



Letters About Forgiveness of Sin

Lesson Aim: To know we are all sinners and that through Christ we are forgiven and rescued from the punishment for sin.

THE WORSHIP – AT THE CAMPFIRE

Who God Is: The Spirit Who Guides Us

THE WORD & THE WAY – TENT TIME

New Testament Letters: Romans 3:23; 7:19; 1 John 1:9; Galatians 5:22-23

What He Has Done: God led Paul and John to each write about forgiveness of sins.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.” Matthew 7:7

| Unit 5: The Promise of Guidance | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| | Bible Story | What He Has Done | Aim |
| 22 | Letters About Love, 1 Corinthians 13:4-7; 1 John 4:11-12 | God led Paul and John to write about love. | To understand love as it is explained in the Bible. |
| 23 | Letters About Unity, Ephesians 4:4-6; 1 Corinthians 12:12, 17-18, 26-27 | God led Paul to write about unity. | To learn that the body of Christ is made of different parts uniting to serve and point others to Jesus. |
| 24 | Letters About Forgiveness of Sin, Romans 3:23; 7:19; 1 John 1:9; Galatians 5:22-23 | God led Paul and John to each write about forgiveness of sins. | To know we are all sinners and that through Christ we are forgiven and rescued from the punishment for sin. |
| 25 | Letters About Forgiving Others, Colossians 3:12-13; 1 Corinthians 13:5 | God led Paul to write about forgiving others. | To know God calls us to forgive others as He has forgiven us. |
| 26 | Letters About Peace, Philippians 4:4-9; Hebrews 11:1 | God led Paul and the writer of Hebrews to write about peace of mind. | To know God can give us peace of mind in all circumstances. |
| 27 | Letters About Perseverance, Hebrews 12:1-3; Philippians 3:12-16 | God led Paul and the writer of Hebrews to write about persevering by focusing on Jesus. | To know that keeping our focus on Jesus will strengthen us to never give up. |

COUNSELOR'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Psalm 32. Please join us in praying, “Lord, we confess that we are sinners in constant need of Your forgiveness. Help the children understand the daily struggle with sin and their need for forgiveness. Give them confidence in the assurance of Your forgiveness. Amen.”

WHAT IS CAMP VENTURE? Camp Venture is a variation on the Prophets & Promises Units 5 and 6 standard version lessons. Camp Venture offers different elements consistent with a camping theme. Children are referred to as campers and teachers are camp counselors. Decorate classroom or play area to create the Camp Venture experience. For example: camp tent, backpacks, photo board or album with photos of each camper, fire logs surrounded by stones as a flameless campfire, etc.

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**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

| Segment | Minutes | Activity | Supplies |
|---|----------|---|---|
| THE WELCOME | Up to 25 | Camp Games: Rescue the Rock | One rock per camper, eight buckets, water, dirt, towels, optional: plastic floor coverings |
| THE WORSHIP – AT THE CAMPFIRE | Up to 20 | Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org | Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song: “Yahweh Every Day: Ask, Seek, Knock” Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: “Praise the Lord, O My Soul” “The New Testament Overture” “Where the Spirit of the Lord Is” Additional Hymn Suggestion: “I Love You, Lord” “Open the Eyes of My Heart, Lord” |
| | | Worship Scripture Reading: Galatians 1:3-5 | Bible |
| | | Offering | Baskets |
| | | Worship Illustration | Lesson 24 Bible Barn script or storybook |
| THE WORD & THE WAY – TENT TIME | Up to 5 | New Testament Letters: Romans 3:23; 7:19; 1 John 1:9; Galatians 5:22-23 | Bibles |
| | Up to 10 | Pen Pal Letter | Mailbag, Scripture reference list, Bible, Pen Pal Letter, nine paper fruits (see Tent Time.) |
| | Up to 5 | Share a Prayer | None |
| | Final 5 | Final Five Minutes | New Testament Postcards, fruit stamps or stickers, Daily Ways and basket or W ³ s for the older children, Letters from Camp (available at ResourceWell.org), pencils, poster board, crayons or markers, prayer notebook, Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song “Yahweh Every Day: Ask, Seek, Knock” |
| GOT TIME? | Up to 10 | Snack: Sweet Underneath | Any fruit that must be peeled to eat (banana, kiwi, orange) |
| | Up to 10 | Game: Throw My Sin Away | Paper, pens or pencils, trash can |
| | Up to 10 | Game: New Testament Line | 27 sheets of paper, marker, clothesline or thin cord, 27 clothespins or paperclips, “The New Testament Overture” song, Bible |
| | Up to 5 | Discussion: More Letters About Forgiveness of Sin | Bible |
| | Up to 15 | Craft: Care Package—Sweet Rescue Snack | Box, adhesive bandages, cookies, frosting, plastic knives, plastic wrap, crayons and markers, sturdy paper, scissors, glue, assorted craft supplies (buttons, craft jewels, ribbon, yarn, sequins, etc.) |
| | Up to 10 | Bible Memory Verse Activity: Ask, Seek, Knock! | Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse poster, optional: Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song |
| | Up to 15 | Bible Memory Verse Activity: Race to Repeat | Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse poster, Bible |

