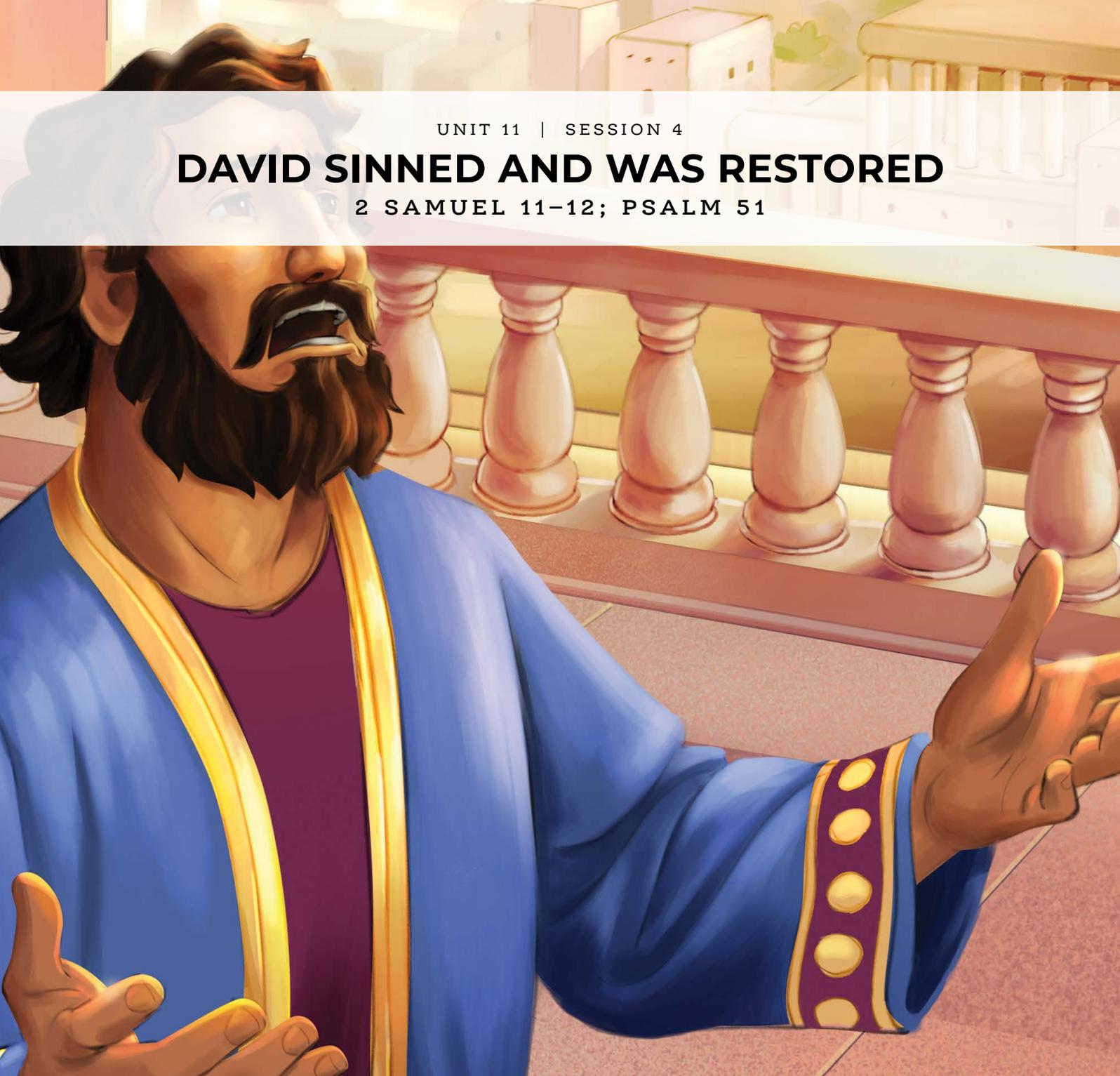


DAVID SINNED AND WAS RESTORED

2 SAMUEL 11-12; PSALM 51



KEY PASSAGE: Jeremiah 10:6-7a

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Is anything or anyone greater than God? No, God is greater than everything and everyone.

