



A Letter About Forgiveness of Sins

Lesson Aim: To know we all have done wrong and if we admit our wrongdoing to Jesus, He always forgives us.

THE WORSHIP

Who God Is: The Spirit Who Guides Us

THE WORD

New Testament Letters: 1 John 1:8-9

What He Has Done: God led John to write about the forgiveness of sins.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"With God all things are possible." Matthew 19:26b

Unit 5: The Promise of Guidance			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
22	A Letter About Love, 1 John 4:7a, 12	God led John to write about love.	To learn to love one another.
23	A Letter About Helping Others, Galatians 6:10	God led Paul to write about helping others.	To love all people by doing good deeds.
24	A Letter About Forgiveness of Sins, 1 John 1:8-9	God led John to write about the forgiveness of sins.	To know we all have done wrong and if we admit our wrongdoing to Jesus, He always forgives us.
25	A Letter About Forgiving Others, Ephesians 4:32	God led Paul to write about forgiving others.	To know we are to forgive others.
26	A Letter About Prayer, Philippians 4:4-6	God led Paul to write about having peace of mind.	To know we can pray to God when we are worried.
27	A Letter About Keeping Our Eyes on Jesus, Hebrews 12:1-3	God led the writer of Hebrews to write about focusing on Jesus.	To think of Jesus in all we say and do.

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'S TIP

Explaining sin and forgiveness to a young child. Help them understand we all do wrong and in God's eyes it is called sin. Share how God will always forgive and when He forgives it is like our sin never happened. Reassure the children that even when they make wrong choices, God still loves them and you do, too!

Prophets & Promises Lessons 22-31 (Units 5-6) feature various letters of the New Testament. Replace the Treasure Chest with a mailbox to hold THE WELCOME stamp or sticker. In THE WORD, since the letters are not Bible stories, create interest and encourage involvement by placing the letter in a mailbox known as the "Special Delivery Mailbox." See THE WORD for more details.

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**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Welcome	Mailbox, stamp or sticker of a cross
		Coloring Center: Forgiveness	Coloring pages of a cross, crayons
		Play-Dough Center: God Forgives	Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools
		Puppet Center: Right Choice, Wrong Choice	4 people puppets, optional: "Right Choice, Wrong Choice" sign used in THE WORD
		Letter Games	See GOT TIME?
	Up to 5	Prepare for Worship	None
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org. Additional Song Suggestions: "How Great Is Our God" "Jesus Loves Me"	Praise music, optional: musical instruments Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song: "With God All Things Are Possible" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Be Still and Know" "Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled" "Guide Me" "I Will Listen" "Love One Another" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" "The Lord Is Faithful" "We Love"
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 5, Lesson 24
THE WORD	Up to 10	A Letter About Forgiveness of Sins: 1 John 1:8-9	Visuals: Today's New Testament letter (available at ResourceWell.org), envelope, teacher's Bible, mailbox, "Right Choice, Wrong Choice" sign (See THE WORD for instructions.)
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Forgiveness Door Hanger	Sturdy paper (flesh-colored and yellow), crayons or markers, optional: "Forgiveness Door Hanger" template (available at ResourceWell.org), assorted craft decorations
		Game: Stop, Pray, and Shout Hooray!	"Right Choice, Wrong Choice" sign used in THE WORD
		Game: Making Right Choices	Ball for rolling
		Snack: Squishy Sin Snack	Pudding, resealable plastic sandwich bags, clean kitchen scissors
	Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 5, Lesson 24
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Games: Letter Games	Today's New Testament letter in an envelope, Bible, mailbox
	Up to 10	Game: Circle Verse	None
	Up to 10	Game: Bible Memory Verse Hop	Bible
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about God's forgiveness

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



The Spirit who guides us

THE WELCOME

WELCOME

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello _____.** I'm glad you are here! **Come open the mailbox to find today's special delivery.** Child opens the mailbox to receive a sticker of a cross. **Let this stamp (or sticker) of a cross remind you that God loves you even when you make wrong choices. God always forgives us.**

Teacher's Note: These activity centers are designed to reinforce the lesson through hands-on learning experiences either individually or in small groups with the guidance of the teacher. Choose the Bible Activity Centers that best suit the children in your class. Set up the activity centers around the room before children arrive. Allow children to move freely among them.

