



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.

THE WAY

Whisper Verse: "God forgave you."

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 Tips: Prophets & Promises Lessons 22-31 (Units 5-6) feature 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 symbol and the envelope with the printed letter in a mailbag or tote bag known as the "Special Delivery Mailbag."

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**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Mailbox	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a cross
		Whisper Verse	Sign language for "God forgave you."
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: "With God All Things Are Possible" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled" "Everyone Who Calls" "Guide Me" "He Is Mighty to Save" "Love One Another" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" "Sing Praises" "The New Testament Overture" (Ages 6-12 BMVS) "We Love" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "How Great Is Our God" "Jesus Loves Me"
		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	Special Delivery: 1 John 1:8-9	Visuals: New Testament letter (available at ResourceWell.org), Bible, mailbag or tote bag, eraser, paper, pencil
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: Right or Wrong?	Sturdy paper, tape
		Game: Making Choices	Ball for rolling
		Snack: Squishy Sin Snack	Pudding, resealable plastic sandwich bags, clean kitchen scissors
		Circle of Prayer	None
	Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 5, Lesson 24 Color This Story: "A Letter from John About Forgiveness of Sins" (Picture of a cross)
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Game: Letter Games	Today's New Testament letter in an envelope
	Up to 10	Game: Collect the Letters	"The New Testament Overture" Song, 27 sheets of paper or sealed envelopes, Bible
	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.



God forgave you

THE 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 unlocks mailbox to receive a stamp or sticker of a cross. **Let this stamp (or sticker) of a cross remind you that God forgives you when you admit your wrongdoing to Him. To forgive means to not count our wrongdoing against us. When we admit our wrongdoing to God, what does He always do? (God forgives us.) That reminds me of today's Whisper Verse, "God forgave you."** Teach the Whisper Verse in spoken language and in sign language below. **We call it the Whisper Verse so you can whisper it to others.***

SIGN LANGUAGE: "God forgave you."

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

Each time we say today's Whisper Verse, let's say it with three hand motions:

"God"	The right hand begins in front of the face, then is lowered and slightly raised in front of the face with palm facing left and all five fingers together.
"forgave"	In a downward, sweeping motion, the left hand brushes off the upturned palm of the right hand.
"you."	The index finger of the right hand points forward as the arm moves forward from body at waist level.

Allow children to enjoy free play until everyone has arrived. **Let's sing the "Clean Up Song" as we put toys away before Praise Time.** Praise any child who helps. Allow several minutes for clean up.

**"Clean Up Song": Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

Gather and seat children in Praise Time area.

***Today's Whisper Verse:** "God forgave you," Ephesians 4:32b. The Whisper Verse is a tool to help the children learn a major point in the lesson. It is coupled with sign language or hand motions as a memory aid. The verse is not necessarily chosen from today's Bible story.



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 "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 guides us. He guides us in making right choices. You have already made some right choices today. It is right to come to Praise Time. It is right to sing and pray and give our offering to God. Let's sing and collect our offering now. Sing: "Guide Me" while collecting the offering.

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

God sees us when we choose to do right and when we choose to do wrong in His eyes. Doing wrong in God's eyes is called sin. Even though we try to always do what is right, we all sin sometimes.

In the Bible, we find a letter John wrote telling us that if we admit our wrongdoing to God, then He will forgive us. That reminds me of today's Bible Memory Verse. Let's try it together. Review Whisper Verse together: "God forgave you." Include sign language. **God loves us so much that He always forgives us when we admit our wrongdoing to Him. God is so good to us!** Sing: "Sing Praises."



Let's see if our new friend Posty knows anything about the letter from John. Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 5, Lesson 24.



It is very important to remember Jesus loves you no matter what choices you make. Let's thank Him for that as we sing this last song. Sing: "Jesus Loves Me" or "We Love."



John's letter says, "God forgives us"

THE WORD

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

With my eyes on my teacher;
My mouth quiet as can be,
I will listen to hear,
How God loves you and me.

Point to eyes.
Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.
Cup hand around ear.
Hug self, point to others, and then self.

In the Bible, there are special letters which were written by believers to people like you and me. Last time, we learned of a letter about doing good to all people. Doing good to all people is right in God's eyes. In today's letter, we will learn about doing wrong in God's eyes—that is called sin.

SPECIAL DELIVERY: 1 JOHN 1:8-9

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, an eraser, a pencil, and a blank piece of paper in a mailbag or tote bag (Special Delivery Mailbag).

Let's open the Special Delivery Mailbag to find this week's letter. Choose a child to open the mailbag, remove the Bible, and hand it to you. Read the letter.



Dear brothers and sisters in the family of God,

Imagine if we say we have never sinned. If we say we do not sin, then we are fooling ourselves. But if we admit we have sinned, Jesus will forgive us. Jesus will forgive every wrong thing we have done.

Love,
John

When we choose to do wrong in God's eyes, that is called sin. What will Jesus do if we admit our sins? (He will forgive us.) **Let's review our answer in today's letter from the Bible.** Read the answer from today's New Testament letter.

If you have admitted your wrongdoings to God, what did God do? (God forgave you.) **Our Whisper Verse tells us the answer. Let's say it together: "God forgave you."** Include sign language or hand motions.

ERASING SIN: Invite a child to reach into the mailbag to find today's symbols (eraser, pencil, paper). Hold up the eraser. **Today, this eraser will be our symbol for how God forgives us.** Ask another child to use the pencil to draw a line on the paper. **When we admit our wrongdoings to God, He forgives us. The word for wrongdoings or doing wrong in God's eyes is sin. When God forgives our sins, it's as if He erases them.** Ask a third child to erase the line. **He never remembers them 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 does the word sin mean?** (Doing wrong in God's eyes.)
- **What does God do when we admit our wrongdoing to Him?** (He forgives us.)
- **Take your door hanger home and hang it on a door to remind you that Jesus will forgive us when we admit we have sinned. That's good news!!**

THE WAY *continued...*

GAME: RIGHT OR WRONG?

