

WEEK 4

LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

Forgiveness is always
God's game plan.

BIBLE

David and Nathan:
2 Samuel 11:26–12:13

ABOUT THIS WEEK

Once the game is over, teams will often put aside whatever happened on the field and settle their differences by shaking hands. This week, we'll take a look at the time when Nathan rebuked David for what he did to Uriah and Bathsheba until David repented for his actions. David's confrontation with Nathan helped him discover firsthand that **forgiveness is always God's game plan**.

STORY TIME

SCRIPTURE | 2 Samuel 11:26–12:13 (David and Nathan)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Teach this Scripture passage by reading from a preschool-friendly Bible translation, Bible storybook, or using the talking points provided below!*
- One day, David made a huge mistake. It wasn't by accident. He chose to do something that made God very sad.
 - So a prophet named Nathan came to David. Prophets heard from God and were given special messages from God.
 - **Put a hand to your ear like you're getting an important message from God.**
 - Nathan told King David a story. He told him there once was a rich man who had a lot of sheep. He had so many sheep!
 - There was also a poor man. This man only had one sheep.
 - But he loved his sheep so much! He fed his sheep. He cuddled his sheep. His sheep was his very best friend!
 - One day, the rich man did something super mean. He took what wasn't his! Even though the rich man had a lot of sheep and the poor man only had one sheep, he stole the poor man's sheep!
 - **How sad do you think this made the poor man?**
- David was so angry when he heard this story.
 - He yelled.
 - He stomped his foot.
 - He made angry faces.
 - **Can you do those things?** Yes, David was very unhappy.
- He told Nathan that the rich man did something very wrong and he needed to pay!
 - But Nathan said, "The man is you!"
 - **Everybody say, "Uh oh ..."**

- You see, that's what David did wrong, too. It wasn't sheep, but David had taken something that wasn't his.
 - King David had messed up in a really big way. This made God sad. This made Nathan sad. And when David heard of what he had done, this made even David himself sad.
 - Let's put on our most sad faces.**
 - Nathan told David how kind God had been towards David. God gave him so much! David didn't need to steal. David was so sad when he saw how he had messed up.
- David confessed his sin. This is a fancy way to say that David agreed with God. What he did was wrong. After David did this, Nathan said that God forgave David.
 - Everybody say, "Wow!"**
 - "Forgive" means to let go of something done wrong. Even though David had messed up big, it wasn't God's plan to hold onto that. God was going to let go of what David did, and let him still be friends with God!
 - Everyone wipe your brow and say, "Phew!"**
- God is always ready to forgive. But first, we need to know when we do something that goes against God. Then we can tell God we're sorry. When we do, God forgives us ... just like that! It's always God's game plan to forgive!
- Give yourself a great big hug!** God loves you so much!

BIG IDEA | Forgiveness is always God's game plan.

- INSTRUCTIONS:** *Introduce the kids to today's Big Idea using the following hand motions.*
 - Forgiveness** (*Sign language for "forgive" or have kids hug themselves.*)
 - is always** (*Spin your hands around each other in a small circle.*)
 - God's** (*Point up.*)
 - game plan.** (*Open palms like a book.*)

VIDEO | Teaching Video, Episode 4

- INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play this week's episode of [Cali's World](https://vimeo.com/935648654/3218299197). (<https://vimeo.com/935648654/3218299197>) If you're short on time, show the illustrated [Bible story video](https://vimeo.com/996228346/8eea492324). (<https://vimeo.com/996228346/8eea492324>)*

PRAYER

- Dear God, thank you for always forgiving us. Sorry for the times we have made you sad. Help us to forgive others who make us sad, too. Amen.

SHARING TIME

ACTIVITY | Circle Time

- INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have kids take turns answering the following questions.*
- Who came to tell David a story about a rich man and a poor man? *The prophet Nathan.*
- What did the rich man have a lot of? What did the poor man only have one of? *Sheep.*
- How did David feel when he heard this story? *David felt angry.*
- What did God do when David felt sorry for what he did wrong? *God forgave David.*
- Forgiveness is always whose game plan? *God!*

MEMORY VERSE | Psalm 33:11 (NIV)

- INSTRUCTIONS:** *Help kids learn this month's memory verse by setting the words to the tune of "Old MacDonald Had a Farm." You can also have kids repeat the verse after you in small chunks, say them using silly voices, or create simple hand motions for keywords.*
- "But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations."**

PLAY TIME