



Letters About Forgiveness of Sin

Lesson Aim: To know we are all sinners who receive complete forgiveness through Jesus.

THE WORSHIP

Who God Is: The Spirit Who Guides Us

THE WORD

New Testament Letters: Romans 3:23; 5:1, 8; 6:23; James 4:17; Galatians 5:22-23

What He Has Done: God led Paul and James to write about Jesus saving us from sin.

Key Verse: Romans 6:23

THE WAY

Christ Connection: Psalm 103:10-12

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 13:1-7; 1 John 4:11-12; 1 Peter 4:8-11	God led Paul, John, and Peter to write about love.	To learn ways to develop strong, godly love toward others.
23	Letters About Unity, Ephesians 4:4-6; 1 Corinthians 12:12, 17-18; 1 Peter 2:9	God led Paul and Peter to write about unity.	To learn 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; 5:1, 8; 6:23; James 4:17; Galatians 5:22-23	God led Paul and James to write about Jesus rescuing us from sin.	To know we are all sinners who receive God's complete forgiveness through Jesus.
25	Letters About Forgiving Others, Colossians 3:12-14; 1 Corinthians 13:5; Titus 3:4-5	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; Colossians 3:15-17	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, 20-21; Romans 8:5	God led Paul and the writer of Hebrews to write about persevering by focusing on Jesus.	To learn that focusing on Christ helps us to persevere.

TEACHER'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."

Teacher Tip: For Prophets & Promises Lessons 22-31 (Units 5-6), place your Bible in a mailbag along with any supplies needed for THE WAY, as a visual reminder of the letters of the New Testament.

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**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Meet & Greet	None
		Game: Rescue the Rock	Rocks, 8 buckets, water, dirt, towels, optional: plastic floor coverings
THE WORSHIP	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: 1 John 1:9	Bible
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 24 Mail Call script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	New Testament Letters: Romans 3:23; 5:1, 8; 6:23; James 4:17; Galatians 5:22-23	Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster, mailbag containing teacher's Bible, highlighters, nine paper fruit cutouts each labeled with one of the fruit of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5:22-23
THE WAY	Up to 25	Discuss the Word	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster, mailbag (contents listed above under THE WORD)
		Christ Connection: Psalm 103:10-12	
		Golden Bowl	Golden Bowl, pencils, note cards
	Final 5	Final Five Minutes	Treasure Treat—New Testament Postcards and fruit stamps or stickers (available at ResourceWell.org), W ³ s, paper, pencils, 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 15	Craft: Care Package—Sweet Rescue Snack	See craft for supply list.
	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 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
	Up to 5	New Testament Letters Review	New Testament Letter themes printed on footprint-shaped paper

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.
Meet & Greet Question: What is the best rescue you have seen or heard about?

GAME: RESCUE THE ROCK

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

Supplies: One rock per child, 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.

Teacher Tip: 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 child 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 child keeps the rock, races back to tag the next child on his or her team, and sits down at the end of the team line.
5. The next child repeats steps 3-4 until all the children 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 children 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

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play music as children move to the designated area.

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. Read 1 John 1:9. **Let's take time to silently confess (admit) our sins to God.** Allow a few moments for silent confession.



Through our songs, prayers of confession, and offering, we can thank God for His forgiveness and goodness toward us. 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 Mail Call script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 5, Lesson 24.



Letters about forgiveness of sin

THE WORD

Additional Supplies for THE WORD and THE WAY: 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. Place the teacher's Bible, highlighters, and the nine paper fruit in a mailbag.

Teacher Tip: As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write his or her name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class 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 Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word—knowing God is my goal."

Last time, we learned about unity in the body of Christ. How are believers like different parts of a body? (We work together with different, important jobs to do for the good of the body.)

Today, we will read letters from Paul and James about forgiveness of sin. In Paul's letter to the Romans, he shows that our sin, which separates us from God, can be forgiven through Jesus. If a map is available, point to Rome, Italy. **This mailbag reminds us that in Bible times believers traveled long distances to share letters written by Paul, James, and other disciples.** Open the mailbag and remove the teacher's Bible and highlighters.



Let's play Find It First! Bring out your Bible; keep it right in front of you. Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals the Bible Story Scripture reference: Romans 3:23; 5:1, 8; 6:23; James 4:17; Galatians 5:22-23. **We will begin with Romans 3:23. Let's see who can Find It First. Ready? Set? Go!** Children race to find it first. The winner helps others find it.

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? Child prays aloud. **Be seated. Let's start with reading what Paul said about sin in the letter to the Romans.** Read Romans 3:23. **The letter from James tells us even more about sin.** Read James 4:17.

The bad news is that God's punishment for sin is living and dying separated from Him forever. Let's highlight our Key Verse: Romans 6:23. Read Romans 6:23, 5:8, and then 5:1.

Because Jesus died to take the punishment for our sins, all who believe in Jesus have God's forgiveness, and are at peace with God forever! With His Spirit inside us, we are free from sin, and able to do the things that are not against God's law. Paul called these things the fruit of the Spirit. Read Galatians 5:22-23.



Complete forgiveness through Christ

THE WAY

Sin is not only doing wrong in God's eyes; it is living life separated from Him. Why do you think it is so important to be forgiven by God for our sins? (Children respond.) **What do you think Paul means by "the wages of sin is death"?** (Children respond.) **It means that no one who sins has eternal life, which is life forever close with God. Why do you think God sent His Son to take our punishment?** (God loves us and doesn't want us to be separated from Him.)