COLORING CENTER: FORGIVENESS

SUPPLIES

Coloring page of a cross, crayons

DO

Children color as they talk about today's lesson.

TALK ABOUT

Our picture today is of a cross. When we see a cross, we remember Jesus loved us so much that He died so we could be forgiven of our sins. Who can tell me what a sin is? (Children respond.) Sins are things we do or say that are wrong in God's eyes. Even though we try to always do what is right, we all sin sometimes. We can ask God to forgive us and He will!

PLAY-DOUGH CENTER: GOD FORGIVES

SUPPLIES

Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools

DO

Children play with the play-dough while discussing forgiveness. Encourage children to follow the steps below during your discussion.

TALK ABOUT

Use your finger to draw a sad face in your play-dough. God is sad when we make wrong choices. What is a wrong choice you might make? (Children respond.) If we are sorry when we make wrong choices and tell God we are sorry, He will forgive us. That means He erases our sins; it's like they never happened. Gently press your fingers into the play-dough and watch the sad face disappear. Now, draw a happy face on your play-dough. God is happy when we ask Him to forgive us. Are you happy to know God forgives you? (Yes.)

THE WELCOME *continued...*

PUPPET CENTER: RIGHT CHOICE, WRONG CHOICE

SUPPLIES

4 people puppets, optional: "Right Choice, Wrong Choice" sign used in THE WORD

DO

Children use the puppets to role play situations where they can make right or wrong choices. For each situation, have children act out a wrong choice and then act out a right choice. Optional: Use the "Right Choice, Wrong Choice" sign to signal when the children should act out a right or wrong choice.

Some examples may include:

- Your sister (or brother) is sad because no one will play with her (or him).
- Your father (or mother) asks you to sweep the floor.
- You and a friend are riding your bikes and your friend falls off his (or her) bike.
- You dropped and broke a cup and you don't want to tell anyone.
- You have two trucks and your friend has none.

TALK ABOUT

It is hard to always make the right choices. God sent the Holy Spirit to help us make right choices. What are some right or good choices you have made? (Children respond.)

LETTER GAMES

SUPPLIES

Today's New Testament letter in an envelope, Bible, mailbox

DO

Play one of the Letter Games listed in GOT TIME?

TALK ABOUT

Use the letter games to help children understand the letters we are learning are found in the Bible and are God's letters to us.

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

It's time for Praise Time. Let's sing a "Clean Up Song" as we put things away. Praise children as they help clean.

**Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SIGN LANGUAGE

(For visual demonstrations, see www.signingsavvy.com)

"With God	(God) The open right hand, fingers together and palm facing left, moves upward and then down the center of the face with fingers facing up.
all things	(all) Hold one hand, palm open, facing chest. The other hand circles around the first hand, coming back to touch the palm.
are possible."	(possible) Both fists move down in a repeated motion.
Matthew 19:26b	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

Adding sign language or motions to the Bible Memory Verse helps children recall what they are learning.



The Spirit who guides us

THE WORSHIP

Supplies: Praise music, optional: musical instruments

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 "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" as children move to that designated area.



It's Praise Time—our time to sing praise to the Holy Spirit who helps us make good choices. Let's pray. Have the children bow their heads and close their eyes. **Dear God, thank You for loving us. Thank You for giving us the Holy Spirit to help us make good choices in everything we say and do. Amen.**



God loves us all the time no matter what we do. That may seem impossible, but with God all things are possible! Sing Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song: "With God All Things Are Possible."



Let's say our Bible Memory Verse together. Practice several times.

"With God

(God) The open right hand, fingers together and palm facing left, moves upward and then down the center of the face with fingers facing up.

all things

(all) Hold one hand, palm open, facing chest. The other hand circles around the first hand, coming back to touch the palm.

are possible."

(possible) Both fists move down in a repeated motion.