CHRIST CONNECTION: When David admitted his sin before the Lord, he was forgiven. When we confess our sins to the Lord and believe in Jesus, God is faithful and just to forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

STORY POINT: David sinned, repented, and was forgiven.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

LEADER Bible Study

David was a king after God's own heart, but he was also a sinner. As we study 2 Samuel 11–12, we learn how David fell into temptation and sinned against God and others. Yet, we also witness the incredible mercy offered to those who repent of their sin. Out of David's brokenness we see what it looks like to have a broken and contrite heart, and we gain a glimpse of the redemption offered to us through faith in Christ.

What transformations do we see in David's life? How do these passages lead us to walk in restoration rather than in sin?

In our previous session, we read that David was established as king over Israel. Yet from the start of 2 Samuel 11, we see how David's temptation to follow his heart led to sin. As other kings and soldiers went to war, David idly passed his time in Jerusalem. Rather than lead his men in battle, David allowed the lust of his eyes to rule him. Through one choice at a time, David plummeted into covetousness, adultery, lying, and murder.

Only after being confronted by the prophet Nathan did David repent of his sin, leading him to pen the words of Psalm 51. In this psalm, David declared God's righteousness in contrast to his own unrighteousness. He begged God to cleanse him of his sin. He asked for a new heart and spirit to be able to teach sinners the way of repentance.

This psalm models repentance to us, showing us what it looks like to turn from sin and to receive the mercy only God provides. David's hope was in the God of His salvation who promised a future descendant to rule with justice and righteousness. Unlike David, Christ lived a perfect, sinless life and died for sin so that our hearts may be made clean.

Through confession of sins and profession of faith in Christ, we are saved, forgiven, and cleansed of our unrighteousness. Lead boys and girls to see the weight of the sins that separate us from God and the gift of grace that reunites us with the Father who sent His Son to redeem us. Pray for kids to see their need for the Savior and to cling to the hope only He provides.



PREPARE

THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



WELCOME

10–15 MINUTES

Greet kids and open the session



LEARN

25–30 MINUTES

Teach kids the story of the gospel



LOVE

15–20 MINUTES

Lead kids to love the God of the gospel



LIVE

15–20 MINUTES

Lead kids to live out the mission of the gospel



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



WELCOME

Activity Page

- "Find the Lambs" activity page

Session Starter (Option 1)

- 5 groups of various items, include 4 items that are similar and 1 that is different or doesn't belong

Session Starter (Option 2)

- plastic baggie
- water
- permanent marker
- white note card
- large bowl



LOVE

Review & Bible Skills

- Small Group Timeline and Map Set
- world map



LIVE

Activity Choice (Option 1)

- black construction paper
- brown paper bags, 3
- battery-operated tea light candles, 3

Activity Choice (Option 2)

- music (optional)

Journal and Prayer

- Journal Page
- "A Clean Heart" activity page



LEARN

Introduce the Session

- countdown video
- Story Point Poster

Big Picture Question

- Big Picture Question Poster

Review the Timeline

- Giant Timeline

Tell the Bible Story

- "David Sinned and Was Restored" video
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- wool yarn (optional)

Questions from Kids

- "Unit 11, Session 4" Questions from Kids video

Missions Moment

- "I Have a Mission" missions video

Key Passage Activity

- Key Passage Poster
- "You Are Great, You Are Great (Jeremiah 10:6-7a)" song
- worship song of your choice (optional)



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY “ Why is it wrong to take something that belongs to someone else? How might someone be disciplined for taking someone else’s belonging? ”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Find the Lambs” activity page.

SAY “ Today, we will learn that **DAVID SINNED, REPENTED, AND WAS FORGIVEN.** ”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: WHAT DOESN'T BELONG?

Display five groups of various items on a table. In each group, include four items that are similar and one that is different or doesn't belong. For example, you could include four different fruits and a pencil. Invite kids to look at each group and determine what item doesn't belong. Direct kids to not share their answers aloud. Instead, ask for volunteers to come to the table and pick out the item that doesn't belong. Ask kids why they chose that particular item.