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

THE WELCOME – CAMP GAMES

Welcome to Camp Venture! Each time before we worship, we will get to know each other better and have some fun with our Camp Games. First, let's dedicate this day of camp to Jesus. Pray. Today, our New Testament letter teaches us about sin. Let's play a camp game where we can see what happens when Jesus rescues us from our sins!

Optional: For added fun through Units 5 and 6, adapt all camp games to a team point system. For suggestions, see the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson.

GAME: RESCUE THE ROCK

Purpose: Campers begin exploring how Jesus rescues them from sin.

Supplies: One rock per camper, eight buckets, water, dirt, towels, optional: plastic floor coverings

Prepare: Fill four buckets with dirt and water. Mix to create muddy water. Fill four buckets with clean water. Protect the play area with plastic floor coverings or play outside. Place a set of muddy and clean water buckets at each of four locations around the play area. Divide the rocks evenly into four sets and place one set in each muddy water bucket.

Counselor Clue: Small groups can play with two teams. Instead of rocks, use marbles, buttons, plastic blocks, or other small nonporous objects that will sink.

Today, we have four buckets filled with rocks. Usually, we find rocks in the dirt and the mud but we want our rocks to be clean. You can rescue them from the dirty water. Let's see which team can rescue their rocks the fastest!

Directions:

1. Form four teams of equal number.
2. Each team stands in a line next to their team's bucket.
3. On your signal, the first camper on each team races to the muddy water bucket, "rescues" a stone from the muddy water, and rinses it in the clean water.
4. The camper keeps the rock, races back to tag the next camper on his or her team, and sits down at the end of the team line.
5. The next camper repeats steps 3-4 until all the campers are seated.
6. The goal is to be the first team with all members seated. Continue playing until all the teams are finished to determine which team is in second, third, and fourth place.
7. Collect the rocks. Provide towels for campers to dry their hands and to help clean the play area.

Just as we rescued the rocks from muddy water, Jesus rescues us from our sin. Today, we will find out more about the way we struggle with sin and the way Jesus rescues us from it!



The Spirit who guides us

THE WORSHIP – AT THE CAMPFIRE

Counselor Clue: To help campers identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play music as campers move from one area to another.

We worship the Spirit who guides us to know what is right and what is wrong in God's eyes. What is a word for doing wrong in God's eyes? (Sin.) We all struggle with wanting to do what is right and, at times, choose to do what is wrong instead. We are so grateful to Jesus for rescuing us from the punishment for our sins.



When we confess (admit) our sins to God, He is faithful to forgive us. Let's take time to silently confess (admit) our sins to God. Through our songs, prayers of confession, and offering, we can thank God for His forgiveness and goodness toward us. Read Galatians 1:3-5.



Sing: "Praise the Lord, O My Soul" while collecting the offering.

Sing the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Yahweh Every Day: Ask, Seek, Knock." You may also choose to sing songs that focus on Jesus forgiving our sins.



Perform Bible Barn script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 5, Lesson 24. Include reciting the Camper's Code:

Camper's Code

I will love God with all my heart.

I will love my neighbor as myself.

I will be a light wherever I go.

Today's Camp Critter is the serpent. Some of you may remember that the very first time sin entered the world in the Garden of Eden, there was a serpent who was part of that story. It is today's Camp Critter because we are learning about some special letters found in the New Testament that teach us about forgiveness of sin.



New Testament letters

THE WORD & THE WAY – TENT TIME

Counselor Clue: Tent time should take place in a corner of the classroom, under a tent, or any covered space. Remove chairs and have campers sit on mats or sit-upons.

Prepare: Create a list of today's New Testament letter scripture references (Romans 3:23; 7:19; 1 John 1:9; Galatians 5:22-23) and place it in the counselor's Bible. Print the Pen Pal letter on the next page onto a sheet of paper. Fold the paper and place it in an envelope. Create a set of nine paper cutouts of fruit each labeled with one of the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. In a mailbag, place the New Testament letter scripture references, the counselor's Bible, Pen Pal Letter, and the nine paper fruits.

