



WEEK 4

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

I am forgiven because
God loves me.

THE BIBLE

Confession and Forgiveness: Psalm 32;
(1 John 1:9)

LARGE GROUP TIME

Champions meet in the Youth Room for worship.

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

ACTIVITY | Know Your Leader

- We're going to read another amazing thing in the book of Psalms. But first, let's learn something amazing about our leaders!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have each leader in the room come up with three things about themselves. Two are things that are true, one is something that is made up. Tell the kids to guess which is made up.*
- I bet you learned something new about your leaders today! God knows everything about us and loves us just the same.

OBJECT LESSON | What is Confession?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before the kids arrive, prepare a glass of water dyed with food coloring. Take an empty water bottle (without the lid) and draw a person on it. Cut a small hole into the middle of the water bottle and insert a bendy straw. Seal the hole around the straw with hot glue. Draw a cross on a clear, empty cup and place it underneath the bendy straw sticking out from the water bottle, so that the bendy straw is pointing down into the cup. You will also need a balloon.*



- We all do things God tells us not to do. The Bible calls that sin. We talked about lying a little bit earlier. **Can anyone name another sin?**[Each time someone names a sin, pour a little bit of the dyed water into the empty water bottle.]
- When we do what God tells us not to do, all kinds of yucky stuff gets into our hearts. We feel sad and guilty and not so nice. If all we do is sin, then we will have a heart full of bad thoughts and feelings. And we will feel sad and gross inside!
- But the Bible says we can confess our sins to God. That means we can tell God what we've done wrong, say we are sorry, and ask for help to do the right thing next time. [Blow up the balloon, twist the bottle a few times, then attach it to mouth of the water bottle. Then untwist the balloon so the air pushes out the dyed water through the straw and into the cup below.]
- When we confess our sin, God fills our hearts and pushes out all the yucky stuff sin leaves behind (all the bad feelings and thoughts). And Jesus takes them and carries them away. This is called forgiveness!
- The good thing is God forgives us no matter what we do because God loves us.

THE BIG IDEA | I am forgiven because God loves me.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Distribute a "Hello my name is" name badge to each kid. Have them write "Forgiven" instead of their names. Have them walk around and "introduce" themselves to each other by saying "Hi, I'm forgiven. Nice to meet you!"
- This week's Big Idea: **I am forgiven because God loves me!**

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

VIDEO | Sing, Episode 4

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's [teaching video](#).

SCRIPTURE | Psalm 32

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up the story in your Bible and encourage the kids to do the same. Read it!
- Forgiveness is a fancy word that means God helps us when we do wrong. God helps to take away all the bad things in our hearts and God helps us to make better choices the next time.
- To be forgiven, we need to confess our sin or tell God about what we've done. I know what you're thinking – doesn't God already know? Yes, God knows.
- But when we confess, we are saying that we also understand what we did is wrong and that we understand that we disobeyed God. We are saying God's ways are the best ways and we want to obey God. When we do this, God forgives us and forgets we ever sinned! And if God forgets it, we can, too!
- God not only forgets our sin, but will help us to make better choices the next time!



POLL | Raise Your Hand

- **Raise your hand if. . .**
 - You have ever said something that wasn't true.
 - You have ever taken or been jealous of something that belonged to someone else.
 - You have ever broken a rule.
 - You have disobeyed a grownup.
- We all have sinned! But when we confess our sins, God forgives us. When we tell God about the things we've done, God helps us do better the next time. God does this because God loves us.

VIDEO | God's Story: Two Sons and a Father

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show [this video](#) ([God's Story: Two Sons and a Father \(Prodigal Son\)](#)) about one of the most famous parables of Jesus that shows how confession and forgiveness works, and how much God loves us.

SCRIPTURE | 1 John 1:9

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up the verse and read it!
- **What does this verse tell us about God?** That's correct! God is faithful. God is also fair. We don't have to wonder if God will forgive us again when we sin again. God will because Jesus already promised to take away our sin for us.
- **What does this verse tell us about each other?** It tells us we have to confess our sins. That's the way we get God's help to do better the next time. When we confess, we will receive forgiveness.

NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

ACTIVITY | Forgiven and Forgotten

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid this week's printable and a pencil. Ask them to think of things they've done wrong and want to confess to God. Once they've had time to write, invite them to fold their paper a few times and bring it to the front. Don't read it. Put a small trash can in the middle of the room so they can throw it in. Once they put it in the can, remind them God takes those sins away and doesn't even remember them anymore. We are forgiven because God loves us!

REFLECTION | The Bible Tells Me So

- I am going to share some verses that remind us of just how much God loves us.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read Romans 5:8, 1 John 3:1, Psalm 86:15 to the kids. You can choose to play an instrumental track in the background and/or have kids join in and sing along to songs like "[Jesus Loves Me/How He Loves](#)" by Caleb + Kelsey or "[Jesus Loves Me](#)" by Elevation Kids.
- **How do we know God loves us?**



PRAYER

- Thank You, God, for Your forgiveness. I know there are many things I do wrong. I am very happy You love me and will always forgive me. Help me remember to always tell You about my sin and to always remember that You forgive me.

MEMORY VERSE | Chipmunk Choir

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Since this series is called, "Sing!" try different ways to sing the memory verse. This week, encourage the kids to sing the memory verse in whatever melody they want in their best chipmunk voice!*

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- What is sin?
- What does it mean to confess sin?
- Why is it important to tell God about the wrong things we've done?
- Read Psalm 32:3-5. What do you think happens if we don't confess our sin?
- What makes it hard for you to confess when you do something wrong?
- How do you show forgiveness to someone?
- How do you know God forgives you when you confess your sin?

MEMORY VERSE | Psalm 95:1 (NIV)