Jesus died for us while we were still sinners. How does that show you that no one earns or deserves God's forgiveness? (We were not proving our goodness, or changing our ways when Jesus died for us. He gave His life, because we couldn't earn forgiveness by ourselves.) **God's forgiveness is free to all who believe in Jesus as the Savior who died to pay for our sins. That's called faith in Jesus, and that faith is a gift from God.**

When we believe in Jesus, His Holy Spirit then lives in our hearts. He can help us in our struggle with sin. Remove the nine paper fruit 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 children discuss their struggle between right and wrong choices associated with that fruit of the Spirit.

In his letter, James explains that 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? (Children respond.) **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 that if we confess our sins, God will be faithful to forgive us, because Jesus already paid for our sins.**



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

One thousand years before Paul and James wrote about sin, King David wrote a psalm about God's forgiveness. David calls sins "transgressions" or "iniquities."



FIND IT FIRST > **Everyone, place your Bible closed on your lap.** Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: Psalm 103:10-12. **Let's see who can Find It First! Ready? Set? Go! Find it and highlight it.** Read Psalm 103:10-12.

Have you ever felt like you have done something that even God cannot forgive? (Children respond.) **How does David's psalm encourage you?** (Children respond.) **Why is it important to understand that God has completely removed our sins from us?** (Children respond.) If time allows, play the GOT TIME game: Throw My Sin Away.

THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

GOLDEN BOWL

Teacher Tip: Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

Revelation 5:8 says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I'm going to lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then, we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.

Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You ____, ____, ____. Read names in Golden Bowl.

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

TREASURE TREAT: 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 W³. **Read the scriptures again to help you answer the postcard question.**

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

OFFERING OF ART: Until it is time to be dismissed, make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw your favorite thing about today and something special about the letters from the New Testament you just learned.

PRAYER REQUESTS: As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write their prayer requests in a prayer notebook.

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



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SNACK: SWEET UNDERNEATH

Purpose: Children 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? (Children respond.) **This fruit has an outside layer.** Hold up the fruit. **Who wants to bite into this piece fruit without peeling it?** (Children 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. Child 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 children 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? (Children 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 trashcan far enough way from the children that they cannot throw their paper balls into the can. Have children remain seated or sit on the floor to limit the distance they can throw.
2. Children write or draw one sin habit they struggle with on a piece of paper.
3. Children crumple their paper into a ball.
4. Children take turns attempting to throw their paper balls into the trashcan.
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 trashcan.
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...*

CRAFT: CARE PACKAGE—SWEET RESCUE SNACK

Purpose: Children 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.

Teacher Tips: If possible, take children with you to deliver the care package arrangement to the recipients or take a picture when you deliver the package to share with the children. If you have a large class, divide the children 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.) Let's make a Sweet Rescue 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 children. Allow them to ask questions so they truly understand where and to whom their gift will be delivered.

Directions:

1. Help children 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 children 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. Deliver the gifts!

GAME: NEW TESTAMENT LINE

Purpose: Children 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," Bible

Prepare: Write the name of each New Testament book on a separate sheet of paper. Shuffle the papers. Hang the clothesline in the play area at a low height so children can reach it.

Directions:

1. Play "The New Testament Overture" two times. Encourage the children to sing along as they become familiar with the words.
2. Challenge the children 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 children, 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 children to recite the books of the New Testament from memory.

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: Children 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. What is an example of asking God to give you something? (Children respond.) What is an example of seeking an answer from God? (Children respond.) "The door will be opened to you" is an expression meaning God will make a way for something to happen for you. 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. Children sit in a circle.
2. Lead the children 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 child 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 children to recite the verse faster each time.

Option: For older children, use a timer or clock to see how quickly the verse is completed each time.

GAME: RACE TO REPEAT

Purpose: Children 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 children 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 children from each team with that number races to be the first one to touch the Bible.
8. The child who touches the Bible first earns point for his or her team by saying the Bible Memory Verse correctly. (You may choose to allow children to use the Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible as a reference.)
9. Continue playing by calling a different number in each round until every number is called.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



NEW TESTAMENT LETTERS REVIEW

Prophets & Promises Part One studies the miracles and stories of the Bible from Acts through Revelation. Lessons 22-31 explore several of the themes of the New Testament letters. The previous lesson will always be reviewed briefly in THE WORD segment of each Teacher's Guide. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and He has done.

New Testament Letters: Letters about Love (Circa 33 A.D. - 150 A.D.) John, Peter, and Paul wrote about perfect love. Who remembers how Paul described love in his letter to the Corinthians? (Children respond.) Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. What do you think is the best thing about love? (Children respond.) In John's letter, what did he say covers up sins? (Love.) What do you think John meant by that? (Children respond.)

New Testament Letters: Letters about Unity (Circa 33 A.D. - 150 A.D.) Paul and Peter wrote about unity in the body of Christ. What does the phrase "body of Christ" mean? (All who believe in Jesus and belong to Him.) Why do you think unity is so important for the body of Christ? (Children respond.)

New Testament Letters: Letters about Forgiveness of Sin (Circa 33 A.D. - 150 A.D.) Paul, John and James each wrote letters about God's forgiveness of our sin. What did God do for us so that we could be forgiven? (He sent His Son Jesus to pay the punishment for our sin.) Who does God forgive? (All who believe in Jesus.)

How to create a display for reviewing the New Testament Letters:

1. Download and print the Bible Timeline for Prophets & Promises (available at www.resourcewell.org).
2. Print each New Testament Letters scroll on sturdy paper.
3. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the timeline.
4. Before each lesson, add the scroll for that lesson to the Bible Timeline using the list below.
5. To review, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated scroll.

New Testament Letters (Circa 33 A.D. - 150 A.D.): Letters about Love > Letters about Unity > Letters about Forgiveness of Sin > Letters about Forgiving Others > Letters about Peace > Letters about Perseverance > Letters about Weakness > Letters about Strength > Letters to the Seven Churches > Letters about Jesus' Return