Purpose: Children distinguish between choices that are right and wrong in God's eyes.

Supplies: Sturdy paper, tape

Prepare: Cut out two large circles; draw a smiling face on one circle and a sad face on the other circle. Tape the two faces on opposite sides of the play area.

Teacher's Tip: Change the names below as needed to avoid using the names of children in your class.

I am going to read you something a child may have done, such as "Jamie picked up his toys." If you believe the child made a right choice, then I want you to stand under the smiling face. If you believe the child made a wrong choice, then I want you to stand under the sad face. Are you ready?

Directions:

1. Children stand in the center of the room.
2. Read one of the actions below or create your own.
 - Thomas hit Marie.
 - Ben shared his truck with Robby.
 - Marco didn't obey his mother.
 - Leah hugged Mike because he was sad.
 - Mia helped her teacher clean the table.
 - Rachel knocked down Sarah's block tower.
3. Children stand under the appropriate face: the smiling face if they believe the child made a right choice and the sad face if they believe the child made a wrong choice.
4. If the child in the action made a wrong choice, ask the children for suggestions on what would have been a right choice.

GAME: MAKING RIGHT CHOICES

Purpose: Children hold the ball as they share right and wrong choices.

Supplies: One ball for rolling

To forgive is to not count someone's wrongdoing against them. When you are forgiven you can start over with a brand new chance to do what is right.

Directions:

1. Children sit in a circle.
2. **Even though we try to do what is right, everyone does wrong sometimes. When the ball is rolled to you, hold it and give us an example of a choice someone might make that is wrong in God's eyes.**
3. Roll ball to a child.
4. Child holds the ball and gives an example of doing wrong in God's eyes.
5. Continue until each child has a turn.
6. **When we admit our wrongdoing, God forgives us. He helps us make right choices. Obeying, sharing, and listening are all choices that are right in God's eyes. Today, you each have made some right choices like that. When the ball is rolled to you, hold it and give us an example of a right choice you have made today or another day.**
7. Roll ball to a child.
8. Child holds the ball and shares a right choice he or she has made.
9. 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.

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.) **That's like our Whisper Verse!** Choose a child to demonstrate motions to Whisper Verse: "God forgave you."
 - **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.



CIRCLE OF PRAYER

God made you and He cares for you. He loves to hear you pray with private words or words you say out loud. Let's fold our hands and close our eyes. As I lift up your name to God in heaven, I will lay my hand on your shoulder. Let's pray together.

Dear God, thank You for making us and loving us. We lift up to You a special prayer for ____, ____, ____ (say each name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank You for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

COMPLETED CRAFT: Take home your "Forgiveness Door Hanger" craft. Hang it on a door to remind you to admit your wrongdoings to God. He will always forgive you!

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY: Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards, if available. **Show this card to your family. Talk about how we have all done wrong. Remind your family that God forgives us when we admit our wrongdoing.**

COLOR THIS STORY: "A Letter from John About Forgiveness of Sins." For today's Color This Story, use a picture of a cross. Discuss the Bible story and play the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song, "With God All Things Are Possible," as the children color.



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

Directions:

1. Choose a child to hide the letter.
2. While the other children close their eyes, assist that child in hiding today's New Testament letter in the play area.
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

Imagine how excited the people were to get a letter from one of Jesus' friends. Isn't it wonderful to know that same letter was delivered to us through the Bible? (Children respond.) To practice delivering special letters, let's play "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...*

GAME: COLLECT THE LETTERS

Purpose: To familiarize children with the concept that the New Testament contains stories about Jesus and many letters from those who believe in Him.

Supplies: "The New Testament Overture" song, 27 sheets of paper or sealed envelopes, Bible

Prep Steps: Fold each sheet of paper in half to look like a letter. Scatter the letters (or envelopes) around the play area.

Optional: Write the name of one of the New Testament books of the Bible on each of the sheets of paper or envelopes.

Hold up the Bible. **God gave us the Bible. The first part of the Bible is filled with true stories about God and His people. The second part of the Bible is filled with true stories about Jesus and letters from some of His followers. Let's see if we can pick up all the Bible letters before the music stops!**

Directions:

1. Place the Bible on a table or chair in the center of the play area.
2. Play "The New Testament Overture."
3. Children collect the letters as fast as they can and stack them on top of the Bible.
4. After the letters are stacked, have the children hold hands and form a circle around the Bible.
5. Skip or move in a circle until the song is done.



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 hand motions 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" (Point to heaven.)
 "all things" (Stretch arms in a wide circle.)
 "are possible." (Thumbs up motion.)
3. Turn to the child on your left and say the Bible Memory Verse with the hand motions.
4. That child turns to the child on his or her left and says the Bible Memory Verse with the hand motions.
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.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

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.



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! Read 1 John 1:8-9 with your family. John wrote a letter about God's forgiveness. To forgive is to not count someone's wrongdoing against him or her. When we do wrong in God's eyes, that is called sin. When we admit our sins to God, what does He do? God always forgives us. That's good news!

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! The last part of the Bible has many letters from people like Paul, John, and Peter. These letters help others follow Jesus. Color a picture of a heart to stand for the way God loves and forgives us. Put the picture in an envelope as a letter and give it to a friend or family member. Tell them how God loves and forgives us.

Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse:

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