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Camp Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Camp Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my counselor, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word—knowing God is my goal."

Welcome to Tent Time! Last time in our mailbag, we found letters about unity. We learned that the body of Christ is the name for all who believe in Jesus. How do differences between believers work like different parts of a body? (We work together, each with a different and important job to do for the good of the body.)



Counselor holds up mailbag. **Today, we will read letters from Paul about forgiveness of sin. In Paul's letter to the Romans, he explains the struggle we all have with sin and the rescuer we all have in Jesus. If you brought your Bible, open it now and share with others.** Hand out spare Bibles. Counselor removes the Bible from the mailbag, opens it, and removes the list of today's New Testament letter scripture references: Romans 3:23; 7:19; 1 John 1:9; Galatians 5:22-23.

Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who would like to pray that for us? Camper prays aloud. **Be seated. Let's start with reading what Paul said about sin in the letter to the Romans.** Read Romans 3:23; 7:19.

Now, let's read what John wrote about forgiveness. Read 1 John 1:9.

Paul also wrote a letter to the Galatians about sin. He explained that sin is breaking God's law. Paul reminded the people of the things that are not against God's law. He called them the fruit of the Spirit. Read Galatians 5:22-23.



Pen Pal

THE WORD & THE WAY – TENT TIME

During Tent Time, we open our mailbag to see if our Pen Pal will give us a clue about what today's New Testament letters have to do with our lives. Read the Pen Pal letter.

Hey Pals,

Have you ever wondered why you can't be perfect no matter how hard you try? It is because of sin. Sin is doing wrong in God's eyes—living life separated from Him. Have you ever felt like Paul did, knowing the good choice you want to make but making the choice to do wrong instead? Paul loved God and wanted to please Him, yet even when Paul knew what was right, he sometimes made the choice to do wrong instead.

In his letter to the Romans, Paul explains that everyone sins. Since we are not perfect, we can't earn our way to life forever with God. Jesus gave His life so all who believe in Him could be forgiven and live forever close with God.

In John's first letter, he tells us that for those who believe in Jesus, our sins are forgiven when we admit those sins to Him.

In Paul's letter to the Galatians, he explains that the Holy Spirit can help us in our struggle with sin. Remove the nine paper fruits from the mailbag. These fruit remind us of the perfect things of God that we want others to see through us. They also remind us of the wrong things we sometimes choose instead. As I name each fruit of the Spirit, let's think of a right choice that is an example of that fruit as well as a wrong choice that does not show that fruit to others. As we share our right and wrong choices, be careful to not judge one another, because in God's eyes, each one of us has sinned. As you name each fruit, have campers discuss their struggle between right and wrong choices associated with that fruit of the Spirit.

The good news is whenever we make a wrong choice, we can admit our sin to God and ask Him to forgive us. He will always forgive us! God fills us with the Holy Spirit who guides us to do things His way!

Believe and Be Fruitful!
Your Pen Pal

THE WAY *continued...*



SHARE A PRAYER

Let's thank God for forgiving us. We can pray for the Holy Spirit to guide us to do what is right in His eyes. Ask campers for individual praise and prayer requests. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

Lord, thank You for giving Your life so we could be forgiven. Guide us to do what is right in Your eyes. You know our needs—the ones we shared out loud and the ones we hide in our hearts. We lift all these up to Your throne now. Pause for a moment of silence. We can't wait to see the way You will answer each one.

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

NEW TESTAMENT POSTCARD: Today, your Treasure Treat is a New Testament Postcard. I'm giving you this stamp or sticker of a fruit to remind you that the fruit of the Spirit are the things we want to choose instead of choosing to sin. Place the stamp or sticker in the corner box on the back of the postcard. **On your postcard, list where to find today's New Testament letters in the Bible.** The scriptures are listed in the Daily Way and W³. **Read these scriptures again to help you answer the postcard question.**

TREASURE TREAT: The Treasure Treats for Units 5 and 6 are New Testament Postcards. Campers receive a postcard and a stamp or sticker. The postcards are available at Resourcewell.org. If stamps or stickers are not available, have campers draw the stamp in the designated box.