Matthew 19:26b

Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.



God gave us the Holy Spirit to guide us and help us make good choices. While we give our offering, let's sing a song asking the Holy Spirit to guide us. Sing "Guide Me" while collecting the offering.



Let's see what our new friend Posty has for us today. Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 5, Lesson 24.



No matter what we do, if we ask Jesus to forgive us, He will. He loves us very much. Sing: "Jesus Loves Me" or "The Lord Is Faithful."



John's letter says, "God forgives us"

THE WORD

Supplies: Today's New Testament letter (available at ResourceWell.org), envelope, teacher's Bible, mailbox, "Right Choice, Wrong Choice" sign (Draw a happy face on a small paper plate and a sad face on second small paper plate. Attach the plates to either side of a large craft stick.)

Prepare: Today's New Testament letter is available at ResourceWell.org or you can create your own by writing the words in the box below on a piece of paper. Enclose the letter in an envelope and place it inside the teacher's Bible. Place the Bible in the mailbox used for THE WELCOME.

Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our Classroom Promise with the motions.

With my eyes on my teacher;	Point to eyes.
My mouth quiet as can be,	Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.
I will listen to hear,	Cup hand around ear.
How God loves you and me.	Hug self, point to others, and then self.

Let's reach deep in our pockets and pull out our listening ears. Reach in your pocket and cup your hands behind your ears as if listening.

Each time you say the words, "Right Choice," hold up the happy face side of the "Right Choice, Wrong Choice" sign. Each time you say the words, "Wrong Choice," hold up the sad face side.

Good morning boys and girls! I have a game for you today. It's called "Right Choice, Wrong Choice." Let's see if you can guess whether the choice I give you is right or wrong.

- You share your snack with a friend. **Right choice or wrong choice?** (Right choice.)
- You tell a friend you don't like him. **Right choice or wrong choice?** (Wrong choice.)
- You give a friend who is sad a hug. **Right choice or wrong choice?** (Right choice.)
- You don't help when it is time to clean up. **Right choice or wrong choice?** (Wrong choice.)

God sees us when we choose to do right and when we choose to do wrong. Doing wrong in God's eyes is called sin. Even though we try to always do what is right, we all sin sometimes. But, God loves us so much that He always forgives us when we tell Him we are sorry. Today's letter from the Bible tells us about God's forgiveness. Who would like to open the Special Delivery Mailbox for this week's letter? Choose a child to open the mailbox, remove the Bible, and hand it to you. **We can find it in 1 John 1:8-9.** Read the letter.



Dear friends,

We know everyone does wrong things, but if we are sorry and tell God we are sorry, He will forgive every wrong thing we have done.

Love,
John

No matter what you do, God will always love you. If you tell Him you are sorry for the wrong things you have done, He will forgive you. He will never remember your sins again!



God forgives us

THE WAY

Teacher Tip: Craft and games can be presented at the same time in different areas or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.

CRAFT: FORGIVENESS DOOR HANGER

Purpose: To remind the children about the forgiveness of sins.

Supplies: Sturdy paper (flesh-colored and yellow), crayons or markers, optional: "Forgiveness Door Hanger" template (available at ResourceWell.org), assorted craft decorations

Prepare Door Hanger: Print the template (available at ResourceWell.org) onto sturdy paper or follow these directions to create your own door hanger. Cut a standard-size sheet of sturdy paper in two equal pieces lengthwise. (Each sheet of paper will make two door hangers.) Two inches from the top of the strip of paper, cut an opening for a doorknob. Under the opening, print:

If we admit that we have sinned,
(Leave a space for a praying hands cut-out.)

Jesus will forgive us.
(Leave a space for a circle cut-out.)

Prepare Cutouts: From flesh-colored sturdy paper, cut out the shape of praying hands. From yellow sturdy paper, cut out a circle shape.

Directions:

1. Attach the praying hands cutout to the door hanger.
2. Draw a happy face on the circle shape. Attach it to the door hanger.
3. Decorate the door hanger with crayons, markers, and assorted craft decorations.