SAY “ Each group had an item that didn't belong with the others. Today, we will see that David took something that didn't belong to him. David sinned when he took a woman who belonged to another man. However, we'll also learn that **DAVID SINNED, REPENTED, AND WAS FORGIVEN.** ”

OPTION 2: WASH IT AWAY



Before the session, use a black permanent marker to write the word *SIN* on a white note card. Place the note card in a plastic baggie. Then fill a large bowl (not glass) with water. Be sure the bowl is deep enough for the word *SIN* to be fully emerged.

Show kids the plastic baggie with the word *SIN*. Draw a heart with permanent marker on the outside of the baggie around the word *SIN*. Explain that every person is a sinner. Invite kids in groups of two or three to approach you. Dip the plastic baggie completely vertically into the water and invite the kids to look down (not from the side) into the bowl. The word *SIN* will “disappear” while the heart remains visible due to the internal reflection of light. Continue inviting groups of kids to observe how the *SIN* is “washed away.”

SAY “ While we didn't really wash away the ‘sin,’ we know that Jesus can. In fact, only He is able to cleanse our hearts from all sin. Today, we will learn how David sinned and asked God to wash away his sin and make his heart pure. We'll see that David wrote a psalm to confess his sin and repent of it. ”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY “ Hi, kids! My name is [your name], and I’m happy to see you today. If you have a Bible with you, will you take it out? [Distribute Bibles to kids who need one.] Today, we will be in the Old Testament books of 2 Samuel and Psalms.

We’ve been learning about the life of David and how God chose him to be the second king of Israel. David was a good king, but he was not perfect. As we hear our story, we will see how **DAVID SINNED, REPENTED, AND WAS FORGIVEN**. [Display the Story Point Poster.] We’ll learn that, like David, we all sin and need to repent of our sin. Let’s pray together: ‘Lord, thank You for being merciful and offering forgiveness even though we don’t deserve it. Help us recognize sin, repent of it, and seek Your forgiveness. Amen.’ ”

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

Display the Big Picture Question Poster.

SAY “ At the count of three, let’s say our big picture question together. One, two, three, **Is anything or anyone greater than God?** What is the answer? [Allow responses.] **No, God is greater than everything and everyone.** Let’s say the answer again: **No, God is greater than everything and everyone.**

Only a great God could provide the way for people’s sin to be forgiven. All throughout the world, people try to do things in their own power or efforts to be ‘good.’ But only God is good, and only He can make us right before Him. By His grace, God provided Jesus to take the punishment our sin deserves. When we repent of sin and trust in Jesus, we are forgiven! Today, we will see how David turned to God and repented of his sin. ”

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the Giant Timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY “ After David became king, he built a palace in Jerusalem. God was with David and gave him rest from wars. David wanted to build God a house or a temple. Instead, God told David that He would build a forever kingdom through a descendant of David’s family. Eventually, the Israelites’ enemies came to fight against them. Rather than go to war with his army, David chose to stay in Jerusalem. Today, we’ll see how David sinned against God, a woman named Bathsheba, and a man named Uriah. ”



LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to 2 Samuel 11:1–12:14; Psalm 51. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “David Sinned and Was Restored.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

DAVID SINNED AND WAS RESTORED

“Most kings went out to fight wars in the spring, but David stayed home in Jerusalem and sent his commander Joab and the army out instead. **One evening, David was walking on the roof of his palace and saw a beautiful woman.**

David asked who the woman was. A servant told him, “This is Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah.” **Even though she was someone else’s wife, David sent messengers to get her and bring her to him.**

When **David found out that Bathsheba was pregnant with his baby**, he wanted her to be his wife. **But she was already married. So, David made a plan to kill her husband Uriah.**

Uriah was a soldier in the Israelite army. **David wrote a letter to Joab and told him to put Uriah at the front line so Uriah could be easily killed. Joab obeyed King David, and Uriah died. David took Bathsheba to be his wife**, and she gave birth to his son. David sinned in secret, but the Lord knew the evil David had done.

The Lord sent Nathan to David. Nathan told David a story: “There was a rich man and a poor man. The rich man had lots of sheep, but the poor man had just one lamb he loved very much. When the rich man needed a lamb to prepare a meal, he took the lamb from the poor man rather than using a lamb from his own flock.”