DAILY WAY CHALLENGE: Did anyone bring in a completed Daily Way from last time? Praise or reward those who return a Daily Way. Distribute Lesson 24 Daily Way 5-day Bible study. **Complete this week's Daily Way at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible. Bring it back next time to win points for your team here at Camp Venture.**

W³ CHALLENGE (For Older Campers): Take home today's W³ Journal Entry as your personal devotional study. Keep your journal entries together at home in a notebook or in your Bible. Distribute W³ Journal Entry #24 instead of the Daily Way. **Complete this at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible!**

LETTERS FROM CAMP: Write a Letter from Camp to someone to let them know what you did today. Write or draw your favorite thing about today and something special about the letters from the New Testament you just learned. Sign it and share it with someone.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG: Play the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Yahweh Every Day: Ask, Seek, Knock," in the background as campers wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SNACK: SWEET UNDERNEATH

Purpose: Campers will eat a snack while discussing the forgiveness of sins.

Snack Suggestion: Any fruit that must be peeled to eat (banana, kiwi, orange)

Who likes fruit? (Campers respond.) **This fruit has an outside layer.** Hold up the fruit. **Who wants to bite into this piece fruit without peeling it?** (Campers respond.) **That wouldn't taste good, would it?** (No.) **This fruit reminds me of God's forgiveness.** Remove the peel from the fruit. **Just as the peel can be taken away to get to the tasty fruit underneath, Jesus takes away our sins, so all God sees is the best in us.**

Directions:

1. Serve snack and drinks.
2. Camper prays to thank God for the snack.
3. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: **"What are some examples of doing wrong in God's eyes? What are some examples of doing right in God's eyes?"**

GAME: THROW MY SIN AWAY

Purpose: For campers to better understand how Jesus rescues them from sin.

Supplies: Paper, pens or pencils, trash can

What happens when you try to stop a habit of sin; a sin you keep doing over and over? (Campers respond.) **Think about one sin habit you struggle with. Write or draw a picture of that sin on a piece of paper.**

Directions:

1. Place the trash can far enough way from the campers that they cannot throw their paper balls into the can. Have campers remain seated or sit on the floor to limit the distance they can throw.
2. Campers write or draw one sin habit they struggle with on a piece of paper.
3. Campers crumple their paper into a ball.
4. Campers take turns attempting to throw their paper balls into the trash can.
5. **Just like you can't throw your paper away, we can't get rid of our own sins.**
6. Slowly collect the paper balls from the floor.
7. **Who did God send to take away your sins?** (Jesus.)
8. Place all of the paper balls in the trash can.
9. **Just like I threw your papers away for you, Jesus "throws away" or gets rid of your sin. You can't get rid of your own sins, but Jesus can do it for you! Not only that, but He will give you His Spirit to help you replace your sin habit with a right habit that pleases God!**

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: NEW TESTAMENT LINE

Purpose: Campers learn the books of the New Testament.

Supplies: 27 sheets of paper, marker, clothesline or thin cord, 27 clothespins or paperclips, "The New Testament Overture" song, Bible

Prepare: Write the name of each book of the New Testament on a separate sheet of paper. Shuffle the papers so the books are not in order. Hang the clothesline in the play area at a low height so campers can reach it.

Directions:

1. Play "The New Testament Overture" song two times. Encourage the campers to sing along as they become familiar with the words.
2. Challenge the campers to place the New Testament books in order by hanging the sheets of paper in correct order on the clothesline with clothespins.
3. To help the campers, play the song while they work or leave a Bible open to the table of contents for them to reference, as needed.
4. After all the books are hung in the correct order, challenge campers to recite the books of the New Testament from memory.

DISCUSSION: MORE LETTERS ABOUT FORGIVENESS OF SIN

Purpose: Campers learn of another letter about forgiveness of sin from the New Testament.

Supplies: Bible

In the letter from James, we learn more about forgiveness of sin. Let's check it out in James 4:17. Read. Sin is not just doing wrong, but it is also knowing what is right and not doing it. Have you ever known the right thing to do, but did not do it? Campers share examples of times when they have not done the right thing. Sin is not only the wrong things we have done, but it is also the right things we have left undone. The good news is if we confess any sin, God will always be faithful to forgive us.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

CRAFT: CARE PACKAGE—SWEET RESCUE SNACK

Purpose: Campers create a gift for rescue personnel while remembering Jesus saves us from our struggle with sin.

Supplies: Box, adhesive bandages, cookies, frosting, plastic knives, plastic wrap, crayons and markers, sturdy paper, scissors, glue, assorted craft supplies (buttons, craft jewels, ribbon, yarn, sequins, etc.)

Prepare: Choose a person or group of people who rescue others to receive the care package such as emergency room staff, a nurse, a doctor, fire fighters, police officers, or military personnel.

Counselor Clues: If possible, take campers with you to deliver the care package arrangement to the recipients or take a picture when you deliver the package to share with the campers. If you have a large class, divide the campers into teams and create multiple care packages for different recipients. Have each team talk about why they chose that particular recipient to receive their team's care package.

