



Teacher's Guide: Adaptation for Children with Disabilities
Prophets & Promises Part 1: Acts through Revelation
Unit 5, Lesson 24

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

Challenge Verse for older children:

"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	Lesson Aim
22	A Letter About Love—Part 1, 1 John 4:7a, 12	God led John to write about love.	To learn to love one another.
23	A Letter About Love—Part 2, 1 John 4:7a, 12	God led John to write about love.	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—Part 1, 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 Prayer—Part 2, Philippians 4:4-6	God led Paul to write about having peace of mind.	To know we can pray about everything.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Psalm 32. Please join us in praying, "Lord, we confess 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 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 symbol and the envelope with the printed letter in a mailbag or tote bag known as the "Special Delivery Mailbag."

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Prophets & Promises Unit 5, Lesson 24 ~ Adapted for Children with Disabilities



Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Picture Schedule Cards	Cards with picture illustrating the activities: WELCOME, WORSHIP, BIBLE, CRAFT, PRAYER, SNACK, GAMES, COLORING, GOING HOME. Envelope labeled FINISHED. Optional: To display schedule, use Velcro to attach laminated Picture Schedule cards to a felt board.
		Mailbox	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" or "Yahweh Every Day: Ask, Seek, Knock" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled," "Guide Me," "I Will Listen," "Love One Another," "The New Testament Overture," "We Love" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "How Great Is Our God," "Jesus Loves Me"
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Prophets & Promises Lesson 24 Delbert & Lello or Mail Call script or storybook
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 Flannel board/figures: Cross and 1 child Clay or play-dough option: Cross
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Forgiveness Door Hanger	Sturdy paper, flesh-colored and yellow sturdy paper, crayons or markers, optional: "Forgiveness Door Hanger" template (available at ResourceWell.org), assorted craft decorations
		Circle of Prayer or Lord's Prayer	Lord's Prayer word and picture book
		Snack: Squishy Sin Snack	Pudding, resealable plastic sandwich bags, clean kitchen scissors
		Unit 5 Games: Sand Search	Bin or container of clean sand, pen, heart-shaped item, cross, eraser, plastic model of praying hands or picture of praying hands
		Hearts From God	Two red paper heart shapes per child
		Blanket Ball	Blanket or tablecloth, inflatable ball or balloon
		Freeze Dance	Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song, CD player
		Scenes from Mail Call (older children only)	Mail Call scripts for Lessons 22, 24, 25, 26
		Musical Chairs	Chairs, Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song, CD player
		Bean Bag Toss	Several beanbags, one hula-hoop (or rope or floor tape)
		Make A Story	4 stick puppets of children
	Final 5	Final Five	Daily Way (Adaptation): Unit 5, Lesson 24 Color This Story: "A Letter from John About Forgiveness of Sins" (Picture of a cross)

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



God forgave you

THE WELCOME

PICTURE SCHEDULE: WELCOME TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello _____.** I'm glad you are here! Come and see what we are going to do today. Point to each card on the Picture Schedule board. Today, we will WELCOME everyone. We will read the BIBLE story and make a CRAFT. We will have PRAYER time and eat a SNACK. We will play GAMES and enjoy COLORING a picture about today's story.

Open the mailbox to find today's special delivery. Child opens the mailbox to receive a stamp or sticker of a cross. Let this 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

PICTURE SCHEDULE: WORSHIP TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the WELCOME picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Welcome Time. Now, we will have our Worship Time.**

Children may worship in a large group with other classes or in a quiet room with a worship CD or DVD.

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, play "It's Praise Time!" as children move to a designated place for praise songs, offering, and the worship illustration. Children who are nonverbal may enjoy participating in the music by playing children's percussion instruments such as maracas, jingle bells, wood blocks, or small tambourines. Children who are sensitive to sound may prefer to wear noise reduction headphones.



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: "How Great Is Our God."



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."

* May substitute Lesson 24 Mail Call script or storybook.



John's letter says, "God forgives us"

THE WORD

PICTURE SCHEDULE: BIBLE TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the WORSHIP picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Worship Time. Now, we will have our Bible Time.**

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 loving one another. Loving one another 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). Have children assist by placing Bible Story figures on a flannel board. Other visual options include Color This Story or a related picture. Optional: To help children focus, have them create a cross from clay or play dough as they listen to the story.

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

PICTURE SCHEDULE: CRAFT TIME

WELCOME > **WORSHIP** > **BIBLE** > **CRAFT** > **PRAYER** > **SNACK** > **GAMES** > **COLORING** > **GOING HOME**

Choose a child to remove the BIBLE picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Bible Time. Now, it is Craft Time.**

CRAFT: FORGIVENESS DOOR HANGER

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

Supplies: Sturdy paper, flesh-colored and yellow sturdy paper, 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...*



CIRCLE OF PRAYER/THE LORD'S PRAYER

PICTURE SCHEDULE: PRAYER TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the CRAFT picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Craft Time. Now, it is Prayer Time.**

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 every name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank You for teaching us how to love one another. Amen. You may add the Lord's Prayer with the word picture book.

PICTURE SCHEDULE: SNACK TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the PRAYER picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Prayer Time. Now, it is Snack Time.**

Teacher Tip: It is important to keep a record of all dietary restrictions and allergies accessible. Some parents may prefer to bring their child's snack. Depending on the dietary needs of your classroom, you may determine it is best to omit snack time completely.

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.

THE WAY (GAME OPTIONS)

UNIT 5 GAME OPTIONS

Play one or more of the activities below until the last five minutes of class then proceed to Final Five.

PICTURE SCHEDULE: GAMES TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the SNACK picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Snack Time. Now, is our time to play Games.**

GAME: SAND SEARCH

Purpose: This sand sifting activity soothes children. The items in the bin can be used to introduce the New Testament Letters or the Unit 5 Worship Attribute: The Spirit Who Guides Us.