David was extremely angry with the rich man in the story, saying that he deserved to die! **Nathan replied, “You are the rich man! God has given you so much, and yet you decided to take the life of Uriah because you wanted his wife Bathsheba. You have done evil.”**

David responded, “I have sinned against the LORD.”

Nathan replied, “The LORD has taken away your sin. You will not die.”

Then David wrote a song to God:

“Be gracious to me, God, according to your faithful love.

Wash away my guilt and cleanse me from my sin.

Against you alone I have sinned, so You are right when You judge.

“Purify me, and I will be clean;

Wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

STORYTELLING TIPS

Pass it around: Pass around wool yarn to represent the lamb from the parable Nathan told David.

Read it: Invite a volunteer to read Psalm 51:10-13 aloud.



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

Create a clean heart for me and renew my spirit.

“Do not remove Your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore the joy of Your salvation to me,
And I will teach sinners to return to You.”

Christ Connection: When David admitted his sin before the Lord, he was forgiven. When we confess our sins to the Lord and believe in Jesus, God is faithful and just to forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ”

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ David was known as a man after God’s own heart (1 Samuel 13:14) because he desired to obey the Lord (Acts 13:22). Yet, David wasn’t perfect; he was a sinner. What did David do when he was afraid his sin would be found out? Look at 2 Samuel 11:15. **[Ask a volunteer to read aloud 2 Samuel 11:15.]** David tried to cover up his sin by having Uriah killed. By trying to hide his sin, he committed another sin! Just like Adam and Eve tried to hide from God in the garden after they ate the fruit, David tried to cover his sin. But God is not fooled. He sees and knows everything.

Who did God send to David and what did the man tell David? Look at 2 Samuel 12:1-4. **[Ask a volunteer to read aloud 2 Samuel 12:1-4.]** Nathan told David the story of the rich man who had taken the lamb from the poor man. David was angry and thought the rich man should pay for what he did. David deserved punishment for his sin. Everyone deserves death because of their sin.

What did Nathan say to David? Look at 2 Samuel 12:7-9. **[Choose a volunteer to read aloud 2 Samuel 12:7-9 12:7-9.]** Nathan pointed out that David was like the rich man in the story. David realized he had sinned against God. **DAVID SINNED, REPENTED, AND WAS FORGIVEN.** David wrote Psalm 51 in response to his sin. When David admitted his sin before the Lord, he was forgiven. When we confess our sins to the Lord and believe in Jesus, God is faithful and just to forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ”

3 GOSPEL DISCUSSION

SAY “ David deserved to die for his sin, but God showed him mercy. We all deserve to die for our sin, but God showed us mercy by sending Jesus to take the punishment for our sin. When we confess our sin, repent, and trust in Jesus, God will forgive us. Do you need to repent of your sin? ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Create an environment where kids are welcome to ask questions about what it means to follow Jesus.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 11, Session 4” Questions from Kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. How does God know if we sin?
2. How can our sin be washed away and forgiven?

**5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)**

Tell kids that missionary Bennett Ekandem, who is originally from Nigeria, began an after-school tutoring ministry called Family Heritage Foundation in Clarkston, Georgia. Discuss how he started this program as a way to help kids with their homework. But more importantly, Bennett desires that the kids will know and believe in Jesus. Play the missions video.

SAY “When Bennett was nine years old and living in Nigeria, he trusted in Jesus. Years later, he and his wife, Idong, came to America. Eventually, God put the desire in Bennett’s heart to help people who had also come from other countries. Now, he and his wife serve the refugees of Clarkston, Georgia, through the Family Heritage Foundation. When kids come to their after-school program, they receive a snack, sing songs, listen to a Bible story, and receive help with their homework.”

Pray for Bennett and Idong as they serve refugees and tell them about Jesus.

6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Show the Key Passage Poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Jeremiah 10:6-7a together.

SAY “We serve a great God who is gracious and forgiving. Let’s continue to practice our key passage together.”

Form kids into a large circle. Guide kids to each say a word from the key passage in order until the entire key passage is said. Then, repeat the activity several times, encouraging kids to say the key passage faster each time.

