannot make our own hearts clean. Only God can give us clean hearts.

- craft foam hearts
- washable markers
- towels
- plastic tub
- water
- baby shampoo
- washcloths
- scrub brushes
- paper towels
- craft foam sheets (optional)
- scissors (adult use) (optional)

Work puzzles and read books

- puzzles featuring people
- books about making choices

Set out puzzles featuring people and books about making choices. Allow preschoolers to work the puzzles and browse through the books. Read a book as a child works a puzzle.

SAY • We are all born sinners. That means we all choose to sin. Sin is a very big deal to God. God hates sin because it dishonors Him and hurts us and other people. **God forgave David** when he sinned. God will forgive us too, but God does not forgive us just because we are sorry. God forgives us because of Jesus. Jesus was punished for our sins when He died on the cross. When we trust in Jesus, He changes our heart so that we can no longer want to sin.



Play a gospel memory game

- The Gospel Plan Poster
- "Gospel Memory Cards" printable
- scissors (adult use)

Print and cut apart the "Gospel Memory Cards." Use the gospel plan poster to review the gospel with preschoolers. Specifically point to the symbols as you review.

Lay the cards in a facedown grid. Invite preschooler to take turns turning over two cards at a time to find a match. Play until all the matches have been revealed. Then lay the cards in a faceup grid. Review the gospel again using the poster. Instruct preschoolers to touch a card with the matching symbol when you come to that part of the poster.

SAY • Remember, many people here and around the world do not know the good news that Jesus forgives sins. We can share this good news with people too! Whom can you share the gospel with this week?

Option: Send a set of "Gospel Memory Cards" home with each preschooler. Encourage children to use them to practice sharing the gospel during the week.

Snack and review

Play the countdown video to signal the end of activities. Wash hands and gather preschoolers for snack time. Pray, thanking God for the snack.

Serve a snack. Talk about why we pray before snack. Point out that God provides everything we need. Thanking Him for our snack is good. Remind preschoolers we can talk to God anytime. We can talk to God when we sin and ask Him to forgive us. **God forgave David**, and God will forgive us, too, when we trust in Jesus.

Show the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

1. Was God happy with what David did to Uriah and Bathsheba? (*no*)
2. Who was the prophet who showed David that he had sinned? (*Nathan*)
3. What did David ask God to do? (*forgive him*)
4. Did God forgive David? (*Yes, God forgave David.*)
5. What did God need to change so David did not want to sin again? (*David's heart*)
6. ***How is Jesus the perfect King? Jesus perfectly rules over everything.***

Transition

When preschoolers finish their snack, they may color the Bible story coloring page, play a simple game to practice the key passage or big picture question, or sing along to the key passage or theme song.

If parents are picking up their children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Distribute the preschool big picture cards for families.

- countdown video (optional)
- Allergy Alert
- paper cups and napkins
- snack food
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster

- Bible Story Coloring Page
- crayons
- Key Passage Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- "Everlasting Kingdom" song
- "Crown Him With Many Crowns" song
- Big Picture Cards for Families: Babies, Toddlers, and Preschoolers