Craft Discussion:

- **God loves us, even when we do what is wrong in His eyes.**
- **What do we call doing wrong in God's eyes? (Sin.)**
- **What does God do when we tell Him we are sorry? (He forgives us.)**

THE WAY *continued...*

GAME: STOP, PRAY, AND SHOUT HOORAY!

Purpose: Children remember God always forgives when we ask for forgiveness.

Supplies: "Right Choice, Wrong Choice" sign used in THE WORD

God is happy when we make right choices. He is sad when we make wrong choices but we know if we tell Him we are sorry, He will always forgive us. Let's play a game to help us remember that.

Each time I say, "Right choice," (Hold up the happy face side of the craft stick.) take one step toward me. When I say "Wrong choice," (Hold up the sad face.) I want you to stop, fold your hands and kneel as a sign of asking God for forgiveness, and then jump up and shout, "Hooray!" because you know God always forgives. Are you ready?

Directions:

1. Children stand against the wall on one end of the play area.
2. Stand on the other end of the play area.
3. Mix "Right choice" and "Wrong choice" instructions until all the children reach you.
4. Celebrate with a group hug!

GAME: MAKING RIGHT CHOICES

Purpose: Children share right choices.

Supplies: Ball for rolling

God sent the Holy Spirit to guide us. He helps us make right choices. Obeying, sharing, and listening are all choices that are right in God's eyes. When the ball is rolled to you, hold it and give us an example of a right choice you have made.

Directions:

1. Children sit in a circle.
2. Roll ball to a child.
3. Child holds the ball and shares a right choice he or she has made.
4. Continue until each child has a turn.

THE WAY *continued...*

SNACK: SQUISHY SIN SNACK

Purpose: Children remember our sins are erased when God forgives us.

Snack Suggestion: Pudding, resealable plastic sandwich bags, clean kitchen scissors

Prepare: Place a few spoonfuls of pudding in a resealable plastic sandwich bag for each child.

Optional: You may choose to squeeze the pudding from the bags into cups or, have cups of pudding ready for the children to eat rather than using the pudding in the bags.

Directions:

1. Serve the snacks and drink.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or other familiar tune.
God our Father, God our Father. Once again, once again.
Thank You for our blessings. Thank You for our blessings. Amen. Amen.
3. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - **Use your finger to draw a sad face on your bag of pudding. Remember that God is sad when we choose to do wrong.**
 - **If we are sorry for our wrongdoing and tell God we are sorry, what does God do?** (He forgives us.)
 - **Gently press your fingers across the bag and watch the sad face disappear. Now, draw a happy face on the bag. God is very happy when we ask Him to forgive us. Are you happy to know God forgives you?** (Yes.)
 - Snip a corner off each bag so children can squeeze the pudding into their mouths.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

Gather children in a circle sitting or standing and practice the words and motions.

"With God	(God) The open right hand, fingers together and palm facing left, moves upward and then down the center of the face with fingers facing up.
all things	(all) Hold one hand, palm open, facing chest. The other hand circles around the first hand, coming back to touch the palm.
are possible."	(possible) Both fists move down in a repeated motion.
Matthew 19:26b	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

PRAY

Let's pray together. Say a closing prayer with the children.

PLAY

Allow children to play with selected toys or centers or choose a book to read to them.

DISMISSAL

Have children take home their coloring page, craft, and a copy of the Ponder, Pray & Play for 2-3's.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

GAME: LETTER GAME #1

Purpose: Children play a hiding game using today's New Testament letter.

Supplies: Today's New Testament letter in an envelope, Bible, mailbox

Remove the Bible with today's New Testament letter from the mailbox used in THE WORD. Open the Bible in your lap with the New Testament letter laying on top. **God helped a man named John write a letter about love. We find it in the Bible. The letter guides us in how to love one another. Let's play a game of hiding the letter. When we find it, we will read the letter together.**

Directions:

1. Choose a child to hide the letter in the envelope.
2. While the other children close their eyes, assist that child in hiding the letter.
3. On your signal, the other children open their eyes and search for the letter.
4. The child who finds the letter opens the envelope and hands the letter to you.
5. Read today's letter to the children and put it back in the envelope.
6. Choose a different child to hide the letter and play again.