Today, we learned what some of the New Testament letters say about sin and the forgiveness of sins. Who wrote the letter to the Romans? (Paul.) Who sins? (Everyone.) What is sin? (Doing wrong in God's eyes.) Is it easy or hard to keep from sinning? (Hard.) Jesus rescues believers from the punishment for their sins. What did Jesus have to do to pay for those sins? (He gave His life for us on the cross.)

During Camp Venture, we will care for others by making care packages we can deliver or mail. Today, we will make a Sweet Rescue Snack. We will give our sweet snack as a thank you to those who rescue others. Whenever you see someone who rescues people, think about how Jesus rescues us! Share information about the care package recipient(s) with the campers. Allow them to ask questions so they truly understand where and to whom their gift will be delivered.

Directions:

1. Help campers decide where they can best use their skills to help with this project.
 - Use the adhesive bandages and the assorted craft supplies to decorate the box.
 - Use the sturdy paper to make a card to deliver with the care package. Decorate the card and make sure all campers sign it. Write the following text inside the card:

Thank you for rescuing others!
Your Friends at the name of your church or group.
 - Decorate the cookies with frosting and wrap with plastic wrap.
2. Place the decorated, wrapped cookies in the box.
3. Deliver the gifts!

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." Matthew 7:7

GAME: ASK, SEEK, KNOCK!

Purpose: Campers learn the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse poster, optional: Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song

Our Bible Memory Verse is the words of Jesus encouraging us to keep praying because God is good and He answers our prayers. How do you think God feels when we pray about our questions and our needs? (Campers respond.) God never tires of hearing our prayers! What is an example of asking God to give you something? (Campers respond.) What is an example of seeking an answer from God? (Campers respond.) "The door will be opened to you" is an expression meaning God will make a way for something to happen for you. For example, you can ask God to somehow make a way for you to tell someone about Jesus. You can use the word "ASK" to help you remember our Bible Memory Verse:

A stands for "Ask and it will be given to you."

S stands for "Seek and you will find."

K stands for "Knock and the door will be opened to you."

Directions:

1. Campers sit in a circle.
2. Lead the campers in reciting or singing the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse.
3. **Let's practice our Bible Memory Verse by going around the circle and each saying the next word in the verse. I will start.**
4. Say the first word of the verse, "Ask."
5. The camper on your left says the next word, "and."
6. Continue around the circle until the entire verse is said.
7. As time allows, play again. Challenge the campers to recite the verse faster each time.

GAME: RACE TO REPEAT

Purpose: Campers learn the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse poster, Bible

Directions:

1. Practice saying the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse together once.
2. Divide the campers into two equal teams.
3. Arrange the teams into two parallel lines about 15 - 20 feet from each other, facing each other.
4. Assign each team member with a number, so that each team has a player 1, 2, 3, and so on.
5. Place a Bible in the center of the play area between the two teams.
6. Call out a number.
7. The camper from each team with that number races to be the first one to touch the Bible.
8. The camper who touches the Bible first earns point for his or her team by saying the Bible Memory Verse correctly. (You may choose to allow campers to use the Bible Memory Verse poster as a reference.)
8. Continue playing by calling a different number in each round until every number is called.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

Team Point System for Camp Venture (Units 5-6)

Teams: To adapt all Camp Games to a team point system for Units 5 and 6 (Lessons 22-31), divide campers into 4 teams. Instruct each team to create its own name and team banner at the beginning of the Camp Games segment of Lesson 22. Campers will remain on the same team for all Camp Games throughout Units 5 and 6.

Point System: Campers may earn points for their teams by attending Camp Venture, completing their Daily Ways, bringing a Bible, bringing a friend, winning a game, and showing good sportsmanship. At Camp Venture, good sportsmanship is respectful behavior toward others. It includes cheering for their team during games, playing fairly, tallying scores honestly, and cheering for other teams when point tallies are announced. Bonus team points are awarded for cheering and encouraging other teams.

Grand Prize: On the final day at Camp Venture, all members of the winning team receive a surprise grand prize. The grand prize can be an ice cream or pizza party or something that would be special to the campers. Have the winning team invite all of the other teams to join the party.

About Competition: Camp competition provides an opportunity for campers to learn how to honor God in a competitive environment, encourage other campers, and to be gracious winners and losers. For added fun, be very generous with the points. For example: 100,000 points for 1st place, 75,000 points for 2nd place, 40,000 points for 3rd place, and 30,000 points for 4th place. The teams will end up with point totals in the millions at the end of camp.