Supplies: Bin or container of clean sand, pen, heart-shaped item, cross, eraser, plastic model of praying hands or picture of praying hands

Prepare: Place all items beneath the surface of the sand.

Directions:

1. Children take turns reaching into the sand in search of the objects.
2. Teacher and children discuss each object as it is located.
3. When all the objects have been located, display them on a tabletop or on the surface of the sand.
4. Children feel each item as the teacher explains their connection to the Unit 5 New Testament Letters. The pen reminds us of the letters God led people to write to help us as we follow Jesus. The heart-shaped item reminds us to love one another. The cross reminds us that Jesus forgives us and we are to forgive others. The hands remind us to pray when we are worried. We can pray to God about everything!

GAME: HEARTS FROM GOD

Purpose: Children will share hearts dropped from "heaven" to show how they can love each other.

Supplies: Two red paper heart shapes per child

Where does love come from? (God.)

Directions:

1. **Imagine the falling hearts are God's love for you!**
2. Drop and scatter hearts from above the children's heads.
3. **Catch two hearts; one for you and one for a friend.**
4. Each child picks up two hearts.
5. **Give one heart to a friend!**
6. Help each child find a partner.
7. Each child keeps one heart to remember God loves him or her.
8. Each child gives the other heart to his or her partner to show love to one another.
9. Play again as time allows.

THE WAY (GAME OPTIONS) *continued...*

GAME: BLANKET BALL

Purpose: Children catch a ball in a blanket to remember the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Blanket or tablecloth, inflatable ball or balloon

Optional: For a more challenging game, use the Unit 5 Bible Memory Challenge Verse (Matthew 7:7).

Phrases may be divided as follows: "Ask/ and it will be given to you/ seek/ and you will find/ knock/ and the door will be opened to you."

Let's use this blanket to toss the ball into the air. As soon as the ball lands again on the blanket, we will say a part of the Bible Memory Verse (Matthew 19:26b): "With God/all things/are possible."

Directions:

1. Children stand in a circle holding the edges of the blanket.
2. Place an inflatable ball or balloon in the center of the blanket.
3. Together, children quickly raise the blanket to toss the ball into the air.
4. When the ball lands back on the blanket, lead children in saying a word or a phrase ("With God/ all things/ are possible.") of the Bible Memory Verse.
5. Play several times.

GAME: FREEZE DANCE

Purpose: To practice the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song.

Supplies: Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song "With God All Things Are Possible" or "Yahweh Every Day: Ask, Seek, Knock," CD player

To practice our Bible Memory Verse Song, let's play Freeze Dance. Be sure to stop and freeze when you hear the music stop.

Directions:

1. Children dance as the Bible Memory Verse Song is played.
2. Have a helper periodically pause the music.
3. When the music stops, everyone "freezes" (stops in place and doesn't move). When the helper restarts the music, the children begin dancing again.
4. Play as long as you like.

GAME: SCENES FROM MAIL CALL

Purpose: To learn applications of the Unit 5 Bible stories, older children act out today's Mail Call script.

Supplies: Mail Call scripts for Lessons 22, 24, 25, 26

Directions:

1. Choose the script that corresponds with today's New Testament Letter.
2. Assign each child a character name and improvise with the script so all the children can be their favorite character, a new character, or just take turns being the same character.
3. Act it out!

THE WAY (GAME OPTIONS) *continued...*

GAME: MUSICAL CHAIRS

Purpose: This version of Musical Chairs familiarizes children with the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song.

Supplies: 1 chair per child, Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song, CD player

Prepare: Set chairs back-to-back in a row.

Teacher Tip: In this version of musical chairs, no chair is removed; all children remain in the game. Leave one or more spaces at the end of the row of chairs for any children in wheelchairs. Encourage quick listening and affirm those who are the first to hear the music stop and are seated.

To practice our Bible Memory Verse Song, let's play Musical Chairs.

Directions:

1. As the Bible Memory Verse Song plays, children march around the row of chairs and sing.
2. The teacher stops the music at different times during the song.
3. When the music stops, children find the nearest chair and sit immediately.

GAME: BEAN BAG TOSS

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

Supplies: Several beanbags, one hula-hoop (or rope or floor tape)

Prepare: Use hula-hoop, rope, or floor tape to create a large target area on the floor.

Directions:

1. Give a beanbag to the first child.
2. Stand with the child approximately 6 feet from the target.
3. Before tossing the beanbag, the child says part of the Bible Memory Verse. (The teacher may say it with the child, as needed.)
4. Child tosses the beanbag at the target.
5. Children take turns to see who can reach the target.
6. Play again, as time allows.

GAME: MAKE A STORY

Purpose: To express the meaning of the Unit 5 Whisper Verses.

Supplies: 4 stick puppets of children

Directions:

1. Ask children if they would like to make up a story about one of the Whisper Verses listed below.
 "Love one another."
 "Do good to all people."
 "Forgive each other."
2. Each child can make up his or her own story or children can make up a story together.
3. Encourage children to use the stick puppets to act out the stories.

THE WAY (GAME OPTIONS) *continued...*



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

PICTURE SCHEDULE: COLORING TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the GAMES picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Game Time. Now, is our time for coloring the picture of today's story.**

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!

DAILY WAY (ADAPTATION FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES): Distribute this version of the Daily Way, if available. **Show the Daily Way 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" or "Yahweh Every Day: Ask, Seek, Knock" as children color.

As coloring is completed or parents arrive:

PICTURE SCHEDULE: GOING HOME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the COLORING picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Coloring Time. Now, it is time for Going Home.**

THE DAILY WAY

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

Unit 5 Bible Memory Challenge 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