GAME: LETTER GAME #2

Purpose: Children play a variation of Duck, Duck, Goose using today's New Testament letter.

Supplies: Today's New Testament letter in an envelope, Bible, mailbox

Remove the Bible with today's New Testament letter from the mailbox used in THE WORD. Open the Bible in your lap with the New Testament letter lying on top. **God led John to write a letter to people about love. That special letter was delivered to us through the Bible. Let's practice delivering special letters by playing, "No Mail, No Mail, Mail!"**

Directions:

1. Children sit in a circle.
2. Pick a child to be the Mail Deliverer.
3. The Mail Deliverer walks around the outside of the circle, gently tapping each child once on the shoulder with the letter while repeating **"No Mail"** with each tap.
4. When the Mail Deliverer says **"Mail!"** and drops the letter in a child's lap, that child grabs the letter, jumps up, and runs around the circle chasing the Mail Deliverer.
 - If the Mail Deliverer runs all the way around the circle and sits in the spot where the child with the letter was sitting, then the child with the letter takes a turn as the Mail Deliverer.
 - If the child with the letter tags the Mail Deliverer, then that child returns to his or her place in the circle and the Mail Deliverer tries again to deliver the letter without being tagged.
5. Play until each child has a turn as the Mail Deliverer.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"With God all things are possible." Matthew 19:26b

GAME: CIRCLE VERSE

Purpose: To help children learn the meaning of the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: None

"With God all things are possible." That's our Bible Memory Verse. Let's add the sign language and pass the good news around the circle.

Directions:

1. Children stand in a circle.
2. Teach the hand motions as you say the verse:

"With God	(God) The open right hand, fingers together and palm facing left, moves upward and then down the center of the face with fingers facing up.
all things	(all) Hold one hand, palm open, facing chest. The other hand circles around it comes back to touch the palm of the hand.
are possible."	(possible) Both fists move down in a repeated motion.
3. Turn to the child on your left and say the Bible Memory Verse with the sign language.
4. That child turns to the child on his or her left and says the Bible Memory Verse with the sign language.
5. When the message has made its way around the whole circle, lead the children in saying the Bible Memory Verse together with the motions and cheer.

GAME: BIBLE MEMORY VERSE HOP

Purpose: To help children memorize and review the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Bible

Let's review our Bible Memory Verse. After I say each word, repeat it and take one hop toward me. When you get close enough to touch the Bible I'm holding, you may sit.

Directions:

1. Children stand shoulder to shoulder at one end of the room. If you have a large class, divide them into groups, and have the groups take turns playing.
2. Stand at the opposite end of the room, holding an open Bible.
3. Say each word of the Bible Memory Verse, one at a time. As the children repeat each word, they take one hop toward you.
4. When each child is close enough, he or she touches the Bible and sits down.
5. Continue until each child has touched the Bible, repeating the Bible Memory Verse from the beginning as needed.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



STORY TIME

Gather the children and read a favorite story. This can be a Bible Story, a chapter from *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello*, or a story about God's forgiveness.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Unit 5, Lesson 24: A Letter About Forgiveness of Sins

PONDER! We all sin (do wrong in God's eyes) but if we are sorry and ask God to forgive us, He will (1 John 1:8-9). Will God always forgive us when we ask? (Yes.)

PRAY! Pray this prayer each day this week: "Lord, we are sorry for doing wrong in Your eyes. Thank You for forgiving us. Help us make right choices that please You. Amen."

PLAY! "Right Choice, Wrong Choice." Use stuffed animals or dolls to role-play situations where your child might make right or wrong choices. Praise your child when he or she makes good choices.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"With God

(God) The open right hand, fingers together and palm facing left, moves upward and then down the center of the face with fingers facing up.

all things

(all) Hold one hand, palm open, facing chest. The other hand circles around the first hand, coming back to touch the palm.

are possible."

(possible) Both fists move down in a repeated motion.

Matthew 19:26b

Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.