Lead kids to sing “You Are Great, You Are Great (Jeremiah 10:6-7a).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

SAY “Dear heavenly Father, You are great and gracious. Thank You for sending Jesus to take the punishment our sin deserves. Please forgive our sin and help us walk in obedience to You. Amen.”





LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles, and display the Old Testament Kingdoms Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Psalm 51. Tell kids that the book of Psalms has many authors including David, Solomon, Moses, Asaph, and Heman. Share that the psalms are a collection of songs, prayers, and poems. The psalms encourage us to worship God and praise Him for who He is.

Consider comparing the Old Testament Kingdoms Map to a modern-day map to help kids understand where David was from. (Tip: Locate the areas in and around modern-day Jerusalem [H5]). Choose a volunteer to read aloud Psalm 51:10 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verse aloud.

SAY “David recognized the sin that was in his heart, and he repented of it. He asked God to create in him a clean heart. The power to create clean hearts only comes from God. The Bible tells us that when people trust in Jesus, the Lord makes them into new creations (2 Corinthians 5:17). This means their old, sinful nature is gone away and believers have new, pure desires that want to obey God and follow His ways. Christians won’t be perfect until Jesus returns, but they will want to live for Jesus and repent of sin.”

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY “Why do we try to hide our sin?”

Discuss how the Bible tells us that people love the darkness rather than light because of their evil deeds. Tell kids that we don’t want our sin exposed because we fear judgment. Share how bringing our sin into the “light” by confessing it to God and trusting in Jesus is the only way to have our sin forgiven. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read John 3:18-20.)

SAY “Why must God judge sin?”

Share how God’s perfect justice requires that each and every one of our sins we have committed against Him be punished. Remind kids that David recognized his sin was against God, and he deserved death. Discuss how Jesus took the punishment our sin deserves when He died on the cross. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read John 3:36.)

SAY “How did David show true repentance?”

Remind kids that true repentance doesn’t just mean saying “I’m sorry” for sin. Discuss how true repentance requires a change of heart and action. Tell kids that David asked God to give him a clean heart so he could follow the ways of God. David’s desire was to turn away from his sin and follow the righteous ways of God. True repentance also shows a heart that hates sin and is deeply grieved over it. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Acts 3:19.)





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: COME INTO THE LIGHT

Before the session, use black construction paper to create three silhouettes of different objects such as a tree, a stick figure, and a heart. Glue each silhouette to the inside of a brown paper bag, trying to get the silhouette as close to bottom as possible. Fold the paper bags so they are flat. Dim the lights.

Hold up each paper bag and tell kids that there is an object inside each one. Be sure to keep the bag away from a light source during this part. Invite kids to guess what might be inside. Then open the first bag and place a tea light candle in the bag, revealing the tree. Repeat this step for the other two bags. Discuss how the objects were “hidden” in the dark, but the light exposed them.

SAY “ David tried to hide his sin from God, but God already knew. God is light and nothing remains hidden from Him. God sent the prophet Nathan to expose David’s sin. **DAVID SINNED, REPENTED, AND WAS FORGIVEN.** We will find forgiveness when we bring our sin to God and repent of it. ”

OPTION 2: PRAYERS OF REPENTANCE



Encourage kids to think about God’s great grace and how He forgives sinners. Invite kids to have a time of prayer before God. Spread kids throughout the room, trying to keep them apart to limit distractions. Challenge kids to think about their own hearts and if they have any sin to confess and repent of. Provide paper and pens if kids would like to write out their prayers. Consider playing calming worship music at a low volume. Be sensitive to any kids who may need you to pray for them.

SAY “ Like David, we are all sinners. But just as God was gracious to forgive David’s sin, He is also gracious to forgive our sin. When we trust in Jesus, God washes away our sin and makes us right with Him. Believers continue to repent of their sin, not to earn favor with God, but because their hearts desire to live for Him and His ways. When we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ”

2 JOURNAL AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page. As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas.

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God’s glory and my good?
- Are there promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

Review the gospel, and encourage kids to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions. Then pray, thanking God for His forgiveness through Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross. As time allows, lead kids to complete “A Clean Heart” on the activity page.